

# INSPIRE Implementation Working Group Meeting

19 September 2024  
Virtual meeting







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## Acronyms

<b>CDC</b>	The Center for Disease Control and Prevention
<b>ISS</b>	Institute for Security Studies
<b>IWG</b>	Implementation Working Group
<b>PEPFAR</b>	President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief
<b>SRSG-VAC</b>	UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>VAC</b>	Violence Against Children
<b>VACS</b>	Violence Against Children Surveys
<b>VAW</b>	Violence Against Women
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization



The Implementation Working Group (IWG), established to support the roll-out of *INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children*, held its third quarterly meeting of 2024 on 19 September (see Appendix 1 for a list of participants). The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) convened and facilitated the meeting. This meeting followed the in-person strategic meeting held in June in [Buenos Aries](#).

## Purpose and objectives

The meeting had the following objectives:

- For IWG members to reconnect
- To track progress on the four priority areas of 2023–2024
- To collectively agree on a process of INSPIRE IWG endorsement
- To hold a final planning session for the upcoming Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence against Children

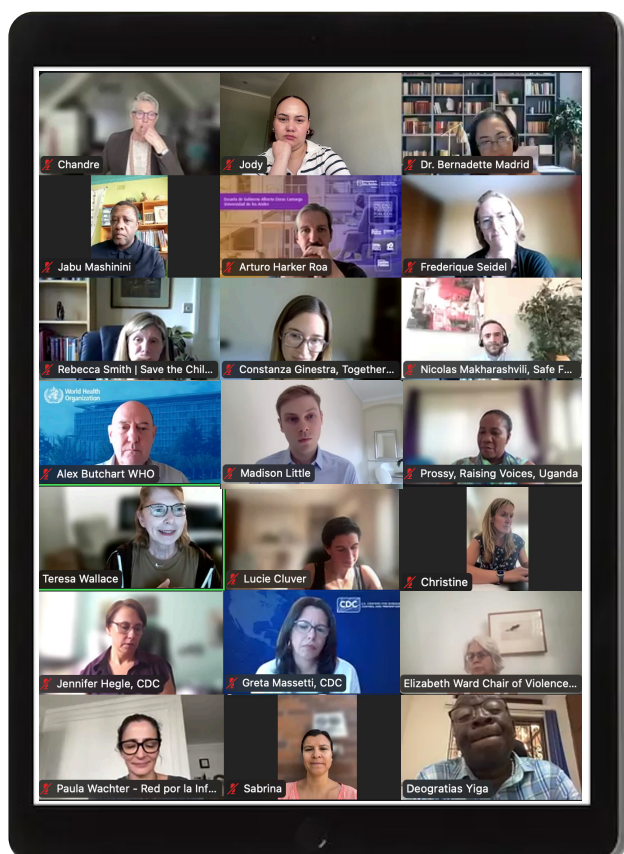
The five INSPIRE priority areas were revised at the Buenos Aries meeting. Four priority activities remain:

Keep INSPIRE updated

Implement the IWG communications strategy

Create a capacity-building plan

Strengthen global, regional and national INSPIRE engagements



# Progress of the four INSPIRE priority activities

A short update on the status of the INSPIRE priority activities were presented.

In 2023 and the first half of 2024 the IWG had five priority activities, namely:

- The INSPIRE Evidence Update
- Develop a communications strategy
- Create a capacity-building plan
- Broker technical support and country-level engagement
- Strengthen global, regional and national INSPIRE engagements

These activities were revisited at the Buenos Aires meeting to determine whether they remained relevant to the IWG. The IWG collectively decided that the IWG was not the ideal vehicle for brokering requests for technical assistance, and that this would be removed as an IWG activity going forward. This is because several IWG members already provide technical assistance as part of their organisational mandates, which meant that very few requests came through the IWG for action. While technical assistance remains important, it was decided that it was no longer a function for the collective. The hope is that



the relaunch of Pathfinding will serve as a mechanism through which countries request technical support.

The following four activities will be implemented in 2024 and 2025:

- The INSPIRE Evidence Update
- The IWG communications strategy
- The capacity-building plan
- Strengthening global, regional and national INSPIRE engagements

What follows is a summary of updates on the INSPIRE activities.

