

# A Theory of Change for the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children

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Violence against children is both a human rights violation and a challenge for global public health, social and economic development, which incurs huge costs for both individuals and society.

The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (End Violence) offers an opportunity for governments, United Nations agencies, international organizations, civil society, faith groups, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, researchers and academics, and children themselves, to work together – with a greater sense of urgency, passion and commitment – to prevent and respond to violence against children. As the only universal, multi-sectoral multi-stakeholder, prevention and solution oriented initiative working in this area, its value proposition is unique.

The Partnership's three goals will help accelerate action and implement work at scale, sharing and implementing evidence-based strategies by:

## 1. Building political will

The Partnership will build and sustain political will to achieve the SDGs and end violence against children, promoting evidence-based strategies that will lead to significant, sustained and measurable reductions in violence.

## 2. Accelerating action

Partners will work together to accelerate action to tackle the violence that children face, with an initial focus on countries that wish to lead the movement to end violence.

## 3. Strengthening collaboration

The Partnership will strengthen collaboration among and between countries, and with civil society and other stakeholders. They will be encouraged to confront shared threats and develop shared solutions, acknowledging that violence against children cannot be considered in isolation from the broader context of violence.

End Violence represents an historic opportunity to affect the changes we want to see in the world by:

- Establishing violence against children as a preventable issue that can be ended
- Providing multi-sectoral models of country action, based on INSPIRE<sup>1</sup> and beyond
- Catalyzing an exponential increase in resources; and
- Providing a multi-stakeholder forum for acceleration and accountability around the issue

This Theory of Change will help guide and support analysis, program planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation for improved development results at global and country level where the *Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children* is engaged.

<sup>1</sup> INSPIRE, a technical package of seven strategies to prevent violence against children, is central to the End Violence strategy. All efforts to accelerate action at the national level should reinforce existing initiatives, including implementation of INSPIRE, and other coalitions and partnerships such as WePROTECT, Together for Girls, Girls Not Brides, and the work being carried out in humanitarian settings by the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility.

# Theory of Change

End Violence's vision is "a world in which every child grows up free from violence".

The approach aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals and its 2030 timeline and aims to operate as a platform for different stakeholders and different partnerships to collectively deliver on this ambitious agenda. The long term outcome in this theory of change is **"to make societies safer for children and to end violence against children."** This statement is the heart of this theory of change and all lower outcomes in the results chains are designed to facilitate this goal.

There are three medium term outcomes that are based on the End Violence stated goals. The timeframe for achievement of these is aligned to the Sustainable Development goals (2030)

**1. Increased prioritization by governments, multilateral organizations, funders, civil society, the private sector and children of concrete dialogue and collaborative action to achieve the SDGs and end violence against children in all forms and in all settings.** Clearly if progress is going to be made in making societies safer for children there is going to have to be enhanced and sustained political will to push this priority through at national, regional and global levels.

**2. Enhanced effectiveness of governments and End Violence partners to put in place multi-sectoral systems at scale to prevent and respond to violence against children, with an initial focus on countries that wish to lead the movement.** This outcome aims to accelerate action and build child-centred and robust multi-sectoral systems within countries (and other entities) based on evidence-based strategies that will lead to significant, sustained and measurable reductions in violence. This effort will also need to leverage the significant role currently played by informal community structures and civil society. It also includes efforts to reach the most marginalized and vulnerable children, including children affected by conflict and children on the move.

**3. Increased collaboration within the Partnership, among and between countries, and with civil society, other stakeholders, and children to confront shared threats and develop shared solutions.** At national and international levels, End Violence will work with and amplify the efforts of all stakeholders and other partnerships with similar aims to improve data; and accelerate mutual learning and accountability.

