



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SPORT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF THE HON. MINISTER
NEW GOVERNMENT COMPLEX
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6th November, 2020

Mr. Howard Taylor
The Director,
Global Partnership and Fund to end violence against children
633 3rd Ave, 25th Floor
New York
secretariat@end-violence.org

Dear Madam,

RE: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO BECOME A PATHFINDER COUNTRY IN THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN – THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

I convey to you greetings from the Government of the Republic of Zambia.

In reference to the Global Partnership Strategy to End Violence Against children, Zambia as a United Nations (UN) member state through the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Child Development would like to become one of the Pathfinder Countries in the global efforts to end violence against children.

The Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development is the lead Ministry in child development and welfare with a principal mandate of coordinating, managing the formulation and implementation of a multi-sectoral child welfare and development of programmes in order to ensure that children are able to reach their full potential. The Ministry's child protection roles and functions are reflected in the 2015 National Child Policy and the 2015 National Action Plan for Children in Zambia. The vision of the National Policy is "**A society where children survive, thrive and realize their full potential.**"

The Ministry has the mandate to formulate and review relevant guidelines, programmes, policies and laws for children and to coordinate with UN Agencies, Cooperating Partners and Civil Society Organization through a Multi-sectoral structure, the National Coordination Committee for Children (NCCC). Further, the Ministry promotes child participation, to facilitate the meaningful participation of children in national child development programmes in order to enhance child-responsive development.

The Government of the Republic of Zambia under the Leadership of His Excellency, Dr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia through the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Child Development, has to this effect put in place programs that will facilitate protection of children as detailed below;

1. The National Coordination Committee for Children (NCCC): this is a national structure that performs the function of coordinating line Ministries, specialized state bodies, the Judiciary, UN agencies, Cooperating Partners (CPs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the Child Development and Welfare sector. It focusses on issues of child protection with a view to enhance greater coordination and harmonization of interventions to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of child programmes and interventions. It is an important instrument for the Ministry and all its stakeholders as it facilitates planning, evaluating interventions aimed at ensuring child protection and development, and make recommendations on what needs to be done to enhance, promote and respect children's rights in line with the international conventions and the national policies.
2. In 2014 Zambia, undertook a National Survey on Violence Against Children (VAC) and the findings have been published in the 2018 National Report. The report provides an evidence-based data on violence against children. The 2014 Zambia VAC survey is a cross-sectional household survey of 13-24 years old, designed to produce national-level estimates of experiences of physical, sexual and emotional violence among children. In addition, Zambia VACS has identified risk and protective factors in order to inform efforts by stakeholders on measures aimed at reducing violence against children through informed and targeted prevention programs and policy initiatives. The data is collaborated with information from the Annual Statistics from the Child Protection Unit under the Zambia Police Service and information from the Zambia Statistical Agency.
3. The Ministry of Youth Sports and Child Development is implementing a programme in collaboration with UNICEF Country Office in coordinating the development of the National Response Plan on Violence Against Children. The Plan has been developed, validated and adopted through a multi-sectoral National Coordination Committee for Children and is called the National Prevention and Response Planning on Ending Violence Against Children. Further, the nation has also developed a National Discussion Paper on the Campaign to end violence against children. This will inform the national wide campaign and will bring stakeholders to the fight to end violence against children;

4. Zambia has drafted the Child Code Bill, which brings together all pieces of legislation for child development and welfare, for the implementation and domestication of the United Nations Children's Rights and the African Charter for the Welfare and Rights of Children into one legislation. The Code Bill is in its final draft legislation;
5. Scaling up INSPIRE Strategies - The Government with support from national and international partners has trained 40 Trainer of Trainers in the INSPIRE Model strategies on ending violence against children. The Government has requested training materials for the Trainer of Trainers in order to cascade training to officials in the provinces as well as the districts and has developed a rollout training plan, set to commence in January 2021; and
6. Zambia is ready to share best practices in the establishment and work of One-Stop Centers – these are centers where cases of violence Against Women are handled in the most expeditious manner. Further, the nation is willing to share the work and efforts of our traditional leaders on ending child marriages.

It is our belief that for, violence prevention to work, national actors both government and CSOs need to collaborate on a joint strategy. Government already enjoys a cordial working relation with National Children's Rights Forum (NCRF), a Child Rights CSO Network that brings together all child focused civil society organizations in Zambia to advance the rights of children. Through this partnership, the Ministry has been able to undertake joint interventions with the network and also its membership.

Zambia has therefore demonstrated commitment to end violence against children through the interventions stated. It is in this regard that the Government, through Ministry of Youth Sports and Child Development writes to express its commitment to fulfill all the requirements by the Global Partnership to end violence against children. Zambia is strongly commitment to ending violence against children and is prepared to make SDG16.2, and related targets, a priority for delivering Agenda 2030. The MYSCD commits to develop and implement a consolidated national strategy to end all forms of violence against children in Zambia that will link all other Government Ministries and government agencies at national and sub national levels, the private sector, children and Young people and all the United Nation Agencies including UNICEF and World Health Organization among others to champion the aspirations of the global strategy on ending violence against children.

The Ministry looks forward to furthering this partnership with your Organisation.

Yours sincerely,



Emmanuel Mulenga MP

MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT