

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



End Violence
Against Children



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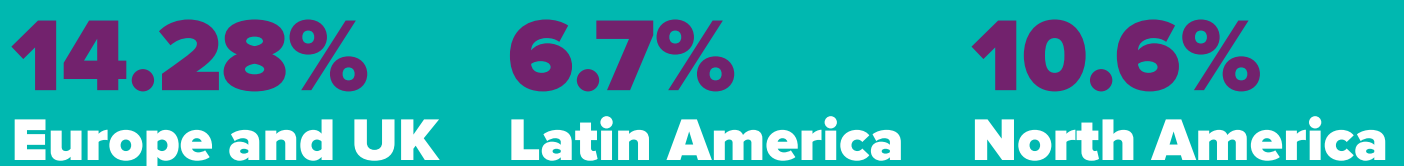


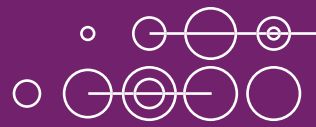
THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (End Violence Partnership) is a public-private partnership launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2016. The Partnership is a platform for collective, evidence-based advocacy, action and investments.

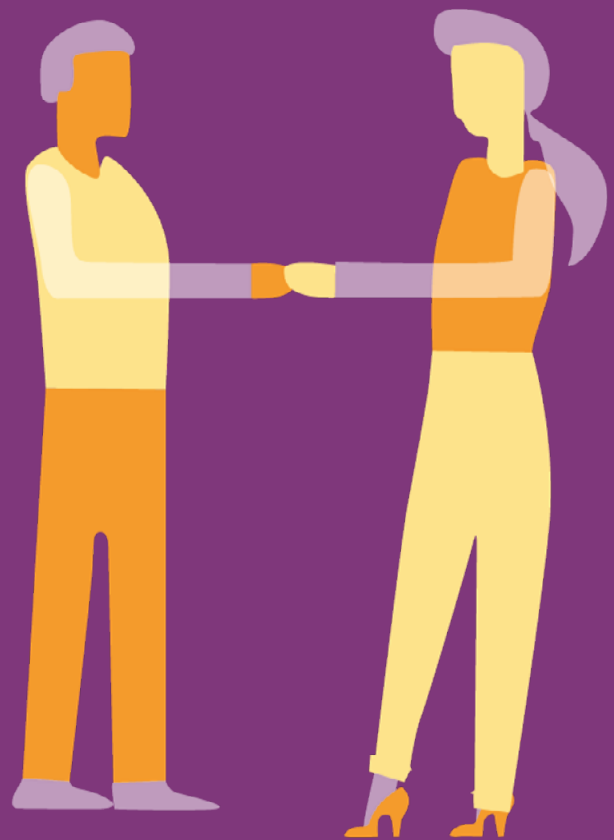
By the end of 2020, 550 partners had joined the End Violence Partnership, bringing diverse perspectives and experience from every region of the world. We are made up of governments, United Nations agencies, research institutions, international non-governmental organisations, foundations, civil society organisations, private sector companies, and more. Over 80 per cent are civil society groups, large and small, working in their communities to protect children.

Though different in many ways, one simple belief unites us all: every child deserves to grow up safe, secure and in a nurturing environment.





INTRODUCTION





Letter from the Board Co-Chairs

Build Back Safer

2020 was an extraordinary year for humanity, with the onset of the first global pandemic for 100 years. The health and economic impacts of COVID-19 have put children everywhere at even greater risk of violence, exploitation and abuse. Amidst the crisis, the End Violence Partnership provided a platform for collective, adaptive and evidence-based advocacy and action. Networks and relationships built since the Partnership was launched five years ago enabled the end violence community to respond with speed and agility, whether getting tips to parents on coping with stress, providing guidelines to protect children in new learning environments, or working with partners to make the digital world safer for children. Highlights of our collective efforts are summarised in this Annual Report.

COVID-19 has also heightened awareness and increased the epidemic of violence against children that existed pre-pandemic, and in doing so it has strengthened our resolve to make sure that every child grows up safe, secure and in a nurturing environment. Imagine, for a moment, if we succeeded in achieving this vision: Parents and teachers would stop using violent discipline; bullies and predators could no longer harm children online; no child would be sexually abused; bullets would never rip through classrooms; no girl would be forced to marry; and no child would be trafficked or forced to work. And so on.

Each act of violence leaves a trace that ripples through a child's life, with lifelong consequences for them, their families and communities. Children who routinely experience violence and abuse are more likely to experience poor health, mental illness, fewer economic options and even imprisonment. But if we disrupt the intergenerational chain of violence, millions of individual tragedies would never compound into the cumulative outcomes that destabilise entire communities and countries. If we prevent child violence, abuse and exploitation, we will build a better world for everyone.

Whose job is it to turn this compelling vision into a new reality? It is ours. Yours. Everyone's. As the world starts to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic,



we must seize the opportunity to reimagine and shape more just and inclusive societies, making sure that protecting children is embedded into every post-COVID-19 recovery plan. For the one billion children who experience violence and abuse every year, now is the time to re-double our collective efforts and apply proven solutions to build back safer and make sure that every child grows up safe and secure – at home, at school, online and in their communities.

In July 2021, we will mark the 5th anniversary of the Partnership's launch. The context is challenging, but the moral imperative and economic case for a step-change in action and investment are compelling. We are well-positioned to scale our collective impact for children in the coming years.

Let's be bold in our ambition, work together to build on our progress so far, and accelerate progress towards our shared goal of ending violence against children by 2030.

Helle Thorning-Schmidt and Joy Phumaphi
Board Co-Chairs, the End Violence Partnership





Letter from the Executive Director

Protecting children during the pandemic, preparing to build back safer

2020 was a year like no other for children. The COVID-19 pandemic had a devastating global impact on health and well-being. Vital prevention and response measures to contain the virus, including lockdowns and school closures, exposed children to increased risk of violence – including maltreatment, gender-based violence and sexual abuse.

The End Violence Partnership provided a global platform to convene and support a unified effort to keep children safe during COVID-19. Working with nearly 600 partner organisations and networks, we advocated for governments to include child protection measures in their COVID-19 response plans, prepared evidence-based advice and resources for parents and caregivers, and developed technical guidance for policymakers, civil society organizations, the private sector and other key stakeholders.

This Annual Report provides a glimpse of some of what we achieved together in 2020 to protect children during the pandemic, including:

- Publishing a Leaders' Statement calling for unified urgent action to protect children from violence during the pandemic.
- Providing more than 155 million parents and caregivers with tips on preventing violence at home and online, developed with WHO, UNICEF, CDC, USAID and Parenting for Lifelong Health.
- Publishing comprehensive technical guidance on how to keep children safe online and make learning safe during school closures and distance learning.
- Partnering with Microsoft, Facebook, Google, Twitter, Roblox and Snapchat in a campaign to promote safe internet use for children isolated at home and at higher risk of online harms.
- Convening thousands of practitioners, experts, policymakers, advocates and partners in dozens of webinars to share learnings from frontline practitioners on what works to protect children from violence during the pandemic.



Progress in 2020 was not only about responding to COVID-19. The Partnership also:

- Welcomed three new Pathfinding countries in 2020, bringing to 32 the number of countries making firm commitments to combat violence against children.
- Invested \$10 million in cutting-edge technology solutions to prevent and respond to online child sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Joined the world's biggest technology companies in Project Protect, which was launched by the Technology Coalition to tackle online child sexual abuse.
- Absorbed the work of the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children as an integral part of the End Violence Partnership.
- Launched a Knowledge Platform to share evidence, learning and data with the end violence community.
- Published the Global Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children, a WHO-led collaboration with UNICEF, UNESCO and other partners.
- Launched the Together to #ENDviolence global campaign and Solutions Summit Series to carry forward the momentum from 2020 into stronger policies, increased funding and a broader movement to protect children from violence.

Movements get stronger when they show their mettle and demonstrate what they can do together. The End Violence Partnership ended 2020 with more unity, more champions, and more clarity on how to end violence against children, and the resources needed to deliver success. Our task now is to turn this momentum into lasting change, so that





as the world navigates its way out of COVID-19, we can get back on track towards the goal of ending all forms of child violence, abuse and neglect. Key components of progress in 2021 will include:

- growing the reach and deepening the impact of Partnership initiatives on Corporal Punishment, Parenting, Pathfinding, Safe Online and Safe to Learn;
- securing new political and financial commitments and momentum from the Together to #ENDviolence Solutions Summit Series; and
- preparing an ambitious new Strategy for the Partnership for 2022-24.

In 2021, the Partnership welcomed Helle Thorning-Schmidt, former Prime Minister of Denmark, and Joy Phumaphi, Executive Secretary of the African Leaders Malaria Initiative, as Board Co-Chairs. Helle and Joy succeed Henrietta H. Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF, to whom we are very grateful for her Board leadership over three years, during which the Partnership grew significantly, established itself as a global platform and supported partners' efforts to protect children during COVID-19. Helle and Joy bring renewed ambition, urgency, and energy to champion the cause of ending violence, exploitation and abuse against children across the world.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all our partners, donors and governing body members for your continued support, collaboration and tireless work for children throughout this extraordinary time.

We look forward to working with you all to make 2021 and beyond the Partnership's most impactful years yet for children.

Dr Howard Taylor

Executive Director, the End Violence Partnership





2019-21 Strategy

The End Violence Partnership is now in the final year of the current three-year strategy, and we continue to catalyse collective advocacy, action and investment via three interconnected strategic pillars:



Grow demand

by increasing public awareness, securing policy commitments, and advocating for collective action to address violence against children.



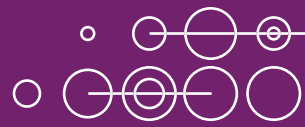
Mobilise New Resources

by making a compelling investment case, engaging with public and private donors, and increasing funding for partners and the broader movement.



Equip Practitioners

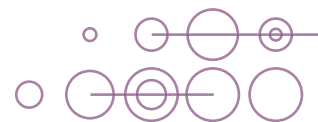
by sharing knowledge and tools that enable better policy and programmes, building stronger networks and fueling innovation via the End Violence Fund.



PART ONE

2020 AT A GLANCE





Investing for Impact

Highlights from 2020



Protecting children during COVID-19

by providing more than 155 million people with parenting tips, publishing technical guidance on how to make learning safe during school closures, and publishing a Leaders' Statement calling for unified action.



550 organisations are now partners within the End Violence Partnership, up from 395 in 2019.



Launched Together to #ENDviolence,

a partnership-wide campaign and Solutions Summit Series to raise awareness, share what works and catalyse political and financial commitments.



Ending Corporal Punishment was created when the End Violence Secretariat absorbed the work of the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, embedding that organisation's essential work into the Partnership's priorities.



\$18.8M invested in **24 partners in 2020**, bringing the total to **\$56.9 million** through the End Violence Fund with impact in over **70 countries since 2016**.



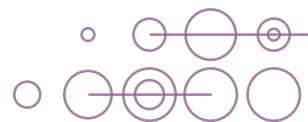
32 countries are now Pathfinders, up from 29 in 2019.



14 global partners uniting to embed violence prevention in education systems and **\$8 million** invested in five countries to keep children safe in and through schools via the **Safe to Learn** initiative.



\$10 million invested in tech solutions to protect children from online sexual exploitation and abuse via the **Safe Online** initiative.



A Pandemic Puts Children at Risk

How the End Violence Partnership Responded to COVID-19 in 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic put children at heightened risk of violence in 2020. Lockdowns and school closures isolated children from friends, extended family, teachers and social networks. Governments curtailed child protection services to avoid face-to-face contact and shifted resources to other public health priorities. Parents and caregivers faced multiple and simultaneous stresses and uncertainty which can trigger violence. And more children spent more time online than ever before, reinforcing the need to address exposure to online harms.

All these factors created a perfect storm for violence against children — especially vulnerable children living in abusive homes, in conflict zones, on the street or in extreme poverty. In each section of this report, we share how the End Violence Partnership responded with agility and speed to protect children. The timeline on the following page recaps the major moments in 2020, most of which focused on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Working with our 550 partners around the world, the Partnership's pandemic response had three components:

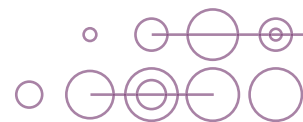
CONNECTING: The End Violence Partnership [website](#) and [Knowledge Platform](#) connected partners, practitioners and policymakers with fact-based information on the COVID-19 threats to children and prevention strategies. Our [COVID-19 resource page](#), which collated resources from across the End Violence community, quickly became the most visited section of our website. The Partnership also worked with leading global experts and agencies to produce detailed recommendations on child safety for policymakers, practitioners and the general public. These included technical notes and resources for organizations working directly with children, policy recommendations for governments wrestling with how to protect children, and [practical tips in more than 100 languages](#) for parents and caregivers coping with the stress of lockdowns and economic turmoil.

CONVENING: The End Violence Partnership brought together global leaders from government, the UN system, civil society, the private sector and faith communities to share information and chart an urgent and united strategy to protect children during the pandemic. The Partnership convened dozens of high-level virtual forums, webinars and campaign events to build momentum for prioritizing the safety of children as part of the global public health response. For example, the Partnership hosted a gathering of more than 60 UN member states to build support for national strategies to protect children during the pandemic, as well as multiple roundtable meetings of nearly 50 foundations and government donors aimed at mobilising funding for COVID-19 response.

ENABLING COLLECTIVE ACTION: Working with partners and governance members, the End Violence Partnership issued a global Leaders' Statement calling for urgent and united action to protect children during the pandemic. Over the following months, the Partnership continued to be a hub for collective action and advocacy. In practical terms, this led to the launch of numerous new or expanded initiatives to protect children during the pandemic and build back better in its wake, including:

- A research collaboration with tech companies to find new ways to protect children online (see page 22).
- A global parenting initiative to scale up evidence-based approaches with public and private financing (see page 16).
- A renewed focus on scaling up the INSPIRE strategies as the cornerstone of national responses to ending violence (see page 17).
- Awarding \$10 million from the End Violence Fund to dozens of partners working to keep children safe online and in learning environments (see page 22).
- Launching the Together to #ENDviolence global campaign and Solutions Summit Series to fuel a stronger global movement to end all forms of violence against children and achieve the SDGs.





Key Moments in a Year Like No Other

2020 Timeline

January

- Wales prohibits corporal punishment against children.
- Colombia issues its Violence Against Children and Youth Survey.
- International Day of Education links safer schools with better education outcomes.

February

- Safer Internet Day spotlights the fight to end online child sexual abuse and exploitation.

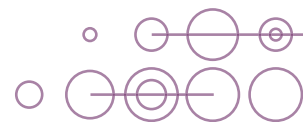
March

- The WHO declares COVID-19 a global pandemic
- End Violence Partnership creates a **COVID-19 resource page** on its website to share the latest information and tools to protect children from heightened risks of violence.
- End Violence Partnership and its **Safe to Learn** partners release three COVID-19 related recommendations to ensure that prevention and response to violence against children in and through schools remains a priority both during and post-COVID-19.
- Jamaica and Lebanon endorse the Safe to Learn Call to Action.

April

- Parents, policymakers and practitioners receive tools and guidance to protect children during **COVID-19 lockdowns**, generated by the End Violence Partnership's 500+ partners.
- A positive parenting campaign is launched by the **End Violence Partnership, UNICEF, Parenting for Lifelong Health** and others, eventually reaching 155 million families in 70 countries struggling with pandemic stress.
- 22 global leaders publish a joint statement calling for an **urgent, united effort to protect children** from violence amidst the pandemic.
- Japan prohibits corporal punishment of children in all settings.
- Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States launch Voluntary Principles to Counter Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Facebook, Google, Microsoft, Twitter, Snap and Roblox endorse the principles.
- The End Violence Partnership and its Safe Online partners, including ITU, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNODC, WeProtect Global Alliance, WHO and World Childhood USA, release a technical note and resource pack to support governments and the ICT industry to take urgent measures to ensure children's online experiences are safe and positive during COVID-19.





May

○ **Finland** becomes the 30th Pathfinding country.

The End Violence Partnership and the **UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children** bring leaders and experts together to explore how governments, the UN system and civil society organisations can protect children during COVID-19.

Tech companies and the End Violence Partnership create an **online safety campaign** to help parents, caregivers and children themselves watch out for risks online.

The End Violence Fund makes its first Safe to Learn investments in five projects in **Nepal** and **Uganda**.

June

○ **Jordan** endorses the Safe to Learn Call to Action.

The End Violence Lab releases a Methods Menu to help partners measure violence against children and what's working to prevent it.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issues a new Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, which includes a call-out on the need to protect children online, increase investments on the issue and work through global partnerships such as **WeProtect Global Alliance** and the End Violence Partnership.

The Technology Coalition — a group of 18 technology companies including **Google, Microsoft, Facebook, Apple and Twitter** — launch Project Protect with the End Violence Partnership as the lead research arm providing renewed investment to protect children online.

The End Violence Partnership's Safe Online initiative supports the development and launch of new **2020 ITU Guidelines on Child Online Protection**, including presenting at the launch.

WHO and partners release the **Global Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children 2020**.

July

○ 34 governments report on measures they are taking to end violence against children as part of their voluntary national reviews for the **High-Level Political Forum**.

The European Union adopts a comprehensive strategy to fight sexual abuse of children.

The End Violence Partnership and its **Safe to Learn partners** issue recommendations for safely reopening schools and building safer learning environments.

Kenya and **Moldova** issue their Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys.

Seychelles becomes the 60th state to ban corporal punishment of children.

The **United Kingdom** passes an amendment to protect children online, a major step forward for children's digital safety.

August

○ The **End Violence Knowledge Platform** is launched, providing the latest evidence, research and data on violence against children.

UNICEF releases a new report revealing the status of violence prevention and response services during the COVID-19 pandemic.





September

The End Violence Partnership's Safe to Learn partners release a **programmatic framework and benchmarking tool** to guide practical actions in countries and monitor and track results.

The End Violence Partnership takes forward the work the **Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children** as the global advocacy lead for prohibiting corporal punishment

The Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development publishes the Digital Transformation of Education, Connecting Schools, Empowering Learners.

Lesotho and **Côte d'Ivoire** issue their Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys.

October

The End Violence Fund invests **\$10 million in 15 Safe Online projects** to use tech solutions to end online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

The End Violence Fund invests in new Safe to Learn projects in **Cambodia, Lebanon** and **Uganda**.

November

Zambia becomes the 31st Pathfinding country.

Scotland prohibits corporal punishment of children.

The End Violence Partnership launches a new podcast series, **INSPIRING Ways to End Violence Against Children**.

The End Violence Partnership teams up with the **UNICEF Innovation Fund and Giga** to invest up to \$100,000 in early stage, for-profit start-ups working to make the internet safer for children.

The second INSPIRE regional conference for **Latin America** opens with a high-level event, setting the stage for online technical sessions in February 2021.

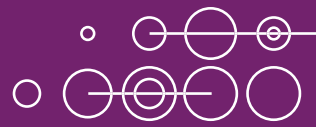
December

Global leaders launch the **Together to #EndViolence global campaign and Solution Summit Series** at a virtual event drawing more than 2,000 viewers from 130 countries.

The **European Parliament** takes a major stand for children's safety online through changes to the European Electronic Communications Code.

Namibia becomes the 32nd Pathfinding country.

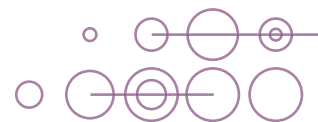




PART TWO

PROGRESS AGAINST PRIORITIES





About the End Violence Partnership

ORIGINS

Every year, more than **one billion children** experience some form of violence. To end this injustice, the UN Secretary-General in 2016 called on public and private partners to work together with renewed urgency to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.2; an end to all forms of violence against children by 2030. **The End Violence Partnership** is the only global entity focused solely on SDG 16.2, providing a platform for collective, evidence-based advocacy, action and sustained financial investment in solutions that protect children from violence.



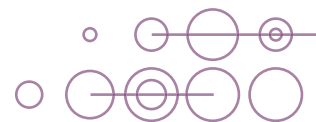
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CURRENT SNAPSHOT

As of December 2020, the End Violence Partnership included 550 member organisations across the globe, including governments, civil society, UN agencies, faith communities, academics, businesses, philanthropists and youth themselves. Partners work collaboratively to share what's working to protect children, elevate violence against children as a global priority, and build political will for stronger policies and increased resources. The Partnership is supported by:

- **The End Violence Secretariat:** A small team based mainly in New York and Geneva that manages the day-to-day delivery of the Partnership's mission and priority strategies.
- **The End Violence Fund:** A flexible funding channel for donors to invest in new strategies that protect children and build a stronger evidence-base to guide future policies and programmes. Since 2016 the Fund has awarded \$56.9 million to 52 organizations with impact in more than 70 countries.





GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Vision: A world where every child grows up safe and secure, wherever they live.

Mission: To build an enduring global network that actively protects children from all forms of violence.

Impact: Significant and measurable improvements in prevention and response to violence against children, leading to successful delivery of SDG 16.2. The End Violence Partnership's priority strategies (see below), including investments from the End Violence Fund, currently reach an estimated 500 million children in more than 70 countries.

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

Safe at Home and in Communities: Catalysing and supporting nationwide action in dozens of Pathfinding countries that commit to policy reforms, multisectoral national planning, and using evidence-based strategies such as INSPIRE informed by national data (see page 16).

Safe to Learn: Uniting leaders from the education and child protection communities in a global initiative to end violence in and through schools safer for children and use schools as platforms to address community violence (see page 19).

Safe Online: Fueling a network of organisations that keep children safe from online sexual abuse and exploitation and shape global policy on a safer internet for children (see page 21).

Ending Corporal Punishment: Advocating for the end of corporal punishment globally by pushing for tougher laws, better legal enforcement, and changes in how adults discipline children at home and at school (see page 23).

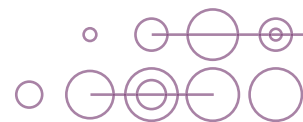
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

Communications and Advocacy: Elevating the issue, shaping global policy, and amplifying the work of partners to build a stronger movement to end violence against children (see page 25).

Knowledge: Sharing research, evidence and data about what's working to keep children safe — and where the gaps remain that need action and investment (see page 24).

Safeguarding: Ensuring our staff, associates, grantees, and partners have the training, tools and policies to safeguard children with whom they come into contact.





Safe at Home and in Communities

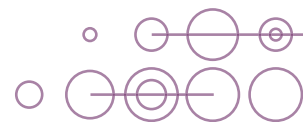
Catalysing national action to protect children has been part of the End Violence Partnership's strategy since its earliest days. In 2020, Finland, Namibia and Zambia became *Pathfinding* countries, bringing to 32 the number of governments making significant political and policy commitments to keep children safe. Several additional countries are on track to become Pathfinding countries in 2021.

The End Violence Partnership and partners such as UNICEF play a central role in encouraging new countries to become Pathfinders and then working with governments and civil society to create national action plans and build local networks to ensure success. In 2020, particular attention was focused on supporting five countries (Uganda, Côte D'Ivoire, the Philippines, Indonesia and Colombia) to scale up use of *INSPIRE*, a set of seven evidence-based strategies proven to reduce violence against children. The End Violence Partnership also invested new effort in ending corporal punishment and supporting parents and caregivers coping with the stress and hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020 major achievements

- **New Pathfinding Countries:** In 2020, the End Violence Partnership welcomed three new Pathfinding countries (see above). With Namibia and Zambia joining, Africa now has nine Pathfinding countries — the most of any continent.
- **Country Dashboard:** The End Violence Partnership launched a powerful new tool in 2020 to track country-level progress in protecting children from violence and inform future planning. Drawing on WHO's *Global Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children 2020* and data from UNICEF and other partners, in the year to come, the Country Dashboard will be converted into a living document with information on demographics, national action plans, key stakeholders, and indicators on school-based and online violence. Though the dashboard was initially designed to capture key milestones in the Pathfinding process, the Partnership saw the opportunity to build a more comprehensive tool to ensure coherence across all priority initiatives — and ultimately inform strategic decisions on joint advocacy, action and investments to maximise collective impact at the national level.
- **New partners, new alliances:** The End Violence Partnership forged critical new alliances in 2020 that opened new pathways to combat violence against children — especially as the COVID-19 pandemic increased the vulnerability of children. The Partnership worked closely with Parenting for Lifelong Health to disseminate *evidence-based parenting tips* to more than 150 million people in 198 countries. The Partnership also broke new ground in working with faith communities through a collaboration with Arigatou International and its global network, as well as with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime to engage more with the justice sector.
- **INSPIRE Working Group:** The End Violence Partnership worked hand-in-hand with the INSPIRE Working Group in 2020 to adapt and scale up evidence-based strategies in targeted countries. Working Group members representing more than 200 organizations regularly come together to discuss their collective efforts to build capacity and chart new ways to scale up use of the seven strategies identified in the INSPIRE framework.
- **INSPIRE in South America:** In November 2020, the Government of Colombia with key partners held a regional conference to share lessons learned on scaling up INSPIRE in South America. More than 200 representatives from government, UN agencies and civil society attended.
- **Engaging with civil society:** In 2020, the End Violence Partnership deepened its engagement with national civil society focal points in Pathfinding countries, who play an essential role in shaping and delivering national action plans. To make this happen, the Partnership relied on guidance from the CSO Forum, which ensures that civil society groups are included in policy making.





A Groundbreaking New Report

The *Global Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children 2020* was launched in June 2020 by **WHO**, UNICEF, UNESCO, End Violence Partnership, and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children. The landmark report assesses what governments are doing to end violence against children by measuring their efforts against the evidence-based INSPIRE strategies. More than 1,000 government officials from 155 countries rated the extent to which they considered government support for the INSPIRE approaches was sufficient to reach all who need them.

The report's findings show that drastic action is needed to scale up evidence-based prevention efforts if we are to achieve the goal of ending childhood violence. For example, while most countries have laws in place to prevent violence against children, just 47 per cent of government respondents said that these laws were being enforced strongly enough to ensure that violators would be penalized. Similarly, while 56 per cent of countries provide some national support for the INSPIRE approaches, only 25 per cent of those surveyed consider this support sufficient to reach all who need it.

The report includes aggregate findings and individual country profiles for the 155 participating countries. Also included is a first-ever set of homicide numbers and rates for children under 18 at national, regional and global levels. WHO and its partners shared the report and its findings via regional launch events and national policy dialogues aimed at strengthening government support for prevention programmes, with most Pathfinder countries participating. The full report in English, executive summaries and infographics in all official UN languages, and a four-minute video summarizing the key findings and recommendations are available at <https://bit.ly/2Pxz5Pz>

What is Pathfinding?