## The INSPIRE Evidence Update

Madison Little, from the University of Oxford, who is leading the update, reported on the progress of the INSPIRE Evidence Update. The presentation can be viewed [here](#). The INSPIRE evidence update is a systematic review of reviews and has three objectives:

- To systematically identify evidence reviews on the impact of INSPIRE interventions published from 2010
- To provide clear recommendations on which interventions should be prioritised for scale-up
- To identify evidence gaps and areas where higher quality evidence is necessary

Since the Buenos Aires meeting, 210 reviews will be analysed and included in the update. Each review contains an average of 18 studies. The quality of the evidence across the 210 reviews varies significantly and in terms of distribution across the seven INSPIRE strategies. For example, 100 reviews were of interventions pertaining to 'Education and life skills', whereas only five reviews focused on 'Implementation and enforcement of laws'.





A new, intuitive rating system has been applied, replacing the colour-coded rating system used previously. This rating system ranks the quality of the evidence for INSPIRE interventions.

The next step is to prepare a manuscript for journal submission. Additional products, such as a policy brief, will be published later.

The ISS offered a brief [presentation](#) on the remaining activities.

### The capacity-building plan

The ISS reported on the INSPIRE webinar series. The series is co-hosted with the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. The series focuses on learning, so the webinars concentrate on the intervention process (coordination of multiple stakeholders, how to scale, challenges faced and lessons learned). The webinars aimed to showcase a range of different interventions from diverse contexts, with a focus on low- and middle-income countries. At the time of writing, six webinars had been held:

- [Norms and values](#)
- [Parenting and caregiver support](#)
- [Safe environments](#)
- [Income and economic support](#)
- [Response and support services](#)
- [Education and life skills](#)

### The INSPIRE communications strategy

The INSPIRE [website](#) is being updated regularly. Recent updates include:

- A newly designed homepage
- Updated content on IWG members, including roles and responsibilities of the IWG and Secretariat
- A calendar of INSPIRE-related events
- A resource library of INSPIRE publications and related materials. The library aims to grow into a central repository for all INSPIRE-related materials. The [frequently asked questions](#) about INSPIRE can also be accessed here

Red por la Infancia and the ISS are collaborating to translate the INSPIRE website into Spanish. At the time of writing, most of the website had been translated. The translation function can be accessed on the [homepage](#).

An INSPIRE logo has been developed and can be accessed [here](#).

Red por la Infancia has launched an Argentine INSPIRE newsletter. It is issued monthly to more than four thousand individuals and showcases news, evidence, webinars, events, and information on how organisations and the government engage with INSPIRE. The newsletter has generated interest from four provinces in Argentina, which have expressed interest in the launch of the new Pathfinding initiative.

Following conversations held in Buenos Aires on developing INSPIRE's social media presence, CPC, Red por la Infancia and the ISS have met several times to action this. Since then, the team has:

- Developed a social media strategy
- Created Spanish and English Instagram accounts: @inspireglobal\_esp and @inspire\_strategiesglobal
- The current focus is establishing an INSPIRE social media presence at the Ministerial Conference. After that, a 12-month strategy will be developed.

# INSPIRE Working Group updates

Unlike previous IWG meetings, only one member provided an organisational update. The ISS presented on an ongoing project undertaken by the [Violence Prevention Forum](#) (VPF) and [Cornerstone Economic Research](#) that is relevant to the work of INSPIRE and the IWG.

The ISS, Cornerstone Economic Development and the VPF have an opportunity to work with the Department of Basic Education and the National Treasury to develop a budget bid to scale up parenting support through schools in South Africa. The foundations for this opportunity have been laid over several years of deliberate, careful relationship building and evidence and information sharing through the VPF.

The VPF is a platform for multisectoral dialogue that aims to increase the uptake and scale-up of evidence-informed practices to prevent violence. It was started in 2015 by the ISS in partnership with UNICEF on the basis of the hypothesis that poor relations between sectors and insufficient opportunities for real knowledge brokering and information sharing about policy, research and practice stood in the way of scaling evidence-based programmes and interventions.

The VPF is a violence prevention intervention in itself. It is guided by a clear theory of change and has been subjected to careful monitoring and evaluation, case study research and assessment. In that way, it is an evidence-based intervention to strengthen multisectoral collaboration. Such interventions cannot be evaluated through randomised controlled trials and requires a different approach to evidence generation. This is important because interventions that support multisectoral collaboration are essential to enable the use of evidence at scale.