## Medium Term Outcome One: **Building Political Will – Globally, Regionally and Nationally**

The Partnership will support countries in delivering on the globally agreed targets for ending all forms of violence and exploitation. The first medium term outcome is focused on increasing the priority given to concrete dialogue and collaborative action to achieve the SDG targets to end violence against children in all forms and in all settings. This outcome will be achieved in the context of national SDG plans and global SDG platforms and in a manner consistent with binding obligations to prevent violence against children and protect children from violence where it does occur, under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights treaties. Supporting this outcome are three short term outcomes (to be achieved over the course of the current 5-year strategy), which articulate that political will at global, regional and national levels is demonstrated through increased commitments, advocacy and financing and will include not only governments but multilateral organizations, donors/funders, civil society, private sector partners, children and other stakeholders. Short term outcome: 1.1 encourages governments and End Violence Partners to demonstrate their increased commitment to take action to end violence against children by signing onto the Partnership principles and giving timely attention to the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Partnership will act as a platform for debate about violence against children through the second short term outcome: 1.2 increased advocacy by End Violence partners and children at national, regional and global levels to catalyze action to end violence against children. This advocacy will promote full cooperation with international, regional and national human rights and child rights mechanisms. The voices of children will be a key element of this advocacy. Short term outcome 1.3 is directed at increased financing at country level (national, ODA, private sector, foundations) and mainstreamed prevention of violence against children into budgeting and programs targets. A key element of this will be working with countries on domestic resource mobilization and public financial management capacity to establish realistic plans for increasing finance and for mainstreaming the prevention of violence against children into budgeting and programmes.

## Medium Term Outcome Two: **Accelerate Action – in all Countries**

The second medium term outcome of the logic model recognizes that making societies safer for children and ending violence against children in all forms and in all settings, requires that governments and End Violence partners to put in place multi-sectoral systems and services at scale to prevent and respond to violence against children, with an initial focus on countries that wish to lead the movement. This requires prevention mechanisms, implementation of evidence-based strategies and increased coverage of comprehensive services. It recognizes the important role that education systems and schools; justice systems and police services; health systems and clinics, social institutions and community leaders etc., have to play in ending violence against children. Short-term outcome 2.1 calls for improved domestic mechanisms (legislation, policies and programs) to protect children from violence and exploitation including online violence, in all countries. The Partnership will advocate for all countries to review, and amend as necessary, existing legislation, policies and programmes and to adopt and implement a gender-sensitive, rights-based legal framework that will effectively keep all children safe, secure and out of danger, including protecting them from physical and humiliating punishment and sexual violence. To enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of interventions and ensure that no child is left behind, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder systems are required. This includes dedicated action to coordinate across sectors and institutions (formal and informal) to maximise the scope and reach of programs and services. Coordination mechanisms are essential, as no single sector / stakeholder can deliver the full package of interventions. Short-term outcome 2.2 calls for scaled implementation of INSPIRE and related evidence-based interventions and increased accountability by countries for supporting comprehensive multi-sectoral action plans and strategies. These strategies are most effective when implemented as part of a comprehensive, multi-sectoral plan that harnesses

synergies, as the strategies are intended to work in combination and reinforce one another. Outcome 2.3 focuses on increased coverage of comprehensive programs and services (prevention and response) that are child-centred and gender-responsive, in particular for children in conflict settings and on the move. All children who are affected by violence must have access to comprehensive, coordinated, multi-sectoral services of acceptable quality. The Partnership will advocate for a significant increase in investment to strengthen the broader systems needed to meet minimum standards of access for children in all countries and to build the capacity of service providers including in health and education. Social services must be integrated with and supported by other sectors. Children who are affected by conflict will need special attention in line with the Agenda 2030 commitment to reach the furthest behind first.

While the partnership aims to be universal, the partnership will focus its efforts on scaled implementation of INSPIRE in so-called pathfinding countries – those countries that wish to lead the movement to end violence against children and have committed to implement a broad multi-sectorial effort. A key assumption in this path of the Theory of Change is that it will have coherence with INSPIRE indicators and with results frameworks at the country level, allowing for results from pathfinding countries to be rolled up to demonstrate results at the global level.

## Medium Term Outcome Three: **Strengthen Collaboration and Mutual Accountability**

The third medium term outcome focuses on increasing collaboration within the Partnership, among and between countries, and with civil society, other stakeholders, and children to confront shared threats and develop shared solutions. To that end, short term outcome 3.1 aims to improve mechanisms for transnational actions that contribute to standard setting and reporting on progress. This collaborative effort will enable countries to learn from each other and come up with evidence based best practices. Short-term outcome 3.2 emphasizes mutual accountability of End Violence stakeholders at global, regional, national and local levels. This is to be accomplished through forums, Solutions summits, common strategies, publicity and other mechanisms. At present, there is no international forum in which countries can work together to end violence against children. This has made it difficult to establish, strengthen and promote standards and norms; slows the dissemination of models and best practice from country to country; and has left the violence prevention and child protection fields fragmented and under-resourced. The Partnership will help address this vacuum and serve as the global forum for learning and mutual accountability. It will also report on progress, in particular by governments. Short term outcome 3.3 looks at expanded data and evidence on the effectiveness of strategies and interventions to end violence against children in all forms and in all settings. Greater investment in knowledge, evidence and data is crucial to effective implementation and measuring progress; likewise, we urgently need to expand the evidence base on what works. This will help strengthen strategies for ending violence against children and contribute to future iterations of the INSPIRE toolkit.