Since its launch in July of 2016, the End Violence Partnership has promoted the concept of Pathfinding, which aims to raise awareness, stimulate leadership commitment, galvanize action, and establish a standard of national violence prevention throughout the world. Pathfinding governments make a public commitment to do more to end violence against children and embark on a nationally-driven process to develop comprehensive, multisectoral action plans informed by evidence-based solutions such as the INSPIRE strategies. Today, 32 countries have committed to being Pathfinders, spreading the initiative's reach to every continent.

Partners across the End Violence Partnership play critical roles in the Pathfinding process. Civil society organizations bring evidence and experience from the field to inform national action plans and then mobilize civil society support for the development, implementation and monitoring of the plans. UNICEF country offices and other UN agencies support the government in convening multi-stakeholder platforms and achieving pathfinding milestones such as data collection and development of national action plans. They also provide important technical support throughout the process. Each government commits to the following action steps in the first 18 months of becoming a Pathfinding country:

- Appoint a senior government focal point to lead the process.
- Convene and support a multi-stakeholder group.
- Collect, structure and analyse data on violence against children.
- Develop an evidence-based and costed national action plan that sets commitments for three to five years, and a related resource mobilization plan.
- Consult with children and adhere to partnership standards on child participation.

Country-specific data on national action plans for Pathfinding countries can be accessed on the new [Country Dashboard](#).





What are the INSPIRE strategies?

INSPIRE is a set of seven evidence-based strategies for countries and communities working to eliminate violence against children. Created by 10 agencies with a long history of child protection work — including WHO, UNICEF and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control — INSPIRE serves as a technical package and guidebook for comprehensive programming to combat violence against children.



1. IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS

INSPIRE encourages laws that ban violent punishment of children by parents, caregivers, teachers and other adults, along with laws criminalising perpetrators of sexual abuse and exploitation of children. INSPIRE also shows that laws preventing alcohol misuse and youth access to firearms and other weapons are proven to decrease violence.



2. NORMS AND VALUES

INSPIRE emphasises the importance of changing harmful societal norms, which can target gender, ability level, age and other indicators. INSPIRE provides examples of effective community mobilisation and bystander intervention programmes.



3. SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

INSPIRE demonstrates that addressing “hotspots” in communities leads to reductions in violence against children. Making environments safer can halt the spread of violence throughout a community.



4. PARENT AND CAREGIVER SUPPORT

To truly stop violence against children, parents and caregivers must be engaged. INSPIRE provides ways of doing so, including home visits, group activities in community settings, and other evidence-based programmes.



5. INCOME AND ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING

Violence can often be prevented if a family’s financial status improves. INSPIRE outlines interventions that strengthen families’ economic standing, including cash transfers, group savings and loans, and microfinance. Combining economic programmes with gender equity training leads to stronger results.



6. RESPONSE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

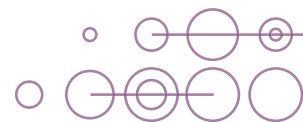
INSPIRE provides examples of effective counselling and therapeutic approaches, treatment programmes for juvenile offenders, and screening combined with interventions. It also includes foster care interventions for existing social welfare services.



7. EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS

INSPIRE provides recommendations to increase enrolment in preschools, primary schools and secondary schools, and relays the importance of safe, enabling school environments. By increasing children’s knowledge about violence and sexual exploitation, children are less likely to become victims of abuse.





Safe to Learn

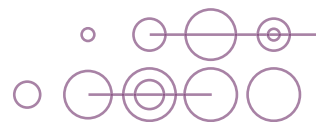
Schools should be a place where children are free to learn, play, thrive and pursue their dreams. But violence in and around schools happens in every country, with children experiencing violence from schoolmates, teachers, other school personnel and on the way to and from school. The Safe to Learn initiative brings together leaders from the education and child protection communities to forge a common strategy to end violence in and through schools — and help deliver SDGs 4, 5, and 16.2.

Early in 2020, Safe to Learn's 14 partners (see list below) rolled out a jointly developed Strategic Roadmap that aimed to accelerate progress through each partner organization's renewed and strengthened commitment towards ending violence in and through schools. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the partners responded with speed and agility to address new risks of violence due to school closures, distance learning and the increased isolation of children.

2020 major achievements

- Safe to Learn partners developed practical recommendations for parents to keep children safe during the **COVID-19** school closures in 2020. Partners also produced a comprehensive technical guidance note to help educators create safe online learning environments during the pandemic.
- The **End Violence Fund** has invested nearly \$8 million in eight Safe to Learn projects in Cambodia, Lebanon, Nepal, South Sudan and Uganda. The investments aim to prevent and respond to violence in schools and other learning environments. When COVID-19 struck, grantees used innovative measures to ensure that learning — in school, at home or online — remained a safe endeavor for children despite the enormous challenges posed by the pandemic. The work is made possible with financial support from the **UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Switzerland, and Global Affairs Canada**.
- Collectively, Safe to Learn partners leveraged several key moments in 2020 to get school violence higher on the global agenda, including the **Education World Forum**, the Bullying Conference and the African Union Education Ministers forum.
- Jamaica and Lebanon endorsed the **Safe to Learn Call to Action** in 2020, bringing the total number of endorsing countries to 15. The Call to Action urges governments to strengthen legislation; increase funding; shift social norms; generate data and evidence; and improve school-based prevention and response.
- Safe to Learn partners conducted **diagnostic exercises** in Jordan, Nepal, Pakistan, South Sudan and Uganda in 2020 to identify progress and gaps towards meeting benchmarks laid out in the Call to Action. The diagnostics also aimed to support governments in setting priorities that ensure safe learning environments. A Synthesis Report of the findings from four of the five exercises was released in late 2020, providing an overview of the context and policy landscape regarding violence in schools and sharing what countries are doing under each Call to Action area — including benchmarks, good practices, challenges and gaps. The main recommendations included increasing school safety in education sector plans and budgets and a stronger focus on shifting social norms.
- Safe to Learn **senior-level officials** met in November 2020 and agreed to strengthen the initiative by: updating the strategic roadmap, engaging in the Together to #ENDviolence Solutions Summit Series, conducting joint policy and advocacy calls, developing a country collaboration model, and working together to increase financing.





The 14 Safe to Learn Partners



Global Coalition to **Protect**
Education from Attack



Working Across Sectors

The End Violence Partnership made a special effort to find critical synergies between its Pathfinding and Safe to Learn initiatives, considering the critical role of the education sector in any national plan to end violence against children. Pathfinding and Safe to Learn partners joined forces to engage and advise on evidence-informed programming to prevent violence in and through schools in new and upcoming national plans. Strategic communication was sent to Pathfinding country focal persons to advocate for the Safe to Learn Call to Action, with Pathfinders Jamaica, El Salvador, Mexico, Cambodia, Honduras, Georgia, South Africa and Uganda endorsing the initiative. Likewise, letters were shared with Education Ministers from Safe to Learn countries — through Permanent Missions and UNICEF Country Offices — advocating for them to become Pathfinding countries. Particular focus was on the seven Safe to Learn countries that weren't already Pathfinders — Ghana, Jordan, Lebanon, Moldova, Nepal and, Sierra Leone. Recently we received a letter from Jordan asking to become a Pathfinding country, which is expected to happen in 2021.



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Safe Online

The Partnership's work to keep children safe online grew ever more critical in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the adoption of digital technologies for work, learning, socialising, games and keeping in touch with loved ones. However, this increased reliance on digital technologies resulted in an explosion of online child sexual exploitation and abuse. With both children and sexual offenders spending more time online, authorities reported more than a doubling of photos and videos of children being sexually abused being shared on the internet.

The global scale of the risk to children demands a unified global response from governments, technology companies, regulators, and child rights advocates. In 2020, the End Violence Partnership, through its Safe Online initiative, continued to lead the global fight to end online violence against children through both direct financial investments and catalysing collective action from governments, international organizations and the private sector.

The End Violence Fund invested a total of \$11 million in 2020 to strengthen the architecture to tackle online sexual abuse and exploitation, with a focus on technology solutions that make digital spaces safer for children. These latest investments make the End Violence Fund the world's largest funder of online child safety, with a **Safe Online portfolio** of \$44 million in 53 projects with impact in more than 70 countries. The work is made possible with financial support from the **UK Home Office, Oak Foundation, and Human Dignity Foundation**.

2020 major achievements

- When COVID-19 struck, the End Violence Partnership's Safe Online initiative coordinated with grantees and global partners to ensure children's online experiences were safe and positive. Together with UNICEF, ITU, UNESCO, UNODC, World Childhood Foundation USA, WeProtect Global Alliance and WHO, Safe Online released a **multi-stakeholder technical note** and a **resource pack** with guidance on making digital platforms safe for children.
- Safe Online collaborated with Microsoft, Facebook, Google, Twitter, Roblox and Snapchat to develop **Stay safe at home, stay safe online**, a campaign to keep children safe amid the lockdowns and isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- As part of **Project Protect**, Safe Online and the Technology Coalition launched a **research fund** to help the tech industry prevent and eradicate online sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Safe Online worked with the **UNICEF Innovation Fund and Giga** to support equity-free investments of up to \$100,000 for start-ups working to make the internet safe for children.
- To help grantee partners respond to COVID-19, the End Violence Fund's Safe Online portfolio allowed flexibility to adapt activities to the increased risks children faced during the pandemic. It also reduced reporting requirements to free up staff time for grantees overwhelmed by the crisis, and created a social media kit and webpage with fact-based information on **protecting children during the COVID-19 outbreak**.
- Safe Online contributed to policy discussions on child online safety with **governments, international organizations, technology industry, regulators, and security agencies**. For example, the Partnership engaged with the European Commission on its comprehensive new **strategy to combat child sexual abuse**.





- Safe Online helped to inform the **UN Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation**, which now contains a specific call-out on the need to end online child sexual abuse and exploitation and increase investments toward this issue.
- Safe Online contributed to the development of the 2020 **ITU Guidelines on Child Online Protection** and joined other leaders in presenting at a launch in June. Opened by Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden, the high-level panel included co-authors of the guidelines, country representatives, and private sector stakeholders.
- For the first time ever, seven global organizations — **End Violence, ITU, UNESCO, UNODC, WeProtect Global Alliance, World Childhood Foundation USA and WHO** — submitted a joint comment to the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** on the new **General Comment No. 25** on child rights in digital environments.
- In addition to awarding \$10 million to scale up technology solutions to keep children safe online (see above), the End Violence Fund's Safe Online portfolio awarded \$700,000 to the **5Rights Foundation** in 2020 to create a Global Policy Handbook to help users implement the **Model National Response** strategies and to address knowledge gaps in child online protection.



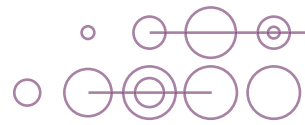
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Technology That Keeps Children Safe

The End Violence Fund's Safe Online portfolio invested **\$10 million in 15 partners** using cutting edge tools like artificial intelligence, machine learning and data science to protect children online. Here's a snapshot of three of the initiatives putting technology to work to make the Internet safer for children.

- **Population Foundation of India** is developing an artificially intelligent chatbot to enable adolescents to identify and report online child sexual exploitation and abuse in India. This project was designed with adolescents themselves – providing them with a safe, trusted online space for education and information.
- **Suojellaan Lapsia Ry** is creating an evidence-based self-help programme to prevent the consumption of child sexual abuse material on the Dark Web. The initiative, which builds on a Finnish government rehabilitation programme for sex offenders, provides targeted support to dissuade users from using harmful materials. The programme also reveals new information about searchers and their pathways to child sexual abuse materials.
- **The University of Swansea** in Wales is helping law enforcement to spot online grooming in real time by integrating artificial intelligence and linguistics. The project will impart specialist knowledge through a learning portal and chatbot to strengthen professionals' abilities to shield children from online grooming.





Ending Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is the most common type of violence children face, with many experiencing violent discipline in their homes, classrooms, childcare and juvenile justice centres.

Worldwide, 61 countries have banned corporal punishment. But 87 per cent of the world's children are not protected by law, and entrenched attitudes and practices put children at risk everywhere.

With generous financial support via Ignite Philanthropy, in late 2020 some aspects of the work of the [Global Initiative to End Corporal Punishment of Children](#) were taken on by the End Violence Secretariat. This has allowed continuation of some of GI's work and closer synergies with the End Violence Partnership's work to promote the INSPIRE strategies, including supporting countries with legal assessments, drafting legislation and strategy development for law reform and campaigns to transform attitudes and practices around corporal punishment.

2020 major achievements

- The Global Initiative to End Corporal Punishment team brings a wealth of experience on both the legal and social norm change aspects of the work. The team's first step was integrating its previous approaches and campaigns with the End Violence Partnership's overall strategy through consultations with the Secretariat team and governance members.
- In 2020 the team conducted strategic consultations with End Violence Partnership stakeholders, including UNICEF, UNODC, WHO and Save the Children. An interagency reference group was formed and helped to develop a strategy to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment of children in all settings.
- Ongoing work includes: assessing and providing direct input into draft laws; support for, confirmation and announcement of prohibitions; submissions to treaty bodies such as the CRC Universal Periodic Review; and support to national communications campaigns to ban corporal punishment.
- The End Violence Partnership will highlight ending corporal punishment in the Solutions Summit Series to help mobilize global support for stronger action. In consultation with the interagency reference group, the Corporal Punishment team designed two key events, one around implementation of laws and the second around existing evidence.
- The End Violence Partnership continued to advocate that prohibition is an effective, achievable and foundational measure for all countries addressing the prevention of violence against children. For instance, it developed partnerships at national level and identified opportunities for law reform to prohibit corporal punishment in all regions, including in Zambia and Mexico.





