



Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children

Guidance for Pathfinder Countries

November 2015

As part of Agenda 2030, the world's governments have made a commitment to ensuring **all people live in peaceful, just and inclusive societies**.

They have set ambitious targets to be delivered by 2030, in order to deliver the vision of a world where **every child grows up free from violence and exploitation** (see page 2 for an overview of these targets).

The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children will help deliver this vision. Based on a commitment to the rights of children, it will turn the belief that **no violence against children is justifiable and all violence is preventable** into a compelling agenda for action.

The partnership has published a **zero draft strategy** for consultation. This strategy is summarised on page 3 and the full version can be downloaded from the partnership's interim website (www.16-2endviolenceagainstchildren.org).

The strategy envisages that a group of **pathfinder countries** will make a central contribution to the partnership, based on their wish to be leaders in ending violence against children and delivering SDG16.2 and related targets.

This document provides **guidance** for potential pathfinder countries, providing information on the steps that pathfinders will need to take if they are to play a full role in the partnership.

This guidance will **evolve** as we begin to work with pathfinder countries. The partnership is new and is committed to learning from countries how we can most effectively support them in their efforts to prevent and respond to violence.

In particular, we are keen to work intensively to support the efforts of countries that wish to develop their plans ahead of the **partnership's launch** (currently scheduled for March 2016) and want to play a central role in the launch event.

The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development

"The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which we are announcing today demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda...

We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development...

We envisage a world... which invests in its children and in which every child grows up free from violence and exploitation."

End violence against children...

- 16.2** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking, and sexual and other types of exploitation
- 5.3** Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation
- 8.7** Elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including slavery and human trafficking recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
- 4.a** Provide safe, non-violent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all
- 4.7** Ensure that all learners acquire knowledge...[for] promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence

...reduce the impact of violence in their families and communities...

- 16.1** Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- 11** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

...and ensure access to fair and effective institutions and to justice for all

- 16.3** Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all
- 16.9** Provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- 16.a** Strengthen relevant institutions... to prevent violence

Some targets have been condensed, for the full version refer to Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the General Assembly. Available at http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children



Partnership Overview: Strategy 2016-2020

Through the SDGs, all countries have made a commitment to ending all forms of violence against children.

The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children will work with all governments who are serious about delivering this commitment and will seek to persuade others that cost effective solutions exist. We will also provide a platform for leaders from all sectors who are prepared to stand up for children's right to live a life free from fear of violence.

In our early years, however, the partnership will also support the efforts of a smaller group of 'pathfinders' – countries that wish to be at the forefront of designing and implementing new approaches to preventing and responding to violence against children.

Ahead of launch, we will support pathfinders as they explore their role within the partnership.

Pathfinder countries

Pathfinder countries will be those whose leaders are prepared to step up for children and who are committed to accelerating efforts to make children safe.

By pioneering new approaches to delivering SDG16.2 and related targets, pathfinders will ensure that child victims of violence are no longer marginalised by the global development agenda.

They will confront the many factors that leave children vulnerable to violence, assess evidence for what works, and bring together the partners and investment needed to make their societies safer.

The partnership's 'building blocks' for violence prevention will help guide the work of pathfinders. This package of programmes and other interventions is being developed by a multi-disciplinary group of experts and will reflect the best available evidence of what works to prevent violence.

Given the universal nature of the agenda, pathfinders will represent a broad spectrum of countries, and marginalised children will be targeted in all countries.

Expanding the movement

The initial group of pathfinder countries will be small. It will take time for countries to build the political will, plans, and partnerships necessary to play a leadership role as a 'champion for children.'

We are convinced, however, that strong country ownership, and a focus on results and evidence, will create a virtuous cycle where success breeds further success.

As early pathfinders demonstrate what can be achieved, the partnership will use its convening power to help the movement against violence to spread both within and between countries.

Who?

- Government, at the highest level, has made SDG16.2 and related targets a priority and is prepared to announce its commitment at the partnership's launch
- An alliance from all sectors of society has come together to prevent violence against children, using the best available evidence for what works
- Signed up to the partnership's principles, including a strong role for children and a commitment to uphold the right of children to participate in all matters that affect them
- Prepared to identify, implement and invest in clear priorities
- Ready to act urgently and to innovate, while working for a longer-term transformation

Why?

- Join other countries at the head of a global movement to end violence against children
- Access information on new approaches, models and methods for preventing violence
- Be supported to develop a national partnership that brings together all sectors
- Receive funding for pilots and experimental ideas where resources are a constraint
- Share experience with other pathfinders and have success celebrated internationally

How?

- Analyse the urgent threats facing children, and local and national potential to prevent these
- Align partners behind a set of priorities, drawing on existing strategies or creating a new roadmap
- Agree a limited set of measurable indicators to assess progress
- Produce regular, reliable data (as close to real time as possible) for each of these indicators
- Register their commitments to addressing violence, and establish, conduct and publicise regular reviews to take stock of progress

Pathfinder Countries

Questions and Answers

How many pathfinder countries will there be?

We hope to have at least 6 pathfinder countries for the partnership's launch.

We want to ensure that we have a diverse group, geographically, by income levels, and according to the levels and types of threat children face. In particular, we are keen to include at least one high income pathfinder (given that the SDGs are for “the entire world, developed and developing countries alike”) and one pathfinder with recent experience of conflict or serious political instability.

