



ADVANCING BETTER RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

Practical application of the INSPIRE framework for effective prevention of violence against children

SUMMARY

As child rights organizations strive to improve their programming around prevention of violence against children, the collaborative efforts of 10 global agencies have resulted in the endorsement of a set of seven evidence-based strategies that together form the INSPIRE framework. The framework provides much needed technical guidance for pathways towards the reduction of violence against children worldwide. This two-part reader summarizes key actionable recommendations from the INSPIRE Handbook developed by global partners to guide organizations that desire to be more effective in VAC prevention. This first part provides key recommendations, while the second part addresses specific guidelines for each strategy based on indicators and outcomes.

Keywords: INSPIRE, violence against children, social ecological model, children agency, multi-sectoral collaboration, evidence-based, adaptation

An overview of the INSPIRE Handbook

The seven strategies proposed in the INSPIRE framework are developed based on the existing body of evidence on promising practices documented by implementers in prevention of VAC and these strategies are, therefore, malleable enough to apply in different contexts.

Focusing on Implementation and enforcement of laws; Norms and values; Safe environments; Parent and caregiver support; Income and economic strengthening; Response and support services; and Education and life skills, they provide practical steps towards a coordinated and measurable VAC prevention strategy that assigns a role to all key actors including government and civil society.

The INSPIRE Handbook which tackles the 'how' is a follow-up resource to the Technical package that suggested the 'what' for country specific interventions. Detailed guidelines for operationalization of each strategy are provided in the Handbook to ensure that interventions are relevant and their effectiveness can be measured against key indicators to further enrich the body of evidence.

Drawing from a wide range of sources, the Handbook is a systematic consolidation of recommended interventions from in-depth interviews with practitioners, questionnaires for development professionals, multi-sectoral expert consultations, and online surveys and reviews of the Handbook by end users.

INSPIRE uses the social ecological model approach which recognizes that the community, family, and individual all play key roles in prevention of violence and advocates for collaboration among all stakeholders.

Box 1: Enabling environment for effective strategy implementation

Whole system strengthening: Both state and non-state actors should be involved in a multi-sectoral collaboration that ensures that prevention interventions are buttressed by laws, policies and goodwill for cohesive and sustainable results.

Drawing from existing programmes: SASA!, Soul City, IMAGE, and Stepping Stones for example, provide invaluable guidance that addresses interlinked issues like intimate partner violence and violence against children.

Children and youth agency: Participation of children and youth is a key tenet of the INSPIRE strategy as children can better identify safe spaces, select the skills they need, and provide perspectives on the social norms that increase their vulnerability to violence.

In Practice: Preparing for the 7 INSPIRE Strategies

Estimating costs

The long-term, wide-range interventions required to reduce VAC imply that multi-sectoral actors must commit to consistent investments that incrementally build up broad changes towards prevention of VAC. Although donor funding focuses on short-term project-based funding and quick results, child rights actors need to focus on costing for long term systems strengthening interventions in addition to short-term goals that can show progress toward the desired outcomes.

“Cost-effectiveness as measured by per capita expenditure to achieve a given outcome is useful for comparing options and planning programmes. But it can limit understanding of the cumulative impacts of multiple interventions over time.” (INSPIRE handbook, 28)

Balancing fidelity with context

Part of the success of the INSPIRE framework is the emphasis on the keeping the integrity of all core components based on the existing evidence while balancing it with modifications that make it relevant to the culture and community. Adaptation may include use of local language idioms or terminology; methods of delivery of information; and using images and illustrations that are similar or familiar to the local people, places and customs.

Planning for scale-up

Pilots and shorter term projects which yield good results often do not perfectly mirror the reality of issues on a larger scale and it is challenging to scale them up to the wider community. The Handbook recommends planning for INSPIRE scale-up at early stage programme implementation through the suggested mechanisms:

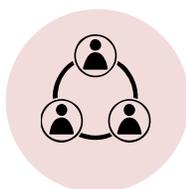
- Horizontal scale up which focuses on geographical range or reach in numbers
- Vertical integration into existing policies and systems
- Functional or diversification by adding modules to an existing programme
- Spontaneous –where new approaches or promising practices are shared without any specific plan

Box 2: Recommendations for National Action Plans for Prevention of VAC

- **Data focused:** Research guides the focus of resources and strategies allowing governments to implement the most resource efficient interventions.
- **Immediate and aspirational:** Working towards both short-term results and long-term goals keeps the momentum going especially when short term wins are celebrated as contributing to a greater good.
- **Cost-effective:** Identify opportunities that allow VAC interventions to be integrated into already existing programmes at minimal cost rather than creating high-cost standalone projects.
- **Strengths-focused:** Recognize existing opportunities that can be leveraged e.g. favourable policies, community initiatives, customs and cultures, long-term projects on which VAC prevention can piggyback.
- **Synergies:** Harness the mutually reinforcing elements of each strategy for effective integration
- **Drawing from and contributing to the evidence:** Support your interventions with what has been known to work and plan to document and share discoveries

Core components of a multi-sectoral collaboration

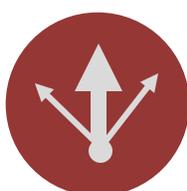
A successful multi-sectoral collaboration is built on ensuring the following:



Roles and responsibilities have been clearly defined
Capacities of each entity have been identified



Designating a collaboration 'champion' who holds the resource envelope, coordinates the efforts of all actors, and holds them accountable



Incentivizing collaboration to ensure sustained interest and commitment:

- Focal persons within each sector or entity/ministry
- Harmonized goals and commitments
- Mapping current interventions to identify gaps and obstacles
- Setting indicators to measure progress and collect data
- Information sharing in regular meetings, workshops, reports
- Building on-going expertise outside of project funding
- Sharing resources to support under-resourced but critical partners participate in the collaboration

REFERENCES

INSPIRE Handbook: action for implementing the seven strategies. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018.
License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

FURTHER READING

United Nations Children's Fund, INSPIRE Indicator Guidance and Results Framework - Ending Violence Against Children: How to define and measure change, UNICEF, New York, 2018

Developed and written by IIDC Technical Advisor, Joyce Tonda, reviewed by IIDC Head of Programmes, Samalie Lutaaya
© IIDC 2019