Knowledge

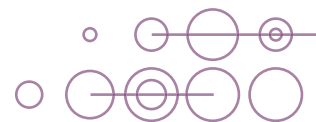
To protect children from violence, the global community of practitioners and policymakers need to know what's working, how to adapt it to local context, and what critical gaps remain to be addressed. In short, they need knowledge. In 2019, the End Violence Partnership launched the **End Violence Lab** in partnership with the University of Edinburgh, aiming to generate high-quality data and evidence while also facilitating peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange.

In 2020, the End Violence Partnership created and launched a curated knowledge platform (see below) that shares data, evidence and learning, and serves as an information hub for the broader end violence community. Throughout the year, we worked closely with researchers and practitioners to rapidly share how the COVID-19 pandemic was increasing the risk of violence for children.

2020 major achievements

- The **End Violence Knowledge Platform** was launched in August 2020 as an interactive, dynamic hub of knowledge, learning and information. The new knowledge platform curates content from hundreds of partners across the world, sharing information based on its relevance, rigour and alignment with the INSPIRE strategies. The platform now has 69 readily accessible knowledge pieces — including case studies, research findings, policy reports and even podcasts.
- The **End Violence Knowledge Network**, a group of leading experts on violence against children, produced three global products in 2020 to equip researchers and practitioners.
 - A **Methods Menu** detailing how to measure baseline data of violence against children data.
 - An **Evidence Gap Map** showing adolescent wellbeing in low- and middle-income countries.
 - An **Including Children in Research Resource Pack** with practical approaches to engage children in research initiatives.
- The End Violence Lab supported **knowledge exchange and capacity building activities** in Pathfinder countries in 2020. This included co-creating an INSPIRE coordination course with the Colombian Government and providing technical assistance in localizing national action plans. The End Violence Lab also engaged 22 policymakers via the **2020 Leadership Development Programme** focused on leading with purpose, communication and storytelling skills. Participants explored how different policy areas can work together to adapt national plans on violence against children to the new challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We also continued to establish **regional centres for children's well-being** with universities in Brazil, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Uganda and the Philippines. This led to groundbreaking systematic reviews of INSPIRE interventions in the Americas, Africa and Asia.
- The End Violence Lab co-facilitated several webinars with **the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action in 2020**. Topics included protecting children from violence during COVID-19, using INSPIRE strategies in humanitarian settings, and harnessing data to understand and reach children more effectively.
- With thanks to the **UNICEF Data Collaborative**, the Partnership secured funding for pioneering an approach to engage young people in INSPIRE-related research activities. Six young scholars from Brazil, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Colombia, Jordan and Uganda will participate in an **INSPIRE global systematic review**.





Together to #ENDviolence

A world safe for children should be a top priority on the global agenda. **Together to #ENDviolence** aims to make that happen through a unified global campaign and a virtual Solutions Summit Series that brings new energy — and resources — to the movement to end violence against children.

Together to #ENDviolence marks the formal beginning of the UN's Decade of Action as we strive to achieve SDG 16.2 — an end to all forms of violence against children by 2030. The campaign builds on the success of the inaugural Solutions Summit in 2018 in Stockholm, where more than 400 leaders came together to invigorate the global movement to protect children from violence.

With COVID-19 making in-person gatherings impossible, the End Violence Partnership reimaged the Solutions Summit as a series of locally created national and regional virtual events joined up to a global campaign with clear policy objectives — including an aim to secure new financial and political commitments to protect children.

The campaign was launched in December 2020 at a high-level **virtual event** featuring Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden, the First Lady of Colombia, government ministers, corporate CEOs, senior UN officials, youth leaders and a Nobel Peace Laureate. Nearly 2,000 people from 130 countries watched the launch online, setting the stage for dozens of **subsequent affiliate events** that will continue throughout 2021 — including **government-led policy dialogues** in all 32 Pathfinding countries. The End Violence Partnership equipped partners to create these affiliate events across a range of topics, and more than 50 partners signed on to host events.

To enable the end violence community to speak with one voice, dozens of Together to #END Violence's partners developed a detailed policy agenda to inform and unify advocacy efforts. The Together to #ENDviolence policy agenda calls for:

1. Banning all forms of violence against children
2. Enabling parents and caregivers to keep children safe
3. Making the internet safe for children
4. Making schools safe, non-violent and inclusive
5. Protecting children from violence in humanitarian settings
6. More investment to protect children, better spent

The virtual and partner-led format of the Solutions Summit Series is greatly increasing the ability of everyone in the end violence community to participate, learn and share. In this way, the virtual events are doing what all great gatherings do: connecting people across borders, encouraging collaborative action and building enduring networks and knowledge. This broader access is especially welcome for small grassroots groups and youth leaders who often find it hard to travel to global conferences.

Together to #ENDviolence and the Solutions Summit will culminate in a high-level Leaders' Event in December 2021 where senior officials from government, the private sector, philanthropy and the UN system will announce new financial pledges and policy commitments. In this way, the campaign will create both new momentum and practical resources to drive the end violence movement forward as the Decade of Action for the SDGs unfolds.

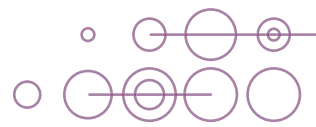




PART THREE

COUNTRY CASE STUDIES

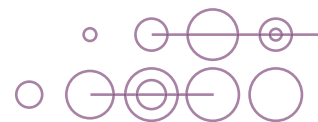




How Five Countries Protect Their Children

Each country faces its own unique challenges on the journey to ending violence against children. The hard work of building the systems, networks, programmes and social norms that protect children from violence happens, to a large extent, at the country level. It is here that the work of the End Violence Partnership and its national networks, working closely with governments, becomes real and tangible in the lives of children. This section looks at how five countries gained significant traction in keeping children safe at home, at school and online in 2020, with support from partners within the End Violence Partnership.





Colombia: Building a Culture of Protection

The 2019 Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS) reported that 41 per cent of girls and 42 per cent of boys in Colombia had experienced some type of violence in childhood. The surveys were led by the **Government of Colombia** with support from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as part of the **Together for Girls** partnership.

In response, Colombia took a series of measures to prioritise ending violence against children, and became a Pathfinding country in August 2019 when President Ivan Duque launched the **National Alliance to End Violence Against Children**, a multi-sectoral platform linking various government agencies. The **Colombian Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF)** was appointed the focal point ministry to lead the development of an evidence-based and costed national action plan that would reduce violence children by 14.3 per cent by 2022.

In 2020, two critical steps unfolded to help land the national action plan. First, the End Violence Partnership collaborated with **USAID's HEARD Project, Together for Girls, CDC, UNICEF and Universidad de Los Andes** to support the government of Colombia in aligning its action plans with the needs identified in the VACS and workshops. Second, the **First Lady of Colombia, Maria Juliana Ruiz, and ICBF Director, Lina Arbeláez**, hosted a high-level meeting in June 2020 to discuss support from international agencies. Participants agreed that the End Violence Partnership would support Colombia with an INSPIRE coordination course, co-created with members of the Government of Colombia and tailored to its needs.

This work is now in process and the Colombian National Action Plan 2021-2024 is expected to launch in 2021. The plan focuses on six priorities, including strengthening **legal frameworks**, guaranteeing **comprehensive services**, and **social mobilisation** to change beliefs and behaviours about violence against children.





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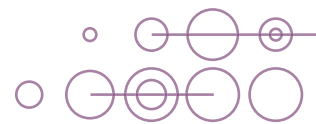
The Colombian Government is also providing technical assistance to help 32 Colombian departments design regional action plans adapted to local contexts.

Colombia also made strong progress in keeping children safe online in 2020. With financial support from the End Violence Fund through the **Safe Online** initiative, the **Red PaPaz** organisation used innovative strategies to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse in collaboration with UNICEF Colombia and Fundación Renacer. Netsmartz, Red PaPaz' online education programme, was adopted by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of ICT, and ICBF, enabling it to reach 81 schools across four regions in 2020. Thanks to this programme, teachers now understand more clearly the basic concept of online risks in digital environments — and how to prevent them.

Red PaPaz also provided detailed trainings on online violence for more than 500 public officials, in partnership with **Fundación Renacer**. Teachers, police authorities, child protection officers, tourism authorities, and other public officials learned how to detect, prosecute and communicate about online violence against children. Local boards and committees in Bogotá, Cartagena, La Guajira and El Cesar also were trained.

In addition, **Red PaPaz strengthened** and expanded the national hotline. Red PaPaz introduced a new categorization system, which will enable more efficient and detailed data collection, enhanced security, and faster URL processing. To respond to the increased risks for children in 2020, Te Protejo launched a campaign called “#LoReportoPeroNoLoComparto” (I report it but I don't share it). The campaign reached 3.7 million Instagram accounts, made 32 million Facebook impressions, and registered 2,235 users.





Jamaica: Listening to Children

Jamaica has some of the world's highest rates of violence against children, with eight of 10 children aged two to four experiencing some form of violent discipline. Boys, children from poorer households and children in rural communities are most likely to be subjected to violent discipline. Physical punishment often results from parents not knowing how to manage their emotions or understanding what constitutes normal behaviour at various stages of a child's development.

In response to this alarming data, the government launched Jamaica as a **Pathfinding country** in 2016, raising the issue of violence against children to one of national importance and demonstrating the country's commitment to this issue.

To get started, a high-level **Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee on Children and Violence** convened consultations with Jamaicans of all ages and across all sectors, and subsequently developed a national action plan and road map, using **INSPIRE** as a framework.

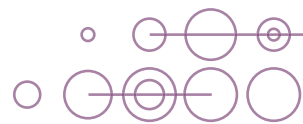
The plan called for a reduction in the number of reported cases of violence against children by 15 per cent and a 20 per cent increase in the provision of services for child victims of violence. To get there, it proposed specific actions to deliver five key outcomes:

- Strengthened policy, legal and regulatory frameworks
- Improved quality of and access to services for children affected by violence
- Strengthened family and community capacity to address violence against children
- Increased public education and training on violence prevention
- Establishment of an integrated framework for coordinating and evaluating the national action plan



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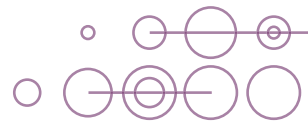
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In 2019, on the eve of World Children's Day, the **Jamaican Parliament** held a special session on violence against children organized by **UNICEF, the Office of the Children's Advocate and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information**. During this session, children addressed the Parliament for the first time in Jamaica's history — and called for urgent action to protect children from violence. During the session, Prime Minister Holness formally launched the plan, and Howard Taylor, Executive Director of the End Violence Partnership, emphasized Jamaica's role as a Pathfinding country in mobilizing the global community to end violence against children everywhere.

Efforts advanced in 2020 to implement the national action plan, whose purpose and content became more widely known through public education and outreach efforts. When COVID-19 struck, the government and civil society partners pivoted to new interventions to support children isolated from friends, school, services and support networks. This included the establishment of **COVID-19 helplines** to assist parents and caregivers in creating safe and supportive learning environments at home. COVID-19 response activities also included training frontline workers to provide psychological first aid to people struggling with the stress and emotional impact of the pandemic.

Jamaica also took important steps in 2020 to make schools safer for children, even as COVID-19 posed new and unexpected threats to learning. In early March 2020, Jamaica celebrated its Peace Day by endorsing the Safe to Learn Call to Action, which sets out in high-level terms what needs to happen to end violence in and through schools and aligns with the country's national action plan. Fittingly, the formal signing took place at a primary school that won the **Trees for Peace** competition, which invited 60 schools to maintain peace gardens to promote safe, beautiful spaces for children inside school grounds.

Jamaica continues to strengthen its systems to end violence against children in and through schools. In November 2020, an official from the **Ministry of Education, Youth and Information** was invited to present at the **Safe to Learn Senior Officials Meeting** and showcase Jamaica's efforts. The presentation demonstrated the significant progress that Jamaica has achieved towards the five priority areas of the **Safe to Learn Call to Action**, and provided powerful insight into what works to ensure safer learning environments.



Nepal: The Drive for Safer Schools

The **Government of Nepal** was one of the earliest endorsers of the Safe to Learn Call to Action, and in 2020 several important steps unfolded to make learning environments safer in the country, even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The End Violence Fund, using funds from the UK Government, made three innovation investments to protect children in and through schools across the country. **Mercy Corps**, **Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)** and **World Education** received funding to use evidence-based interventions to deliver on three priority areas of the Call to Action:

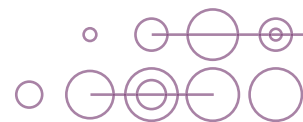
- Policy and legislation
- Prevention and response at the school level
- Social norms and behaviour change

Despite beginning work at the height of COVID-19, the three organisations continued to move forward, adapting to meet the new reality of school closures and distance learning. Innovations included adapting materials for distance learning, creating a radio talk show to reach children and parents, hosting teacher trainings on Zoom or outdoors, and developing a mobile app for remote data collection.



