

Ending violence against children is possible
and makes economic sense



Pathfinding Global Alliance

On Ending Violence Against Children

Less than 5 years remain to keep our promise to end violence against children by 2030!



Violence against children remains widespread, affecting over 1 billion children annually.

The world is not on track to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal.

Mission

The Pathfinding Global Alliance **brings together countries and all relevant stakeholders** committed to **accelerating efforts to end all forms of violence against children by 2030**, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and child rights standards.

The Pathfinding Global Alliance provides a **platform for partners to share information, promising practices, and lessons learned**, as well as to **collaborate** and **demonstrate progress**.

Why a global alliance?

Despite advances and efforts made to date, violence against children is still widespread, with at least a billion children being exposed to some form of violence each year. The world is not on track to end violence against children by 2030, as promised under the SDGs.

Violence against children and its drivers cut across the whole 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Given the inter-sectoral and transnational dimension of violence against children and its intersectionality with gender-based violence - there is an urgent need to act collectively, better and faster. Investing in child protection and wellbeing cannot wait, in light of the huge human and economic costs of violence.

The Pathfinding Global Alliance in a few words

The Global Alliance was officially **launched in Bogota, Colombia, on 8 November 2024**, during the first Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children.

This Alliance is rapidly expanding. 44 countries have already adhered to it. Under the political leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (SRSG-VAC), the Pathfinding Global Alliance has been established thanks to a wide mobilization and participatory process, that defined the future direction and structure of the Alliance. It aims to: gain momentum for stronger ownership by Member States; strengthen country engagement; cultivate closer connections to local realities through a bottom-up approach; boost peer learning and the exchange of promising practices; strengthen peer accountability; and ensure context-specific partnership and cooperation.

The Pathfinding Global Alliance brings together all relevant stakeholders committed to ending all forms of violence against children through a cross-sectoral and multistakeholder approach, involving **States, regional and subregional organizations, the UN family, civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, the private sector, development partners, experts, academia, the media, local communities, survivors, children and youth.**



Guiding principles

- **Strong country ownership through voluntary and active participation** of Member States, as well as a wide range of stakeholders committed to taking bold and swift actions to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children.
- **High-level political engagement, translated into sustained investment in integrated child protection services** that are inclusive and easily accessible to all children and their caregivers.
- **Multistakeholder engagement and coordination** - Through an inclusive approach, Pathfinding countries adopt road-maps to accelerate progress and ensure the appropriate follow up.
- **Context-specific, demand-driven, collective support**, mobilizing technical and financial support for country-identified priorities, following a bottom-up approach.
- **Peer learning & peer support** - The Global Alliance is a powerful platform for sharing knowledge and promising practices and for strengthening regional and cross-regional collaboration and context-specific cooperation and partnerships.
- **Peer accountability** that will help to track progress, reorient actions or provide support if needed.
- **Systematic engagement of children through informing, consulting and involving them** in decision-making processes.

Opportunities and benefits: Why become a Pathfinding country?

The Pathfinding Global Alliance offers member states a wide range of opportunities to strengthen, accelerate and demonstrate their efforts to end violence against children :

- **High-level engagement** to ensure child protection and wellbeing is a priority in the political agenda;
- Support for implementation of the **pledges and Call for Action** of the Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence against Children;
- Strengthen **coordination mechanisms** as well as **information management systems**;
- Strengthen **engagement with civil society organizations**, community and children;
- Gain access to **good practice, knowledge and expertise**;
- Technical support for the preparation of **multistakeholder consultations/workshops**, aimed at designing the **roadmap**;
- Support and guidance **to define the package and the cost of integrated services**;
- Support and guidance to assess **the cost of VAC and the return on investment** in violence prevention;
- Guidance on the preparation of **progress reports**;
- Mobilizing **resources to implement the roadmap**;
- Strengthening **partnerships and networking**;
- Support **capacity-building, peer learning, and communities of practice**;
- Contribute to the **marketplace for knowledge-sharing**;
- Showcase **progress and successful interventions** in regional and international events, using the Alliance as a platform.



Structure and pillars

The Pathfinding Coordinating Group (PCG)

The Pathfinding Coordinating Group (PCG) is the main governing body of the Global Alliance ensuring strong ownership by the Pathfinding countries. It is composed of representatives of the **Pathfinding Alliance stakeholder groups** (Pathfinding countries, UN, regional organizations, civil society, faith-based and survivors' organizations, development partners, the private sector, among others). Thematic experts, relevant alliances and networks, and academic institutions will also be invited to participate according to the thematic priorities identified by the PCG.

The PCG is led by a Chair (Government XX) and Vice-Chair (Government XX) on a rotational basis. The nomination of the Chair and Co-chair is endorsed by the whole group of Pathfinding countries for a period of two years.

The PCG sets the overall strategy for the Global Alliance. The PCG meets regularly to set goals, endorse the annual plans of action for the Pathfinding Global Alliance, and monitor progress in tandem with the Core Support Group. It also can decide on changes in the operational structure if needed.