The Partnership will serve as the platform for transnational action and learning, and a forum for learning and for the dissemination of knowledge. As such, under this goal and related objectives, the Partnership will also aim to communicate the issues to a wide range of actors and stakeholders including children themselves, facilitate coordination, including across sectors (health, education) and break down silos.

# Principles, Assumptions and Risks

Most governments accept that violence against children is a serious problem, but few countries have committed to and taken action on a scale needed to achieve measurable reductions in violence. In this regard, there is the linkage between medium term outcomes one and two. The Partnership will advocate for more urgent action to end all forms of violence, catalyze debate at national, regional and global levels and make the case for increased investment in programs that are shown to effectively prevent and respond to violence. All governments are encouraged to use national, regional and international reporting mechanisms linked to the SDGs, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and other reporting mechanisms to report on the implementation of the 2030 targets related to violence against children.

The theory of change recognizes that community-based child protection systems are in many cases the first mechanism to prevent child maltreatment and abuse and enhance resilience. This include support within extended families, peer groups, community and youth groups and religious/traditional organizations.

It is a key assumption of the End Violence Strategy that the three goals outlined for the Partnership will be supported by four cross-cutting drivers:



The End Violence Strategy articulates four fundamental principles and four operational principles, critical to achieving the outcomes and mitigating the risk of failure.

Integrating the fundamental principles (rights-focused, child-centred, gender-sensitive, universal) is an essential element of the theory change and must be considered at all levels of the results chain in order to ensure that all children, regardless of context, grow up free from violence.

<b>Rights-focused</b>	<b>Child-centred</b>	<b>Universal</b>	<b>Gender-responsive</b>
<p>The Convention on the Rights of the Child underpins the Partnership's work. All children have an equal right to be protected from violence, regardless of their sex, age, ability/disability, race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status or legal or care status.</p> <p>Any action to prevent and respond to violence must take into account the needs, rights and best interests of all children, without discrimination of any kind.</p>	<p>Children's agency, rights and needs are our primary focus. The Partnership will support children as leaders and activists against violence. It will listen to children and respect their views, providing them with meaningful ways to participate in the Partnership and to contribute to its decision-making.</p>	<p>All countries, and all parts of society, must take responsibility and be accountable for ending violence against children. The Partnership supports countries from all regions and income groups and will work with regional and local partners to place top priority on reaching children in the most dire circumstances – including those affected by conflict and crisis or excluded because of income, class, race, sex, religion, citizenship, disability or legal status – while promoting the safety and well-being of all children.</p>	<p>Violence poses different risks for girls, boys and those with other gender identities. Gender-responsive perspectives will be central to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes, in line with the goal of eliminating discrimination and achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.</p>

The results chain also reinforces the universal aspect of violence against children, emphasizing all forms and settings so that no child is left behind. For example, the universal nature of Agenda 2030 encourages countries to find new ways of cooperating and learning from each other. Although significant progress has been made in recent years, for example on standard setting, fragmentation remains an issue.

Numerous outcomes in the logic model require gender-responsive approaches and strategies. Violence and discrimination are rooted in social tolerance of violence in general, and stems from the low status of women and children in many societies, and cultural norms surrounding gender and masculinity. Therefore, changing norms and values is a critical strategy to achieve gender equality, reduce violence against children, shape prevention activities and address specific care and support needs. Effective laws, policies and programs to address violence against children (including child maltreatment and sexual violence) depends on strong intersectional gender analysis in order to meet the needs of all children (girls, boys and adolescents), in all contexts.

The operational principles are equally critical to achieving the partnership goals and specify the need to be inclusive, transparent, evidence-based and results-oriented. With regard to inclusivity, this means the Partnership will provide a platform for partners from across the world to work together based on trust and mutual respect, including organizations of all sizes and people of all ages. On Transparency, the Partnership will build trust by sharing information and consulting widely, and being open about its failures as well as its successes. It is committed to communicating in appropriate ways with all audiences, including children. With regard to evidence-based, Partnership's work will be informed by the best available scientific evidence, while tailoring interventions to each context. It is committed to learning, to sharing lessons and to constantly improving. And finally, in terms of being results oriented, the Partnership will demonstrate results and support country-led efforts to track progress in implementing SDG targets to end violence against children.