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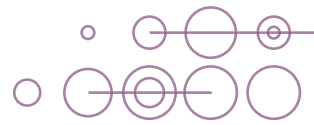


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A second area of progress in Nepal involved a multi-stakeholder process leading to a comprehensive assessment of the country's progress toward enduring safe learning environments for all. **UNICEF Nepal**, with support from the World Bank and in collaboration with Cambridge Education, conducted a diagnostic exercise funded by the **World Bank and the UK Government**. The exercise, conducted across all seven Nepalese provinces, aimed to gauge the degree to which the Government of Nepal has met the benchmarks set out in the five Call to Action areas. It also aimed to identify best practices, gaps and priorities to enable Nepal to meet benchmarks and establish a baseline for tracking progress.

The study found that Nepal has made significant progress in all five areas of the Call to Action, noting the critical role that NGOs play in promoting safe schools and recommended enhanced coordination at the federal, provincial and local levels. It also identified good practices to end violence in and through schools in the country and shared several recommendations to accelerate progress. Nepal has national guidelines of the MOEST (Complaint Response Guidelines 2016) to guide the development of procedures in schools to receive and address complaints from students, especially those related to incidents of physical, mental and sexual violence. All secondary schools are requested to set up a complaint box and appoint a female teacher as gender focal person. Additionally, at policy level, as part of its School Sector Development Plan (SSDP), Nepal has a specific strategy to ensure schools are safe spaces to learn.





Philippines: A National Effort to Protect Children

When the Philippines completed its first national study of violence against children in 2015, it found that a generation of children was suffering from high levels of violence. Two-thirds of children and youth experienced physical violence and one in four sexual violence, according the [study](#) conducted by the Council of the Welfare of Children.

This alarming data prompted the Government of Philippines to draft a multisectoral national action plan and become an early Pathfinding country, making formal commitments to prioritize protecting children in its policies, programmes and services. The action plan outlined six critical strategies for government and civil society to pursue:

- 1. Evidence-based parenting skills**
- 2. Children's personal skills**
- 3. Access to protective, social, mental, health, legal, economic, and judicial services**
- 4. Monitoring and evaluation systems**
- 5. Laws and enforcement**
- 6. Child protection structures and systems at national and local levels**

To extend this strategy at the local level, the Mayor of Valenzuela, a city of 620,000 just north of Manila, announced in 2019 that his community would become the first Pathfinding city. Mayor Rexlon T. Gatchalion and his team worked closely with the End Violence Partnership to create citywide violence prevention tools including child-centered indicators and outcome mapping.



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In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic threatened all this progress. To mitigate the new risks and vulnerabilities, the Government and partners took a number of immediate steps, including:

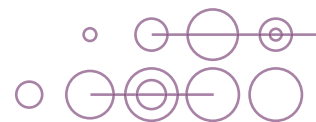
- Introducing tele-consultations to make it easier to meet virtually with staff at the Women and Children Protection Unit, which offers integrated medical, legal, social and psychological services to victims of violence.
- Digitizing the case management process to make it easier for staff to work remotely and continue to serve children during lockdowns.
- Providing tips to parents on coping with stress via social media platforms and the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Programme.
- Working with the Council of the Welfare of Children to develop COVID-19 reporting and referral pathways that intersect child protection, health, and nutrition service providers at the community level.
- Participating in the **End Violence Lab**'s Leadership Development programme (see page 24) for Pathfinder countries, which include sessions on keeping national action plans alive and relevant during COVID-19 and beyond.

Keeping children safe online was also a priority for the Philippines in 2020, especially as young people became even more reliant on the internet during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns and school closures. The **End Violence's Partnership's Safe Online** team continued its support to the **International Justice Mission** and its work with survivors of online violence and exploitation in Cebu, Philippines. In 2020, survivors gained greater access to treatment and care, receiving support services through a collaborative casework system with the Philippine justice system. Fourteen survivors benefited from these services, 10 of them with support from Safe Online through the **End Violence Fund**.

The collaborative casework system allowed law enforcement officials to receive on-the-job training in addressing online sexual exploitation of children, building up capacity in collecting digital forensic evidence. This helped convict four perpetrators in 2020.

Another End Violence Fund grantee, **Plan International - United Kingdom**, took a multi-disciplinary approach to keeping children safe online in 2020. The project focused on strengthening the capacity and knowledge of social services, medical practitioners, police officers, legal assistance, and children. More than 17,000 children and young people learned throughout the project's duration about child's rights, child abuse and online safety through cyber-safety modules. To reach these significant numbers, Plan rolled out free sessions on digital safety and online sexual exploitation to schools and communities, using established Child Protection Corners in 10 locations. Plan also used mass media and advocacy campaigns to reach more than 220,000 adults with critical information on combatting online sexual abuse and exploitation.





South Africa: Prioritising Children During the Pandemic

South Africa has been a Pathfinding country since 2017, when the Government made a formal, public commitment to ending violence against children. In 2019, the **Ministry of Basic Education** took the pledge one step further by endorsing the Safe to Learn Call to Action.

These commitments to protect children are vital in a country where one in three girls and one in five boys experience some form of violence. And, being both a Pathfinding country and a Safe to Learn endorser positioned the country to respond quickly to the risks brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. In March, the Cabinet declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national disaster and the president announced a nationwide lockdown. Risks to children included child abuse, sexual violence, and domestic/interpersonal violence; lack of access to child protection and gender-based violence services, especially for children on the move or in rural areas; and psychosocial distress due to the death or illness of caregivers.

In response, the **Minister of Social Development** provided mechanisms for supporting children in institutions, custody arrangements and foster families. The main aim was to prevent family separation and create safe opportunities to support routine contact between children and family members who were physically separated. Lastly, health staff and traditional and religious leaders were trained to provide psychological first aid for children, parents and service providers.

The Ministry also sought to quickly understand how the pandemic was affecting children at higher risk of violence. **UNICEF and Wits University** equipped care workers with devices to capture and upload data in real time to a national dashboard on child wellbeing. The preliminary findings showed that 10 per cent of children reported child abuse, hunger, bad health or suicidal intentions. The data gave the Ministry timely insights into the support children needed so they could adjust their strategies. It plans to expand data collection and integrate it into a national digitized case management system.



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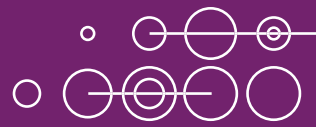




In another area of child violence, the **End Violence Fund** in 2020 supported existing grantees and awarded new funds to help combat online child sexual abuse and exploitation as part of the **Safe Online** initiative. Highlights include:

- **UNICEF South Africa** continued implementation of its ***Strengthening Children's Online Safety in South Africa*** initiative in 2020, producing an online safety training manual for social workers, teachers, law enforcement, and children and their caregivers. UNICEF expects the manual to reach 1,000 frontline workers. Content was adapted into a virtual platform to make it more accessible during COVID-19 restrictions. UNICEF also created a toolkit with awareness-raising materials on online safety, including content for social media, podcasts, TV and radio. The content helped fuel a series of high-profile media events, including a televised national conference during Child Protection Week that drew up to 40 million viewers and featured speakers from the Ministry of Social Development, the private sector and children. Finally, UNICEF and its local partners used TikTok and studio recordings to reach young people and caregivers with tips on mental health wellbeing, counteracting stigmatization, and online bullying and attacks.
- **The Disrupting Harm global research project** made important strides in South Africa in 2020. UNICEF South Africa began collecting data using guidelines from UNICEF Innocenti research office. Following data collection, analysis will be carried out on a national level, complementing the analyses conducted by partners ECPAT and INTERPOL under their respective projects. This data will capture children's self-reported experiences of online violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, placing children's own voices at the heart of the research and enabling them to inform future solutions.
- A new initiative to improve the technology behind child helplines in South Africa was launched in 2020. **Tech Matters**, a grantee of the End Violence Fund's Safe Online portfolio, aims to expand and extend an open-source cloud child helpline platform called Aselo. Tech Matters will create special features to help prevent online child sexual exploitation and abuse and make it possible for children and adults to report child sexual abuse materials directly from social media platforms. Tech Matters is working closely with **Childline South Africa**, a nonprofit organization with nine affiliates across South Africa.

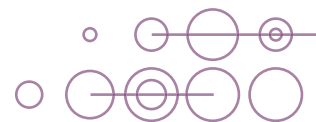




PART FOUR

BUILDING A PARTNERSHIP FOR ALL





Global Partners, Local Impact

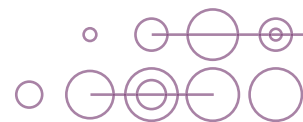
In 2020, the End Violence Partnership's 550 partners around the world were challenged like never before as the COVID-19 pandemic put children at heightened risk of violence. These partners include civil society organisations, governments, foundations, corporations, research institutions, faith communities and UN agencies.

Individually, they carry out the critical day-to-day work of ending violence, from on-the-ground service delivery to global advocacy. **Collectively**, as part of the End Violence Partnership, they collaborate to address five key gaps in the global effort to protect children:

- **Evidence and insights:** Stronger data and analysis of what's working (and why) to improve programmes, shape policy and drive investments.
- **A networked community:** Better channels to speed the uptake of proven solutions across geographies and sectors.
- **Country-level action:** Coordination at country-level to deliver stronger national planning, policies, and programmes to protect children from violence.
- **A loud and unified voice:** Joint advocacy, campaigns, and thought leadership so children's concerns are heard and political will is forged.
- **Financing:** More consistent funding to scale evidence-based solutions and test new innovations.

Partners operate in nearly every country and bring diverse perspectives, expertise, networks and ideas to the table. In 2020, partners demonstrated enormous agility and resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic, pivoting their strategies to meet the needs of children suddenly isolated from school, friends and social services. While it is impossible to highlight hundreds of partners, below is a sample of their critical contributions to protecting children in a year unlike any other in recent history.





African Child Policy Forum (ACPF)

ACPF published its flagship report series, *African Report on Child Wellbeing 2020*, dedicated to the rights of girls. The report looked into the wellbeing of girls, including their rights to be protected from violence, access vital services, and participate fully in community life. The report introduced a new methodology for analysing government performance in the realisation of girls' rights called the *Girl-friendliness Index*. In collaboration with Oak Foundation, ACPF produced three country case studies on sexual exploitation of children in Burundi, Malawi and Sierra Leone. These studies provide an in-depth understanding of the extent and root causes of child sexual exploitation, including its cultural, social and economic underpinnings. The reports are expected to trigger national conversations towards improved policy in the three countries.



African Partnership to End Violence against Children (APEVAC)

As part of its mission to advance the political commitment of African governments to ending violence against children, APEVAC supported the government of Zambia in 2020 in becoming a Pathfinding country. APEVAC provided critical capacity building training on INSPIRE Strategies and convened a High-Level Inter-Ministerial Dialogue presided over by the Vice President of Zambia and attended by leading politicians and experts. APEVAC in 2020 also undertook a study on the progress towards ending violence against children in Africa since 2014 and conducted an assessment of the national capacity of 10 African governments to keep children safe. Finally, APEVAC published a groundbreaking report that documented promising local initiatives in addressing violence against children in Africa.



Arigatou International

The *Global Week of Faith in Action for Children* in November 2020 enabled over 1,700 children, youth and adults to have interfaith and inter-generational discussions about ending violence against children, especially during and post COVID-19. The online forum, featuring 25 sessions in five languages, was developed by **Arigatou International**, KAICIID Dialogue Center, Religions for Peace, Shanti Ashram, UNICEF, and World Vision International.

The virtual gathering aimed to address underlying issues that impact children's wellbeing and enhance their participation in matters that concern them, with a focus on ending violence, especially in the context of COVID-19. Youth-led discussions were held with 300 children and religious leaders. Participants created a *3-D Virtual Exhibition*, issued a *Joint Statement*, and *catalysed joint action* to address COVID's impact on children.

Photo: Henrietta H. Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF, and Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, President of Arigatou International, join children from different countries as part of the Global Week of Faith in Action for Children. (Photo collage: Arigatou International, 2020)





ChildFund Alliance

Children in 11 countries held their governments accountable for protecting children as part of a **ChildFund Alliance** initiative to meet SDG 16.2. The unique programme — *Child-friendly accountability and SDG 16.2* — mobilizes youth to urge local and national leaders to meet their obligations to end all forms of violence against children. ChildFund has used the methodology in Burkina Faso, El Salvador, India, Mali, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Paraguay, South Korea, Seoul, Tanzania and Uganda. One local partner in India, Children Believe, helped prevent 164 cases of child marriage. In recognition of this success, the leader of the girls' club was honoured with the **State Girl Child Protection Award** by the Chief Minister of the state government.



ChildFund and WeWorld

WeWorld, a member of **ChildFund Alliance**, published the **WeWorld Index** in November 2020 to measure social inclusion in each country, with a focus on three intersecting dimensions:

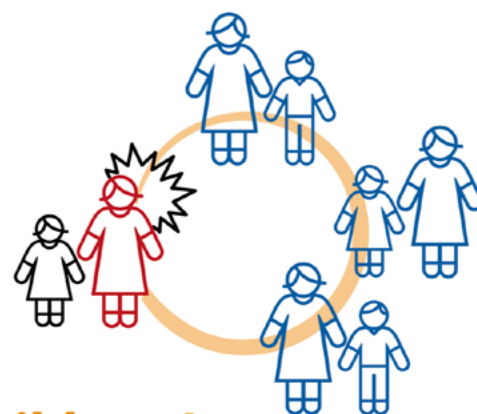
- Security and protection
- Violence against children
- Violence against women

In 2020, the index added three indicators to better assess violence against children and violence against women in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Data on violence against children included contexts of abuse and neglect, including physical, psychological or sexual violence. The work of WeWorld commits to addressing the immediate and long-term consequences of violence against children, including its effects on children's physical, psychological, emotional, behavioural and relational development.