In South Africa, one of the factors that stood in the way of collaboration between government and civil society was a deficit of trust. In South Africa, most NGOs were, and still are led by white women. Most researchers in the field of parenting are white. Most communities that are studied are predominantly black and most government officials



are too. Therefore, the usual antagonisms between sectors, in our country are exacerbated by the pain of our past and entrenched race-based perceptions of one another. The VPF was acutely aware of this and consciously worked with this tension, building understanding and trust – and is still working on this, nearly ten years later.

The work and relationships that eventually resulted in the opportunity for the budget bid started in 2017. The story of those relationships between NGOs, government officials and researchers and how they grew in the VPF can be viewed [here](#).



# Process for INSPIRE Working Group endorsement

Joining Forces informed the IWG that the secretariat had been approached with an increasing number of requests for INSPIRE IWG endorsement. To this end, the secretariat developed a draft endorsement process that will be presented to the IWG for input and approval.

Joining Forces highlighted that other networks in the field offer endorsement and that there is value in doing the same for INSPIRE. Requests for endorsement are an opportunity for the IWG to collectively decide whether a product, statement or publication aligns with the core principles of INSPIRE and to connect INSPIRE to developments in the

field. Joining Forces emphasised that this proposed process does not stop individual organisations from endorsements. Instead, it allows for endorsements as a collective.

The following summarised version of the proposed process was presented for input (the detailed endorsement process is in Appendix 2).

## Proposed process for INSPIRE Working Group endorsement

1

- Secretariat reviews requests to determine if consistent with INSPIRE.
- Changes or revisions may be requested.
- Potential risks and benefits of endorsement are considered.

2

- The Secretariat makes an official recommendation to the WG to endorse, if consistent with INSPIRE
- If not, the coordinator will communicate to the requesting organisation.

3

- The coordinator emails the request to the WG for endorsement for comment with a deadline.

4

- WG has an opportunity to respond to endorsement recommendation.
- Members who object should provide reasons for their objections.
- The Secretariat will consider objections and a decision will be communicated.
- **No response from the WG will assume approval of the endorsement.**

INSPIRE

The key considerations for IWG input included:

- Endorsement by the IWG does not imply official endorsement by the individual organisations, institutions or individuals that are members of the Secretariat or Working Group
- The endorsement is on behalf of the IWG as an entity

- INSPIRE IWG endorsement does not inhibit individual agencies from also endorsing
- No response from IWG members will assume approval of the endorsement





It was agreed that:

- ✔ Endorsements are intended for statements, calls for action, evidence reviews and other related publications and products. They are not intended for interventions or programmes. Endorsements will not be given for meetings, training and events at local and national levels. This is beyond the IWG's capacity
- ✔ Endorsement by the IWG **does not** imply official endorsement by the individual organisations, institutions or individuals that are members of the Secretariat or Working Group
- ✔ The endorsement process will be added to the INSPIRE website in plain and clear language
- ✔ If the IWG chooses to endorse a product or publication, the group should promote it, integrate it into the work, infuse it with the principles of INSPIRE and use it to help unite the field. For example, endorsed products or publications should be featured on the website
- ✔ The IWG agreed to trial the process for three months (until December 2024). Thereafter, adjustments will be made as necessary





# Final IWG strategising on



**1<sup>st</sup>** Global Ministerial Conference  
on ending violence against  
children

The WHO provided a brief framing of the Ministerial Conference, which included updates on a recent Pathfinding consultation meeting.

The WHO and the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (SRSG- VAC) convened a pathfinding country consultation in early September in Geneva. Approximately 80 individuals from 40 Pathfinding countries attended to discuss the future of the pathing initiative, and its relaunch that will take place at the Ministerial Conference. Participants demonstrated enthusiasm for the relaunch of Pathfinding. The majority of participants at the meeting represented child protection agencies and services which meant that INSPIRE and a prevention-focused lens were neglected in discussions.

Preparations for the Ministerial Conference are well underway. At least 80 ministers from 120 countries have registered to attend. IWG members will receive further details about confirming their participation at the conference shortly via email. Additionally, the programme is being finalised, and a high-level outline of the agenda is available online.

The CDC provided an overview of the INSPIRE side and satellite events scheduled at the Ministerial Conference.