The Partnership also exists within a broader ecosystem of collective action to deliver the SDGs and intersects with other initiatives related to violence and exploitation, harmful practices, gender equality, child rights, peace and justice etc. Action in these areas such amending citizenship laws to remove gender discrimination; improving capacities of governments for civil registration and vital statistics; supporting quality education, including in fragile and conflict situations; advancing child and adolescent health; promoting decent work and women's economic empowerment and developing gender-responsive and child-friending budgeting will be important levers at national and global levels for realizing the Partnership goals. The Partnership therefore engages in formal and informal dialogue and agreements with related Partnerships to ensure that efforts are mutually reinforcing.

The Partnership will work with and supplement the efforts – but neither displace nor distort – the work of existing partnerships.

The intended outcomes of the Partnership will operate in environments that are complex and fluid. It will be challenged by gaps in government capacity and will have to carefully consider reputational risks inherent in addressing human rights violations. Adjustments to the implementation of the strategy may be required to respond to the challenges of working in countries with weak governance. The Partnership will also need measures to address poor performance in pathfinding countries and the ability to support work in non-pathfinding countries should the need or opportunity arise.

Careful monitoring and mitigation strategies through the development of a risk register may be required to manage the following risks:

- Despite commitments, government may not prioritize violence against children and end all funding/ programming. This may be a particularly acute risk where there is a change in government with different priorities and may also be reflected in shifting priorities amongst donors.
- Lack of resources (human, financial and technical) to deliver results in pathfinding countries may impede or halt progress.
- External shocks (recession, humanitarian crises etc.) could affect national and international investments to end violence against children.
- Reputational risk: human rights abuses associated with a member or partner country or increased violence, exploitation or abuse in one or more of the pathfinding countries affects credibility to the Partnership
- Sudden armed conflict in a member or partner country weakens the capacity of the government institutions to effectively deliver services.

**Theory of change in logic model form** (for activities and outputs, see Business Plan)

**VISION**

**A world in which every child grows up free from violence**

**MISSION**

**To make societies safer for children and to end violence against children**

**IMPACT**

**Support achievement of the SDGs, including 16.2 – end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children – and others relevant to violence against children particularly in countries where End Violence is engaged**

**OUTCOMES (medium term)**

**1. Building political will**

Increased prioritization by governments, multilateral organizations, funders, civil society, the private sector and children of concrete dialogue and collaborative action to achieve SDG targets to end violence against children in all forms and settings

**2. Accelerate action – in all countries**

Enhanced efficiency and effectiveness of governments and End Violence partners to put in place multi-sectoral systems at scale to prevent and respond to violence against children, with an initial focus on countries that wish to lead the movement

**3. Strengthen collaboration and mutual accountability**

Increased collaboration within the Partnership, among and between countries, and with civil society, other stakeholders, and children to confront shared threats and develop shared solutions

**OUTCOMES (short term)**

**1.1** Increased **commitments** by governments and End Violence Partners to end violence against children

**1.2** Increased **advocacy** by End Violence partners and children at national, regional and global levels to catalyze action to end violence against children

**1.3** Increased **financing** at country level (national, ODA, private sector, foundations) and mainstreamed prevention of violence against children integrated into budgeting and programs

**2.1** Improved **multi-stakeholder domestic mechanisms** (legislation, policies and programs) to protect children from violence and exploitation including online violence, in all countries

**2.2** Scaled **implementation of INSPIRE** and increased accountability by countries for supporting comprehensive multi-sectoral action plans and strategies

**2.3** Increased **coverage** of comprehensive programs and services (prevention and response) that are child centered and gender-responsive, in particular for children in **conflict settings and on the move**

**3.1** Improved **mechanisms for transnational actions** which facilitate standard setting and reporting on progress

**3.2** Strengthened **mutual accountability** (through forums, Solutions summits, common strategies, publicity, etc) of End Violence stakeholders at global, regional, national and local levels

**3.3** Improved **data and evidence**, on effectiveness of strategies interventions to end violence against children, in all forms and in all settings