The members of the PCG include representatives of:

- **Pathfinding countries**
- **United Nations agencies and entities**
- **International and regional financial institutions**
- **Regional organizations**
- **Civil society organizations including faith-based and survivor-led organizations**
- **Child and youth-led networks**
- **Development partners**
- **Private sector**
- **Academia**
- **Other relevant alliances and networks advancing the protection of children and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**

The Core Support Group (CSG)

The **Core Support Group with a reduced representation from the Pathfinding Coordinating Group, will act as an executive.** This group facilitates the full involvement and support of relevant stakeholders. It submits annual plans of action for the Pathfinding Global Alliance to the PCG for endorsement; supports the thematic groups established to work on one or more focus areas of the Alliance; reviews and endorses the country road-maps as well the annual progress reports.

The CSG is led by a Chair (SRSG VAC). Its membership will be endorsed by the PCG and composed of:

- **Pathfinding countries representing each world region, to be proposed by their peers**
- **UN Inter-Agency Working Group on EVAC (UNICEF, WHO, UNODC, UNHCR, ITU, IOM, ILO)**
- **CSO representatives proposed by the Civil Society Forum on Ending Violence against Children, faith-based organizations and survivors' networks**
- **Development partners supporting the Pathfinding Global Alliance, including the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Iceland**

The Secretariat

The Secretariat, a lean structure within the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, ensures day-to-day operations, including enabling regular communication amongst partners, supporting Pathfinding countries and providing assistance to the PCG and the Core Support Group.

It manages and maintains the Marketplace for Knowledge Sharing and secures its sustainability, accessibility and visibility.

The Marketplace for Knowledge Sharing

The **Marketplace for Knowledge Sharing** is a digital platform where Pathfinding countries can readily and privately access and share their expertise, skills, and information with others through various channels, which will facilitate knowledge exchange and peer learning among Pathfinding countries. This Marketplace will allow users to learn from diverse perspectives and connect with subject matter experts across various fields. It will also provide access to rosters of expertise across the wide spectrum of themes and areas identified by Pathfinding countries and the thematic groups.

It will include a **diverse knowledge base** where users can contribute content like evidence-based solutions, through various means including videos, tutorials, Q&A sessions, or live workshops. **Building communities of practice:** the platform encourages interaction through comments, discussions, and forums, fostering a community where users can engage with each other and learn from diverse viewpoints. **Experts and partners profiles** showcase expertise and credentials and enable users to identify relevant knowledge sources on specific topics. **Strengthening context-specific cooperation:** it will enhance partnerships, as well as bilateral, triangular, and multilateral cooperation at national, subregional, regional and global levels.



Thematic groups

Thematic Groups reflect thematic priorities within and between Pathfinding countries. These groups will also support the Marketplace, which will be regularly maintained, updated, and monitored through the Secretariat ensuring easy access to resources and promoting knowledge sharing among the members.

The Thematic Groups are composed of Experts from Pathfinding countries, regional and subregional organizations, UN agencies, CSOs including FBOs, academia, and other relevant stakeholders. Regular meetings (frequency as per the needs), with the Core Support Group and Pathfinding countries, and continuous collaboration with the Secretariat to ensure information is shared effectively via the knowledge management platform.

Pathfinding countries

Pathfinding countries need to submit a **formal expression of interest** to the Global Alliance through the Secretariat.

The letter should be signed by a government minister and set out:

- The country's **interest** in participating as a Pathfinding Country
- Its **commitment** to significantly accelerate efforts towards ending VAC
- The appointment of a senior government official as a **focal point** to lead and coordinate efforts in the country

Organizing a **multistakeholder national consultation is a first important** step to bring partners together, establish a common agenda, prioritize country-level action, and develop a roadmap to accelerate action to end VAC .

This roadmap sets out priorities, key actions, responsibilities, timelines and budgets and will be presented to Core Support Group.

Pathfinding countries will inform the **Core Support Group about progress** against their roadmap on a yearly basis.

Annex I

[Country Name – Governmental Entity] hereby voluntarily joins the Pathfinding Global Alliance to End Violence Against Children and states its dedication to pursuing the Global Alliance’s mission, objectives, and principles to support and accelerate efforts to put an end to Violence Against Children by 2030.

Acknowledges the alarming growth in the number of children facing various forms of violence worldwide, noting that, despite all significant past and current efforts, the world is not on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Notes that the world must unite behind large-scale, integrated approaches, which foster context-specific and demand-driven solutions to eradicate violence against children.

To that effect, becomes a member of the Pathfinding Global Alliance to End Violence Against Children to support and accelerate efforts to end violence against children by strengthening and investing in integrated child protection services.

Therefore, by joining the **Pathfinding Global Alliance to End Violence Against Children**, commits to do its best efforts, in its field of action, and according to its mandate, capacities, priorities, procedures, and legal framework, to support the implementation of policy instruments and programmes at country level as appropriate, including by the promotion of shared learning and the mobilization of resources at scale.

Signed by: ... (High level representative of the Country)