#### The INSPIRE satellite event

The USAID and CDC are leading the planning and convening of the event.



## INSPIRE SATELLITE EVENT



**November 5**



**16.00 – 17.30**



**Hilton Hotel Corfeiras**

**Mattito Watson  
and Greta Massetti**

**Planning chairs**

#### Tentative agenda

1. INSPIRE background and overview (Greta Massetti)
2. Honduras (country example)
3. Kenya (country example)
4. Panel reflections and discussion (moderator: Mattito Watson)
  - Deo Yiga (regional implementation and scaling)
  - SOS Children's Villages (programme example)
  - USAID Colombia: programming on the ground
5. Interactive session (feedback on what the field needs to implement and scale up)
6. INSPIRE evidence update sneak peek
7. Closing and Q and A

## INSPIRE side event

The CDC is also leading on the INSPIRE side event:



# INSPIRE SIDE EVENT



November 8



Lunchtime



Conference venue

Greta Massetti

Planning chair

### Tentative agenda

1. Welcome and INSPIRE overview (Greta Massetti)
2. INSPIRE in a Pathfinding city (Paula Wachter, Buenos Aires)
3. Uganda (or other country to be decided)
4. Panel reflections and discussion (moderator: to be decided)
  - Policy and donor perspective: Integrating INSPIRE into policy through PEPFAR (Nina Wadhwa)
  - CSO perspective: Raising Voices
  - Country perspective: Uganda (or other country to be decided)
5. INSPIRE evidence update sneak peek
6. Closing and Q and A

Preparations for the Ministerial Conference included:

- The CDC compiled a list of [core messages and talking points](#) to ensure the IWG's messaging at the Ministerial Conference is consistent and to

disseminate information about INSPIRE. These are available in Spanish

- The IWG should aim to cross-reference INSPIRE at various side and satellite events. Ensuring that core messages, imagery, and branding are coherent throughout the event will make it easier to understand, especially for government representatives
- To support this effort, a standard INSPIRE [slide deck](#) with visuals and branding has been circulated to the IWG
- The ISS highlighted that the online visa application process is quite challenging. They recommended that the WHO bring this to the attention of the Colombian government to ensure easy application
- It is essential that INSPIRE is mentioned in the conference's outcome document as the key technical package for countries to use in their effort to prevent VAC







# Next steps

After the meeting, the following will be actioned:

- A reminder that the fourth IWG meeting is on 5 December 2024
- The coordinator will synthesise IWG plans for the Ministerial Conference, create a WhatsApp group for easy communication and arrange an IWG dinner
- Produce and circulate a meeting report

## Appendix 1 IWG members represented at the meeting held online on 19 September 2024

### INSPIRE Secretariat members

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

### INSPIRE Implementation Working Group members

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





## Appendix 2

### Proposed process for IWG endorsement

When the INSPIRE Secretariat receives a request for endorsement of a document or other product by the INSPIRE Working Group, the Secretariat will follow the process outlined below.

Endorsement by the INSPIRE Working Group does not imply official endorsement by the individual organisations, institutions, or individuals that are members of the Secretariat or Working Group. The endorsement is on behalf of the INSPIRE Implementation Working Group (IWG) as an entity.

1. Upon receiving a request for endorsement, the Secretariat will review it and determine whether the proposed document is consistent with the core principles of INSPIRE. The Secretariat may request changes or revisions to the document to ensure alignment with INSPIRE concepts and principles. The Secretariat will also consider the potential risks and benefits too endorsement, on behalf of the Working Group.
2. If the secretariat determines that the document is consistent with INSPIRE core principles and that endorsement is of benefit, the Secretariat will make an official recommendation to the IWG to endorse. If it is deemed inconsistent, the INSPIRE coordinator will communicate as much with the requesting organisation.
3. The INSPIRE coordinator will email the request to the IWG for endorsement with a deadline (no less than two weeks) that states the Secretariat's recommendation to endorse.
4. IWG members will have an opportunity to respond to a recommendation for endorsement by the IWG. Depending on the circumstances, this may be between 24 hours and a month. IWG members who object to an endorsement should provide reasons for their objections. These will be considered by the secretariat, and a decision will be communicated with the IWG and the member who objected. No response from IWG members will assume approval of the endorsement.



Children are our greatest treasure.  
They are our future

Nelson Mandela







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