Covid-19 effect



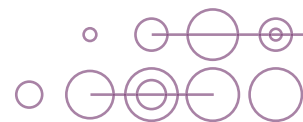
One of the effects of Covid-19 to be reported from the very start was the rise of cases of violence against women. Furthermore, the lockdown exacerbated some conditions of hardship that women underwent even before the pandemic. Many of them actually found themselves stuck in the house with their abusers all day. Worldwide it is estimated an increase of 25% of cases of violence against women during the lockdown (data refer to those countries where warning systems are in place). In some countries charges doubled (UN, 2020b). The global cost of violence against women had been previously estimated at around 1.5 trillion dollars. However, it is thought that this figure can only increase, as the impact on women's wellbeing, their sexual, reproductive and mental health, and their ability to take part in the reconstruction of our societies and our economy can only get worse.



1 child out of 4
lives with a **mother** who is
victim of violence
from her partner

(WHO, 2020c)





Child Protection Area of Responsibility

The CPAoR A developed a joint 2020 work plan in cooperation with the End Violence Partnership, UNHCR, the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and UNICEF. The joint work plan guides the implementation of a humanitarian strategy, which was finalized in February 2020. It focuses on 1) documentation and sharing of best practices in implementing evidence-based interventions in humanitarian contexts and remote/direct support; 2) advocacy on inclusive data collection, national action plans and for resource mobilization with governments and relevant stakeholders; and 3) increased coordination of humanitarian partners.

Other activities were implemented, including the finalization of a paper on the use and complementarity of INSPIRE and the 2019 minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian action to better guide practitioners on how to use both resources to prevent and end violence against children in humanitarian settings.



Child Helpline International

Child Helpline International (CHI) supported the start-up of three new child helplines in Mali, Honduras and Jamaica in 2020 and made crucial contributions to strengthening child protection systems all over the world. CHI surveys its members each year to get a comprehensive regional and global picture of the issues facing children, publishing its findings in its annual *Voices of Children and Young People Around the World report*. In 2020, CHI collected specific data on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the wellbeing of children and young people.



CSO Forum

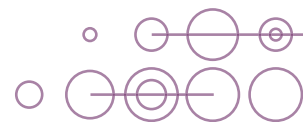
The **Civil Society Forum to End Violence against Children** (CSO Forum) advocates to achieve SDG 16.2 and other global goals to end violence against children. In 2020, the CSO Forum produced the **CSO Call to Action on the Voluntary National Reviews** prior to the UN High-Level Political Forum. Working with the End Violence Partnership, the CSO Forum also delivered **four regional webinars** on ending violence in current and potential Pathfinder countries. The CSO Forum helped national coalitions in seven Pathfinder countries to become Pathfinder Focal Points and shape and help deliver national actions plans. When COVID-19 struck, Forum members provided resources to help parents and educators keep children safe. Moreover, it elevated the voices of children by providing speakers for the **Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit Series**.



ECPAT

In 2020 ECPAT developed a 24-point legal checklist to help policymakers address the crime of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. The checklist, endorsed by the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, provides practical guidance on improving national and legal policy frameworks. ECPAT also launched the Global Boys Initiative, which is surveying frontline support workers in 10 countries to learn more about supporting boys who have experienced sexual exploitation. And with support from Oak Foundation, ECPAT is working to protect children in digital spaces. Its Project Beacon is at the forefront of developments which include the Digital Services Act and the EU 2020-25 strategy to combat sexual abuse.





Girls Not Brides

The isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic posed special risks for adolescent girls in 2020. In response, the 1,500 civil society organisations who form the **Girls Not Brides: Global Partnership to End Child Marriage** rallied together to share evidence and learning and advocate for girls to be at the centre of COVID-19 response plans. Girls Not Brides facilitated peer-to-peer connection and learning so members had the tools to respond and adapt effectively. They also highlighted the link between child marriage and violence through four illustrated stories of girls who experienced child marriage as a form of child sexual abuse.



International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (IPSCAN)

ISPCAN empowers professionals across disciplines to lead in the global effort to protect children by providing the latest information, best practices, and a worldwide network. In 2020, ISPCAN joined international NGOs in issuing a leadership statement in response to COVID-19's impact on children. ISPCAN also hosted 35 webinars to help frontline workers keep children safe during the pandemic. Before the pandemic accelerated, ISPCAN gathered delegates from 53 countries at the Qatar2020 Congress to provide a global perspective on the importance of government funding for child protection. At the Congress, ISPCAN hosted an INSPIRE workshop for 73 participants, with a special focus on laws and policies to effect change in child protection.



Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)

In 2020, while the world retreated to their homes, IWF analysts kept coming into the office to take action against a **rising number of reports** of child sexual abuse material and seek to understand horrific trends, such as the **sharp rise in self-generated images and videos**. In these circumstances, having a mechanism through which citizens can report online images and videos of children being sexually abused became even more necessary.

Since January 2020 and the first lockdowns around the world, the IWF launched 14 new reporting portals, free for the host nation thanks to the End Violence Fund. International partners – governments, law enforcement, NGOs and industries – stepped up to protect children as learning and socializing moved almost entirely online, making them more vulnerable to online abuse.



Oak Foundation

Oak Foundation provided \$10.3 million to the **Moore Center at Johns Hopkins** in 2020 to build the evidence base on perpetration prevention -- the largest philanthropic investment to date in this focus area. In recent years, practitioners have shown that stopping child sexual abuse before it happens is possible. Promising examples exist in Canada, Sweden and Germany, but others need to be identified and evaluated so they can be implemented globally. The Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, led by Dr Elizabeth Letourneau, aims to fill this gap through a five-year research effort. The Oak Foundation-funded initiative will also build global capacity to implement perpetration prevention programmes through an online hub for policymakers and practitioners.





Plan International

Plan International launched an **Adolescent Programming Toolkit** in 2020 to provide an innovative framework for adolescent programming and girls' empowerment in crisis settings. Plan created the toolkit following research with 1,400 adolescent girls living in humanitarian settings. Recognising the need for a holistic approach, the toolkit focuses on the full range of adolescents' needs and priorities and engages boys and men to tackle gender inequality. It aims to promote protection, survival and wellbeing through gender and age-specific actions tailored to needs identified by young people themselves. The guidance and tools were created for practitioners working directly with adolescents in crisis, as well as those in emergency preparedness, advocacy and research who focus on young people living in humanitarian settings, particularly girls.



Save the Children

To share what worked to protect children during the COVID-19 pandemic, Save the Children created an online catalogue of innovations and adaptations from its worldwide programmes. **Catalogue: Adapt. Imagine. Innovate** is an easy-to-use collection that highlights work in remote case management, positive parenting, mental health and psychosocial support, digital child protection and other innovations that unfolded over 2020. Collectively, the material forms an operational evidence base of good practice showing what works, what to do differently, and what to retain. The catalogue, now available on the online platform **Kaya**, will be shared with key child protection networks and the donor community to demonstrate how innovation happens in a crisis and highlight emerging opportunities to protect children in the post-COVID-19 era. Part of this will occur through a series of episodes on End Violence's *INSPIRING Ways to End Violence Against Children* podcast, along with a Together to #ENDviolence affiliate event that will take place in June 2021.



SOS Children's Villages

SOS Children's Villages took immediate action across its worldwide federation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdowns imposed by governments to contain it. SOS national associations initiated safeguarding procedures and launched awareness-raising campaigns to minimize risks of violence and abuse. Remote tools were developed to complement onsite programmes and provide mental health and psychosocial support for children, care workers and families. In Ecuador, SOS developed a *Guide to Violence-Free Parenting* to help families cope with the anxiety of lockdowns. In Georgia, SOS launched an information campaign on TV and Radio to highlight the risks of domestic violence. And in Latvia, they worked with police and social welfare authorities to reach families at risk of domestic violence.





Terre des Hommes

In 2020 **Terre des Hommes Germany and Kindernotheilfe** launched the international campaign *Dialogue Works*. By supporting the formation of 30 Children's Advisory Committees worldwide, the campaign aims to create spaces for working children to participate in local, national and global debates around child labour. Not only does such participation contribute to more effective and legitimate political interventions to prevent exploitation; it further enhances children's well-being and resilience, as demonstrated by the previous campaign *It's Time to Talk – Children's Views on Children's Work*. Therefore, the campaign works towards the normalisation and institutionalisation of working children's participation on all levels of policymaking.

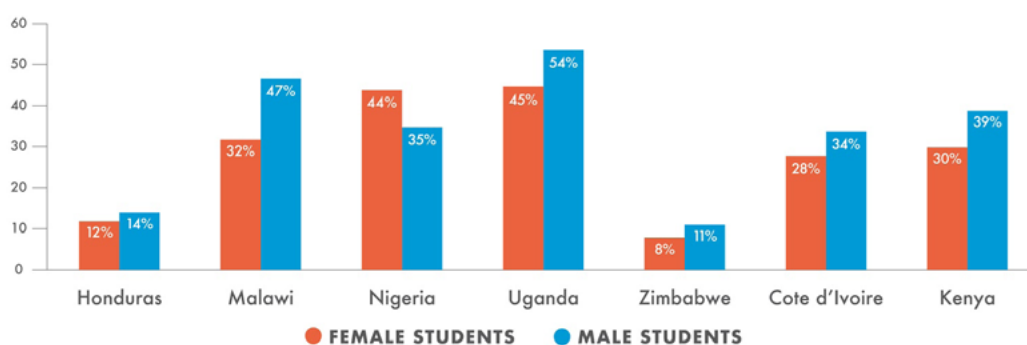


Together For Girls

Together for Girls country partners launched a record five VACS reports in Colombia, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Moldova and Lesotho in 2020. Kenya became one of the first countries to complete the VACS twice, offering an unprecedented opportunity to measure progress since the 2010 VACS. Key findings show significant reductions in childhood violence in Kenya since 2010 — but also areas where renewed efforts are needed, particularly for adolescent girls. Together for Girls worked with CDC and the International Rescue Committee to develop guidance for implementing a VACS in humanitarian settings. Additionally, through support from the Government of Canada and USAID, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and AidData conducted a secondary analysis of VACS data to explore the nuances of school-related gender-based violence. Together for Girls produced a suite of new materials highlighting this data and evidence-based recommendations.

School-related violence impacts many students

% of students who experienced one or more forms of physical and sexual violence perpetrated by teachers and/or classmates



*All data from the national Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys (VACS), led by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as part of the Together for Girls partnership





UNICEF

UNICEF played a leadership role in protecting children during the COVID-19 pandemic — both in defining the vast scale of the problem and in quickly adapting programmes to reach children isolated and at risk. UNICEF research revealed that the COVID-19 crisis provoked widespread interruptions in violence prevention and response services affecting some 1.8 billion children. In response, UNICEF aligned behind the principle that child protection be integrated as an essential part of national health strategies.

Key priorities included: securing the continuity of child protection services to at-risk children; strengthening national frameworks to address online violence; expanding child helplines; adapting parenting support for remote delivery; and supporting the protective role of schools. Across 126 countries, UNICEF in 2020 provided health, social work and justice services to 4.2 million children who experienced violence, 53 per cent more than in 2019. Around 2.6 million mothers, fathers and caregivers were directly reached through UNICEF-supported parenting programmes across 87 countries, a 14 per cent increase on those reached in 2019.



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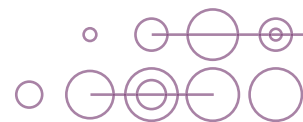
Students walk to school in November 2020 on the first day of the academic year in Mosul, Iraq. Iraq's schools opened after weeks of delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with children attending class in person once a week and learning from home on other days.



UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Violence Against Children

In April 2020, **Dr Najat Maalla M'jid** mobilized the UN system to issue an Agenda for Action to Protect Children from Violence in response to the Secretary-General's warning that COVID-19 risked evolving into a child rights crisis. As the crisis grew more acute, she advocated at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) for COVID-19 recovery plans to prioritise building a protective shield around children through an integrated system of health, education, child protection, justice, and social protection services. The Special Representative also urged governments to use their voluntary national review process to highlight promising initiatives in preventing violence against children. Together with UNICEF, her team co-organized a *voluntary national review lab* at the HLPF in which countries shared promising approaches. The Special Representative also supported a global survey of children in 130 countries to understand the pandemic's impact on violence. Education and safety were the top concerns.





WeProtect Global Alliance

The WeProtect Global Alliance brings together people with the knowledge, experience and influence to transform the global response to child sexual exploitation and abuse online. After being hosted in the UK's Home Office, the Alliance launched as an independent international organisation in April 2020. Since then, membership has increased by 30 per cent, particularly in the Global South and among the private sector. The Alliance currently consists of 98 governments, 51 companies, 53 civil society organisations and nine international organisations.

Alongside developing deeper collaboration across borders and sectors, the Alliance in 2020 ran a fellowship programme for policymakers in Southeast Asia and released two intelligence briefings on the impact of COVID-19 and the sexual exploitation and abuse of disabled children online.