There is no maximum number of pathfinders. However, we want to keep the country numbers relatively small in order to ensure that there is quality interaction with each of the countries. Other pathfinders will continue to join after the launch, while there will be other ways to participate in the partnership for those countries that are not yet ready to commit to becoming pathfinders.

How does a country become a pathfinder?

The first step is for the country's government to make an initial expression of interest to the partnership. Countries must have a strong commitment to ending violence against children and to making SDG16.2, and related targets, a priority for their plans for delivering Agenda 2030.

Governments must, of course, also be prepared to work with a range of national and subnational stakeholders and partners, including civil society, faith groups, the private sector, etc. Active participation from children and young people is essential.

We are happy to consider the case for provincial or regional governments, or a major city, to act as a pathfinder, providing the national government does not raise an objection.

What will a pathfinder be expected to do ahead of launch?

We will work with each country to agree a process, but the most important steps are as follows:

- Make an initial expression of interest, preferably through a letter from a responsible minister or ministerial team.
 - Appoint a champion or convener to lead the process. Hold an initial multi-stakeholder consultation in country.
 - Develop a roadmap that sets out your commitments as a pathfinder for the first two years and provides an overview of your ambitions over five years.
 - Identify what additional resources are needed and how they can be mobilised.
 - Prepare your head of state or minister to showcase your country's plans at our launch.
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What should be included in the roadmap?

This will vary from country to country.

A roadmap is not a detailed plan for ending all forms of violence against children. It is a high-level document that sets out priorities and commitments, and includes action points with timing, who is responsible, and resource implications. The roadmap should summarise what results you expect to achieve and how these results will be evaluated.

The development of the roadmap should help align the strategies of those working across different sectors, and should clarify the role that all levels of government and other stakeholders will play in delivery. It should also explain how the 'movement' for ending violence against children can be developed and strengthened.

Many countries already have a national plan, in which case the roadmap should be used to clarify and summarise their commitments as a pathfinder. If implementation of the national plan has been slow, the roadmap should be based on an analysis of obstacles to progress and how delivery can be accelerated.

In countries where there is no plan, or it needs substantial revision, the roadmap should include immediate delivery priorities, but also set out a process for developing and agreeing a plan.

The bottom line is that – ahead of the partnership’s launch – the roadmap will ensure that all pathfinders have done as much as possible to explain how they will deliver SDG16.2 and related targets, and what impact they expect this to have on children.

In no circumstances, however, do we expect countries to duplicate existing plans.

How will the partnership help pathfinders?

We are committed to helping pathfinders prepare for launch, drawing on the resources of the partnership’s transition team, but also on those of the many organisations that have come together to form the partnership. We will:

- Help you design and attend your initial stakeholder consultation, presenting an overview of the SDGs to end violence against children, the partnership’s strategy, and the opportunity provided by being a partnership.
- Provide you with access to our ‘building blocks’ for violence prevention (see page 19 of the partnership strategy). These are a package of evidence-based programmes and policies, which will be backed by the partnership and major international organisations. An initial version of these ‘building blocks’ will be available at the end of 2015.
- Offer mentoring and support as you develop your roadmap, although with the proviso that this work will be the primary responsibility of a group of national stakeholders.
- Provide a forum for you to share experience and insights with other pathfinder countries.
- If resources are a constraint, offer you access to the Global Fund to End Violence against Children, which may be able to fund planning or programmatic activity, or both.
- Help you make the case to mobilise resources from other sources, including the private sector and foundations.
- Ensure that the world hears about your commitment at the partnership launch.

Who decides who becomes a pathfinder?

The partnership’s Interim Advisory Group will review the plans and commitments of all potential pathfinders ahead of launch. It will set criteria that will be drawn from the partnership’s principles and its guidance for how partners should work together.

Rights focused All children have the right to be protected from violence

Child centred Children’s rights and needs are our primary focus. We support children as leaders against violence

Universal All countries, and all parts of society, must take responsibility and be accountable for ending violence against children

- Inclusive** We provide a platform for partners from across the world to work together to prevent and respond to violence, based on trust and mutual respect, between organisations of all sizes and people of all ages
- Results** Partners are individually and collectively accountable for the safety of children. We support those whose leadership in preventing and addressing violence is based on evidence of what works
- Transparency** We build trust by sharing information and consulting widely, and being open about our failures as well as our successes
- Learning** We are prepared to do things differently, to respond to new threats to children, to share lessons and to improve

Above all, the Group will be keen to see ambitious, but realistic, commitments to investing in and measuring results for children, and a plan for delivering them that is backed by a broad, inclusive and multi-sectoral coalition of stakeholders.

What will happen after the launch?

Building on the experience of other partnerships, we will work with pathfinder countries to develop a review process that monitors progress, ensures accountability, and allows for mutual learning. This will allow pathfinders to extend and deepen their commitments, and to deliver impact over the long term.

Pathfinders will be expected to:

- Keep building the national movement against violence with key stakeholders and partners.
- Monitor progress on delivery of the commitments in the roadmap.
- Report annually on delivery and set targets for the coming year.
- Share learning and celebrate success with other pathfinders.