



**End Violence
Against Children**
THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

Pathfinding Cities



The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children

Violence against children comes in many forms: through emotionally and physically violent discipline, neglect, bullying and cyberbullying, sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking, armed conflict, gang violence, child labor, forced and early marriage, corporal punishment, and other harmful practices. The list goes on.

Violence robs children of their childhood and compromises every other investment in them. It undermines their health and education and prevents them from developing to their full potential – often with negative lifelong consequences and intergenerational impact.

Violence occurs in all countries and all contexts – at home, at school, online, in communities, and in care and justice systems.

Recognizing its devastating impact, in 2015 world leaders committed to end all forms of violence against children by 2030, as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. In July 2016, the UN Secretary-General launched the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (End Violence), and a Fund to invest in solutions on the ground.

Our efforts are focused on raising awareness to increase demand for change, brokering the resources and support needed by those working to end violence, and sharing what works so that proven solutions get put into practice everywhere.



In 2030, at the end of the current Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is projected that 60% of the world's citizens will live in cities. Significant numbers of families and children are growing up in urban and peri-urban communities where complex social and infrastructure challenges shape nearly all aspects of their lives. These children are part of the growing global cohort, currently estimated at 1 billion, who experience some form of violence every day.

While cities have long been a preferred site for policy and programme innovation and incubation in the field of public health, there is little global evidence on whether, where and how city governments have been successful in preventing and responding to violence against children.

Pathfinding cities include participation from government, local academic institutions, civil society and non-profit organizations, private industry and youth.

Global Issue – Local Solution

In 2016, the UN Secretary-General launched the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, and an associated Fund, to catalyze global action and resources to prevent violence against children. An important part of these efforts is the Partnership's work with a growing number of Pathfinding countries to develop national violence prevention plans. Recognizing that national systems may not always capture the realities of implementation in rapidly changing cities, the End Violence Secretariat is initiating pilot work with city governments in select cities around the world.

Linking local solutions with global partners, the pilot will pair cities through a twinning process to build capacity to prevent violence, at three levels, using *INSPIRE: Seven strategies to End Violence*:

- The individual workforce level to raise awareness about, and implement, INSPIRE
- The organizational level to increase the number of agencies and donor organizations that actively promote the implementation of INSPIRE
- The system level to address the structures and policies that support activities and programmes within and across government ministries, non-governmental organizations and private industry.

In addition to testing specific INSPIRE interventions –such as the prevention of violence in schools and how to promote improved community-wide mental health interventions for adolescents– practitioners and researchers will be able explore broader mechanisms of change by observing existing efforts within cities on safe spaces, good parenting, and the implementation of effective violence prevention laws.

The discoveries made at the pilot Pathfinding city sites will build the foundation for national and regional learning platforms which will expand to provide multi-city and multi-country training on data collection and analysis, adaptive programme design and monitoring and evaluation. These will be forums of reflective learning, from successes and failures alike, and will invite sharing between cities and national governments.



Big Goals, Little Time

There is an urgent need to act boldly now, both because every child's life has value and because the global community is falling behind in the ambitious goals it set for itself to end all forms of violence as part of the SDGs. In comparison to working at the national level, the city model provides an opportunity to act and achieve results in an accelerated timeframe.

Within 12 months, city government leaders are expected to make a public commitment, including:

- Appoint a senior city government focal point
- Convene and support a multi-stakeholder group to build consensus
- Adapt and develop an evidence-based intervention(s) plan with cross-stakeholder agreement
- Create a resource mobilization plan
- Consult children and follow Partnership standards on child participation.

Within 18 months, adaptive programming and implementation research, accompanied by documentation, should begin.



A Template for Change

To support these efforts, the End Violence Secretariat will deliver access to tools and capacity development, and will facilitate processes in each location to provide a framework for implementation, comparative analysis and adaptation in future Pathfinding city sites.

This will include a combination of:

- Consultations to identify and build consensus around 2-3 primary INSPIRE strategies for implementation
- Child-led indicator development to contextualize the INSPIRE strategies for implementation
- Commissioning of child wellbeing survey as a common baseline to adapt the INSPIRE framework to the local context
- Documenting the process of adaptive programming and implementation research
- Providing opportunities for continued learning and upskilling for city managers and related programme implementers through the Secretariat's Winter and Summer Schools, and with university learning programmes globally.

Partners and Resources

Success in preventing violence requires the coordinated planning and implementing of many partners, across several sectors. Pathfinding cities include participation from government, local academic institutions, civil society and non-profit organizations, private industry and youth.

As convener and broker of services and goods, and human and financial resources, the End Violence Secretariat will co-develop a resource mobilization strategy with the city focal point for strategic co-branding and related resource mobilization activities. This might include a modest investment of catalytic funds from the Secretariat to help kick-start the Pathfinding city process and to ensure adequate coordination of Pathfinding city activities. Beyond this catalytic investment, it is expected that city government, local and/or international NGOs and relevant private sector partners will provide financial and in-kind resources for the implementation of programmes and activities.

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