The Alliance also supported dozens of high-profile events, including: working with Young Indians on Masoom Week; presenting at the Brazilian National Forum on the Protection of Children and Adolescents; and hosting tech industry webinars on Voluntary Principles to Counter Online Child Sexual Exploitation.



World Council of Churches

The **World Council of Churches (WCC)** moved quickly during the COVID-19 pandemic to equip faith communities with church-specific guidelines and tools to help protect the 1.5 billion children out of school and an elevated risk of violence. With a vast reach of 2,000 member churches in 101 countries, the World Council of Churches created and regularly updated a repertoire of psychological and pedagogical tools to help parents, educators and local faith leaders support children isolated from normal life. Beyond COVID-19 response, the World Council of Churches launched a campaign and toolkit in five countries with practical and spiritual resources for pastors, leaders and Sunday schools to facilitate conversations about respecting and protecting child rights.

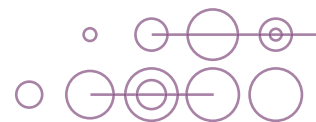


World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO played a leading role to launch the *Global status report on preventing violence against children 2020*. It assesses what governments are doing to reach SDG target 16.2 on ending all forms of violence against children by measuring their efforts against the evidence-based prevention and response approaches in the *INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children* technical package.

Report implementation efforts include regional reports and launch events, and use of the country profiles in national policy dialogues aimed at strengthening government support for prevention programmes, including in most Pathfinder countries. The full report in English, executive summaries and infographics in all official UN languages, and a four-minute video summarizing the key findings and recommendations are available at bit.ly/2Pxz5Pz





World Scouts Movement

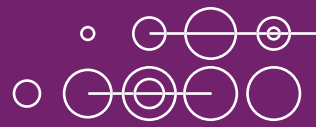
World Scouting worked towards building a stronger framework at the global, regional and national level in 2020 to create a safe environment for all young people involved in Scouting. More than 20 volunteer consultants were trained to support National Scout Organisations to develop national safeguarding policies. The team also developed tools to implement and integrate the Safe from Harm framework into Scouting's Youth Programme. They also developed a comprehensive e-learning framework for all volunteers around different safeguarding issues, including a new course on online safety. Lastly, the organisation launched a survey to better understand the needs of National Scout Organisations in the area of child protection and safeguarding to further inform upcoming developments.



World Vision

World Vision mobilised nearly half a million supporters to carry out actions to end violence against children in 2020 as part of its *It Takes a World* campaign. The global effort has reached 128 million children in 87 countries and contributed to 261 policy changes that address violence against children. Critically, 65 of these changes were related to allocating, increasing or defending government funding to address violence against children. World Vision also secured 51,000 signatures in 2020 to increase funding for health, education and other social services that protect children at greater risk of violence due to the impacts of COVID-19.

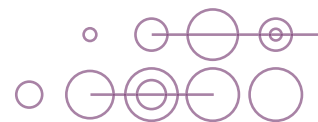




PART FIVE

LOOKING AHEAD





A Unique Moment to Prioritise Children

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed both strengths and weaknesses in the global system designed to keep children safe. A unique and powerful opportunity exists in the years ahead to reimagine how the world protects children from violence. The biggest weakness is massive under-investment of financial resources. The negative outcomes of child violence cost the world up to \$7 trillion every year. While it would cost far less and therefore be much more cost effective to prevent violence against children, the world's governments, aid donors, philanthropists and the private sector spend only tiny percentages of their budgets on protecting children.

In 2021, the last year of the Partnership's current strategic plan, the Together to #ENDviolence Campaign and Solutions Summit Series will make a powerful case for closing the funding gap so that the level of investment begins to meet the actual scale of the problem. The series will culminate with a forum of global leaders where new policy and financial commitments will be announced. All of this will help lay the foundations for significant progress as we move deeper into the Decade of Action on the SDGs.

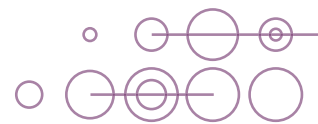
To help chart the path forward and meet SDG 16.2, the End Violence Partnership has developed a six-point policy agenda that forms the heart of the Together to #ENDviolence campaign (see page 25). Senior leaders across the Partnership will use the agenda to advocate throughout 2021 for governments to embed the safety of children in their policies, programmes and budgets. The agenda will also inform the Partnership's new three-year strategy (see below).

As the world begins to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, enormous changes are already unfolding in public health, education and social safety nets as governments seek to rebuild and learn from the painful experience of 2020. For the End Violence movement, the challenge is clear: making sure governments prioritize protecting children from violence.



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A New Strategy for Greater Impact

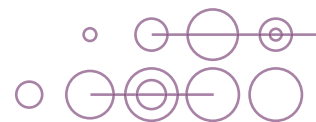
To build a stronger global movement to protect children, the End Violence Partnership is preparing a new three-year strategic plan to shape its work in 2022-24. With input from partners across the globe, the Partnership is taking a hard look at how it can best support its 550 partners and, more broadly, serve as a hub for information, investments, advocacy and collective action to end violence against children.

Our goal is to build a stronger global movement with more partners and advocates, broader political support, better research and data, and funding that is proportionate to the need and opportunity. Work on the new strategic plan began in early 2021 and will be completed and ready to implement in January 2022.

As with any plan, the new strategy will try to answer fundamental questions: How do we integrate efforts targeting violence at school, online and at home to reinforce each other? How do we balance scaling what works with innovating new solutions? And how do we find champions — and funders — who can elevate violence against children on the global financing agenda?

We look forward to sharing the End Violence Partnership's new strategy in late 2021 — and using it to propel the movement forward in the years ahead.





Immediate Opportunities

In 2021, the End Violence Partnership will focus on the following key priorities, many of which flow from the COVID-19 pandemic:

Safe at Home and in Communities

- Continue to support the scale-up of evidence-based INSPIRE strategies in countries and ensure critical stakeholders have the capacity, knowledge, tools and training to succeed.
- Advocate for more governments to become Pathfinding countries and help existing Pathfinding countries track, measure and meet their commitments to protect children.
- Work to enact laws that prohibit violence against children in Pathfinding countries, with a focus of banning corporal punishment at home.
- Scale up parenting programmes in select countries by developing a collective vision and securing financing.
- Elevate the role of civil society organisations in Pathfinding countries.

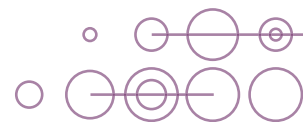


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Safe to Learn

- Endorse a new Safe to Learn strategy built around collective action to increase the impact of the coalition's work both at the country and global level. The strategy is designed to accelerate progress towards achieving at-scale change at the country level for all girls and boys to learn safely.
- Secure ambitious and appropriate funding to implement the new strategy as a game-changing vehicle that builds a foundation for demonstrating that at-scale change is indeed possible in the short- to medium-term.
- Launch a global advocacy process for the education and end violence sectors to speak with one voice on the evidence to prevent violence in and through schools and to elevate the priority of the issue in all education sector plans and return-to-school plans.
- Complete both the first and second rounds of End Violence Fund investments in eight countries — including Cambodia, Lebanon, Nepal, South Sudan and Uganda — and share research on the key learnings, solutions and outcomes of the programmes. The grantees will finish their projects in March and December 2021, respectively.





Safe Online

- Launch a new round of investments to prevent and respond to online violence against children at national, regional and global level. This includes both open calls for applications and targeted investments — for example, strengthening national capacity in two Pathfinder countries, Cambodia and Colombia.
- Coordinate advocacy efforts and policy dialogue with global and regional partners, including industry, on critical issues relating to safety of children in the digital world, such as privacy and safety online, end-to-end encryption and others.
- Provide technical support and facilitate knowledge exchange and networking with both grantees and the wider community combatting online violence against children.
- Use the Safe Online portfolio of the End Violence Fund to start building a robust evidence base on what works to end violence against children online.
- Secure additional funding for Safe Online investments, including from new donors.

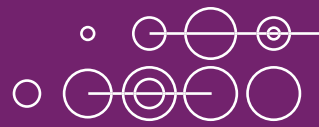
Ending Corporal Punishment

- Provide technical support to all countries for the enactment of national legislations prohibiting corporal punishment. This includes supporting both government and civil society partners, especially through sharing experiences and learning.
- Encourage governments to support the End Corporal Punishment Policy Call to Action requiring them to commit to introducing legislation to prohibit corporal punishment by the end of 2022.
- Submit briefings on the legality of corporal punishment to international and regional human rights treaty bodies and under the Universal Periodic Review.
- Revamp and update the End Corporal Punishment website to ensure that it supports both the Together to #End Violence campaign and the campaign to ban corporal punishment.



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PART SIX

GOVERNANCE





End Violence Partnership Board

The End Violence Partnership Board provides high-level strategic advice on key issues, memberships, and priorities for the End Violence Partnership and the End Violence Fund. Governed by renowned, constituency-based and independent individuals, the Board mobilises resources by securing political and financial support and leveraging platforms of advocacy and engagement towards the End Violence Partnership's core objectives and aspirational goals. The Board provides high-level strategic oversight and supports the partnership through advocacy and resource mobilisation.

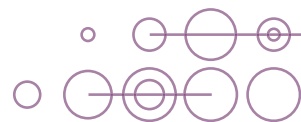
In 2021, the End Violence Partnership welcomed **Helle Thorning-Schmidt**, former Prime Minister of Denmark, and **Joy Phumaphi**, Executive Secretary of the African Leaders Malaria Initiative, as Board Co-Chairs. Thorning-Schmidt and Phumaphi succeeded **Henrietta H. Fore**, Executive Director of UNICEF, who will continue to represent UNICEF on the Board after serving three years as Board Chair.

Board Members as of June 2021:

Helle Thorning-Schmidt	End Violence Partnership Board Co-Chair
Joy Phumaphi	Executive Secretary, the African Leaders Malaria Alliance End Violence Partnership Board Co-Chair
Dr A.K. Shiv Kumar	Co-chair, Know Violence in Childhood
Dr Etienne Krug	Director, Department of the Social Determinants of Health, End Violence Partnership Executive Committee Co-Chair
Gary Cohen	Chief Revenue Officer, Aerofarms
Henrietta H. Fore	Executive Director, UNICEF ¹
Dr Howard Taylor	Executive Director, End Violence Partnership (Ex officio member)
Rev. Dr. Ioan Sauca	Acting General Secretary, World Council of Churches
Dr Joan Nyanyuki	Executive Director, Africa Child Policy Forum - End Violence Partnership Executive Committee Co-Chair
Dr Joanna Rubinstein	Former President & CEO, World Childhood Foundation
Rev. Keishi Miyamoto	President, Arigatou International

¹End Violence Board Chair from September 2018 - May 2021





H.E. Marcelo Ebrard	Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico
Märta Stenevi	Minister for Gender, Equality and Housing, Sweden ²
Meg Gardinier	Secretary-General, ChildFund Alliance and representative of the CSO Forum to End Violence Against Children
Dr Najat Maalla M'jid	United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
Niklas Andréén	President and Chief Operating Officer, Carlson Wagonlit Travel ³
Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro	Independent Expert, Brazil
Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka	Executive Director, UN Women
Dr Rajeev Seth	President, ISPCAN ⁴
Dr Savithri Goonesekere	Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Colombo ⁵
Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus	Director-General, WHO
H.E Toshimitsu Motegi	Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan
Virginia Gamba	United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
Wendy Morton MP	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for European Neighbourhood and the Americas) Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom ⁶

²Succeeded H.E. Åsa Lindhagen in March 2021

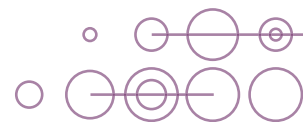
³Succeeded Kurt Ekert in April 2021

⁴succeeded Dr. Tufail Muhammad in May 2021

⁵Term ended in December 2020

⁶Succeeded Baroness Liz Sugg CBE in May 2021





End Violence Partnership Executive Committee

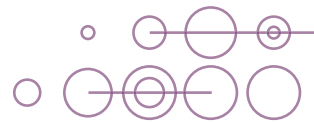
The Executive Committee oversees the work of the End Violence Secretariat, providing direction and support on strategic planning, partnerships, performance monitoring, governance, finance and risk.

Executive Committee Members as of June 2021

Dr Etienne Krug	Director, Department of the Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organization - Executive Committee Co-Chair
Dr Joan Nyanyuki	Executive Director, Africa Child Policy Forum - Executive Committee Co-Chair
Amanda Melville	Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR
Charlotte Coles	Team Leader, Violence Against Women and Girls and Child Protection, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom
Christian Papaleontiou	Deputy Director, Tackling Exploitation and Abuse Unit, Home Office, United Kingdom - End Violence Safe Online Working Group Chair
Dr Daniela Ligiero	Executive Director and CEO, Together for Girls ⁷
Eleanor Monbiot	Regional Leader of Middle East and Eastern Europe, World Vision
Dr Howard Taylor	Executive Director, End Violence Partnership (Ex officio member)
Iain Drennan	Executive Director, WeProtect Global Alliance
Dr Jim Mercy	Director, Division of Violence Prevention, CDC
Kul Gautam	Individual Expert, Thailand
Karin Strandås	State Secretary to Minister for Gender Equality, Sweden

⁷End Violence Executive Committee Chair from October 2018 to October 2020



**Maureen Greenwood-Basken**

Director, Global Children's Rights Program, Wellspring
Philanthropic Fund

Dr Najat Maalla M'jid

United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on
Violence Against Children

Patricia Sainz

Regional Program Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, SOS
Children's Villages International

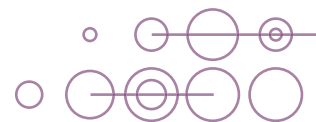
Sanjay Wijesekera

Director of Programmes, UNICEF - End Violence Pathfinding Progress
Working Group Chair

Steve Miller

CEO, Save the Children South Africa - End Violence Pathfinding
Progress Working Group Co-Chair





End Violence Partnership Working Groups

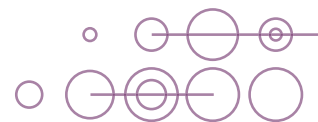
In 2020, the End Violence Partnership created Working Groups to help guide and accelerate work in three high-priority strategic areas. Working Group members are drawn from our Executive Committee and other experts and stakeholders. In each case, the goal is to add critical expertise and access to resources to drive success. Each group makes recommendations to the Executive Committee for final approval.

- **Pathfinding Progress Working Group** provides strategic direction on country engagement plans in Pathfinding countries and on scale-up of the INSPIRE strategies. The working group also considers programmatic aspects of country engagement — for example corporal punishment, parenting or child protection systems — and builds political and financial support for Pathfinding and INSPIRE.
- **Safe to Learn** is a joint initiative from the Education sector and the Violence Prevention/Child Protection community. Senior Officials from Safe to Learn coalition members drive progress against the strategy, mobilise resources, and leverage country-level presence and relationships to catalyse endorsements of the Call to Action and support collective action. Those members of the Safe to Learn coalition who are also members of End Violence governing bodies make sure that Safe to Learn complements the Partnership's other priority initiatives, and oversee resources invested through the End Violence Fund to support delivery of the Safe to Learn strategy.
- **Safe Online Working Group** provides investment recommendations to the Executive Committee on how best to use resources in the End Violence Fund to protect children online. The working group also provides strategic advice on areas relevant for prevention and response to online child sexual abuse and exploitation as well as the wider child online safety field.



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2020 Financial Summary

Financial and in-kind support from investors and partners ensured that adequate resources were available for End Violence to continue delivering tangible results to prevent and respond to violence against children in homes, schools, communities and online. Despite the challenging context of COVID-19 and the global financial climate, the End Violence Partnership received more than \$3.8 million in new contributions in 2020 — almost half from new donors to the End Violence Partnership, including the Government of Sweden, the Technology Coalition, and the Carlson Family Foundation.

Financial supporters enabled Fund grantees to deliver and adapt projects to keep children safe during COVID-19 through the Safe Online and Safe to Learn thematic windows. In addition, supporters of the Secretariat facilitated activities designed to make children safe at home, safe online and safe to learn, as well as to promote awareness, exchange knowledge and learning, advocate for change and advance child safeguarding.

The following charts show income and expenditures for the End Violence Fund and Secretariat in 2020 and cumulatively for 2016-19.



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INCOME

Sources of funds	Committed contributions ¹	Received 2016-19	Received 2020	Total
Carlson Family Foundation	\$0.02 M		\$0.02 M	\$0.02 M
Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children	\$0.11 M			
Government of Canada	\$0.07 M	\$0.07 M		\$0.07 M
Government of Japan	\$5.91 M	\$5.91 M		\$5.91 M
Government of Sweden	\$0.79 M		\$0.79 M	\$0.79 M
Government of Switzerland	\$5.26 M	\$4.72 M	\$0.54 M	\$5.26 M
Government of United Kingdom FCDO	\$12.64 M	\$12.64 M		\$12.64 M
Government of United Kingdom Home Office	\$51.56 M	\$51.56 M		\$51.56 M
Human Dignity Foundation	\$5.05 M	\$1.26 M	\$3.04 M	\$4.30 M
Ignite Philanthropy (New Venture Fund)	\$2.77 M	\$1.30 M	\$0.83 M	\$2.13 M
Kofi and Nane Annan	\$0.14 M	\$0.14 M		\$0.14 M
Oak Foundation	\$5.00 M	\$0.66 M	\$4.34 M	\$5.00 M
Technology Coalition	\$1.00 M		\$0.18 M	\$0.18 M
Total contributions	\$90.33 M	\$78.28M	\$9.73M	\$88.01M
Less UNICEF 1% fee ²		(\$0.78 M)	(\$0.1 M)	(\$0.88 M)
UNICEF (bilateral contribution from Canada) ³		\$0.17 M		\$0.17 M
UNICEF (thematic funds) ⁴			\$0.25 M	\$0.25 M
UNICEF		\$0.48 M	\$0.11 M	\$0.59 M
Total sources of funds		\$78.15 M	\$10.00 M	\$88.15 M

Notes:

¹ 'Committed contributions' refers to the total amount confirmed in the contribution agreement. Commitments are based on the UN exchange rate at December 2020 and subject to change. All figures are in US dollars and rounded to the nearest \$1,000.

² UNICEF as funds custodian and administrator applies a 1% administrative fee to all contributions received.

³ Canada's 2019 contribution of \$174,800 was made through a UNICEF project on 'Supporting Girls to be Safe to Learn'.

⁴ Contribution managed via UNICEF Programme Division, under Global Thematic Funding for Child Protection.





TRANSFERS TO SECRETARIAT FOR ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONS

Contributions fully earmarked for secretariat ¹	2016-19	2020	Total
Government of Canada	\$0.07 M		\$0.07 M
Government of Sweden		\$0.78 M	\$0.78 M
Government of Switzerland	\$1.20 M		\$1.20 M
Government of the United Kingdom FCDO	\$7.10 M		\$7.10 M
Ignite Philanthropy (New Venture Fund)	\$1.29 M	\$0.82 M	\$2.11 M
Other transfers to secretariat ²			
Carlson Family Foundation		\$0.01 M	\$0.01 M
Government of Japan	\$0.45 M		\$0.45 M
Government of Switzerland	\$1.03 M		\$1.03 M
Government of United Kingdom FCDO	\$0.43 M		\$0.43 M
Government of United Kingdom Home Office	\$5.94 M		\$5.94 M
Kofi and Nane Annan	\$0.14 M		\$0.14 M
Oak Foundation	\$0.40 M		\$0.40 M
Technology Coalition		\$0.18 M	\$0.18 M
UNICEF	\$0.48 M		\$0.48 M
Total transfers to Secretariat	\$18.54 M	\$1.80 M	\$20.34 M
UNICEF (bilateral contribution from Canada) ³	\$0.17 M		\$0.17 M
UNICEF (thematic funds) ³		\$0.25 M	\$0.25 M
Total sources of funds to Secretariat	\$18.71 M	\$2.05 M	\$20.76 M

Notes:

¹Contributions fully earmarked by the donor for the End Violence Secretariat to support Partnership activities and operations.

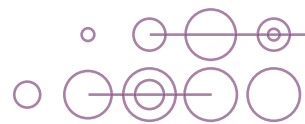
²A portion of contributions to the Fund, as agreed with the donor, for grant management costs and crosscutting support, such as communications, resource mobilization and safeguarding. Also includes un-earmarked contributions from various donors.

³Contributions made available to the End Violence Secretariat via UNICEF Programme Division, but not transferred to the End Violence Secretariat account.

All figures are in US dollars and rounded to the nearest \$1,000.

The End Violence Secretariat also received in-kind contributions of staff (experts on loan) during 2016-20, worth an estimated \$5.7 million, from the following partners: Government of Switzerland (\$1.8M); UNICEF (\$1.2M); UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (\$0.9M); ChildFund Alliance (\$0.5M); Know Violence in Childhood (\$0.3M); UNHCR (\$0.2M); SOS Children's Villages (\$0.2M); Save the Children–Sweden (\$0.2M); and Ignite Philanthropy: inspiring the end to violence against girls and boys (\$0.4M).





TRANSFERS TO SECRETARIAT FOR ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONS

END VIOLENCE FUND	Spent 2016-19	Spent 2020	Total
Grants for projects to prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation of children online, in schools, at home and in communities	\$29.01 M	\$20.13 M	\$49.14 M
Outstanding grant commitments to be disbursed			\$8.84 M
Total commitments			\$57.98 M

END VIOLENCE SECRETARIAT	Spent 2016-19	Spent 2020 ²	Total
Secretariat activities and operations ¹	\$10.96 M	\$4.88 M	\$15.84 M

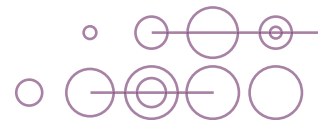
Total Expenditure – Fund and Secretariat (including grant commitments)			\$73.81 M
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Notes:

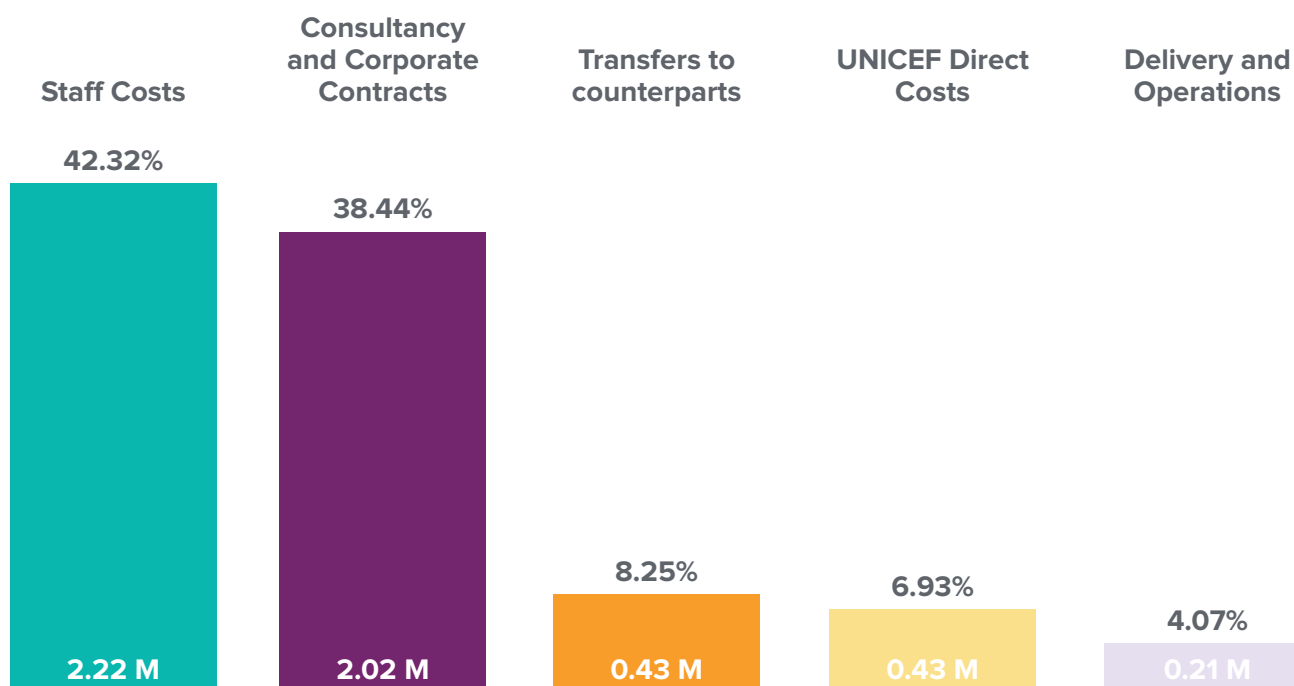
¹See chart on next page for breakdown of Secretariat expenditures in 2020.

²Includes \$424,800 contributed to the End Violence Secretariat but managed via UNICEF Programme Division.





Secretariat Expenditure 2020 (US\$)



Notes

Staff costs refer to salaries and entitlements of staff on fixed-term and temporary contracts. It does not include the costs of individual consultants or the in-kind value of experts on loan from other organizations.

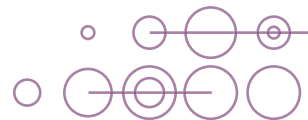
Consultancy and corporate contracts refer to short- or medium-term contracts with individuals, companies and institutions for specific services or products (e.g. communication, safeguarding, financial micro-assessments).

Transfers to counterparts refer to small, catalytic grants (<\$50,000) to partners for programmatic activities.

UNICEF direct costs refer to financial and administrative services provided by UNICEF as host of the End Violence Partnership and Fund and Secretariat.

Delivery and operations refer to supplies, equipment, travel, general operating costs and other direct costs.

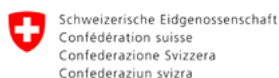




Expression of thanks

The End Violence Partnership wishes to thank and acknowledge its public and private sector partners listed on the final pages of this report for their contributions to continue this vital work in 2020. Their support has enabled the organization to connect, convene and invest in partners worldwide who are working tirelessly to end violence against children in homes, schools, communities and online.

The End Violence Partnership also wishes to thank the individuals, governments, foundations, corporations and non-governmental organizations that over the past five years have contributed generously to our work and, in so doing, have made a remarkable difference in the lives of so many children. To all of you from everyone at the End Violence Partnership, we extend our sincere gratitude.





End Violence Against Children

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www.end-violence.org

Cover Photo UN017155

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