

PROGRESS REPORT

Pathfinding Global Alliance
On Ending Violence Against Children

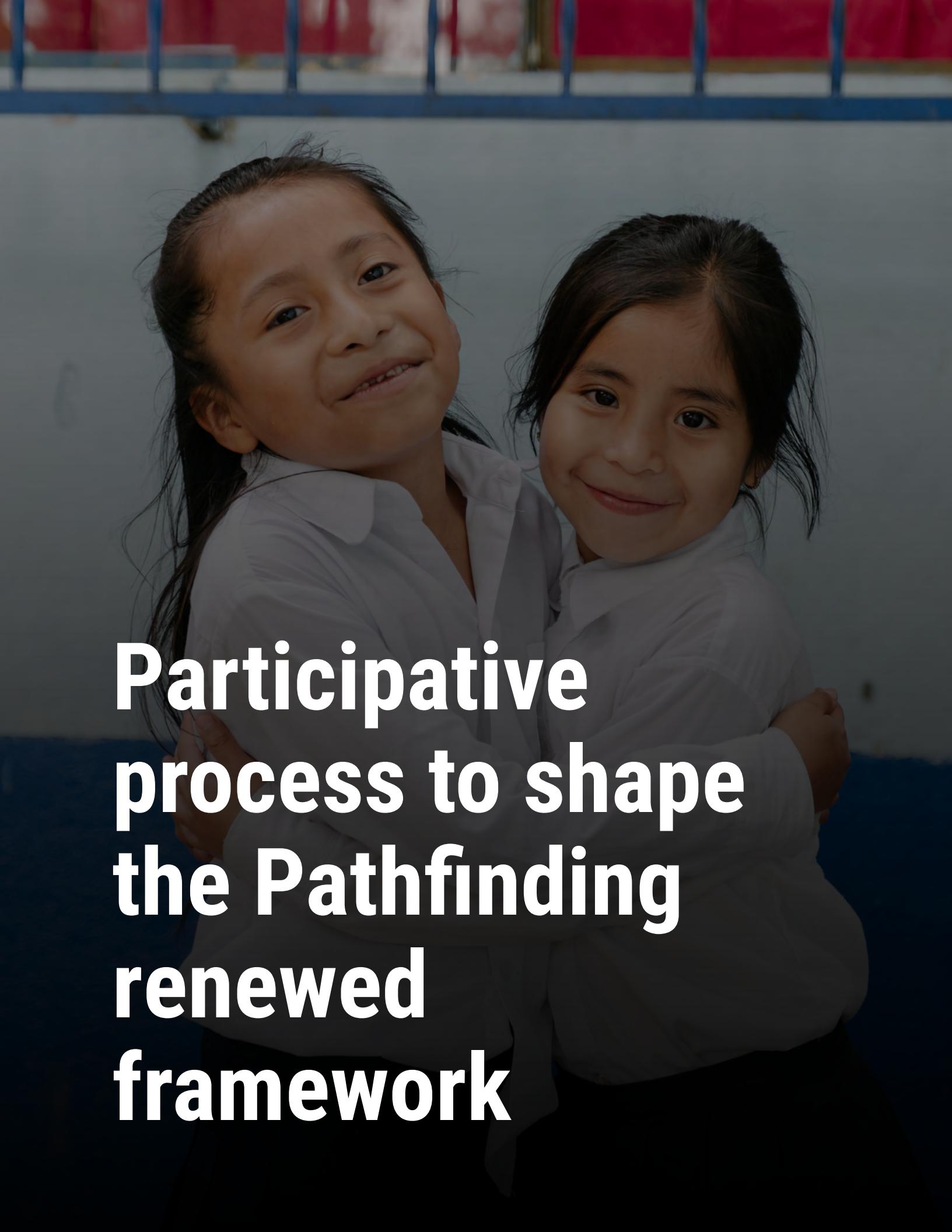
2025

series 1 (2024-2025)

This progress report provides an overview of the processes and results of the Pathfinding Global Alliance on Ending Violence Against Children.

It covers the period from 1 January 2024 to November 2025.



A photograph of two young girls, likely of Asian descent, smiling warmly at the camera. They are wearing light-colored, short-sleeved shirts. The girl on the left has her arm around the girl on the right. They appear to be in an outdoor setting with a red and blue structure in the background.

**Participative
process to shape
the Pathfinding
renewed
framework**

In October 2023, the Board of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children decided to sunset the Partnership in its existing form and to transition its workstreams to new arrangements.



Given the strong demand from partners for the workstream on Pathfinding countries to be sustained and strengthened, **the board requested the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to lead it.**



The leadership is in keeping with the Special Representative's mandate from the General Assembly to act as a catalyst to stimulate Member States' engagement and to support them in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/73/155).



Since the 1st of January 2024, the Special Representative has launched an **extensive consultative process with Member States and various stakeholders** to revitalize and redesign the Pathfinding framework, align expectations, and leverage cooperation and partnerships.

A series of consultations with the Pathfinding countries and other key stakeholders was undertaken to take stock of progress made and remaining challenges to define, in a participatory way, the Pathfinding renewed framework. These bilateral consultations led to the organization of the first technical workshop.





First multi-stakeholder workshop

The Geneva Technical Workshop held under the Chatham House Rule, on 9th and 10th September 2024, gathered more than 90 participants, including 32 Member States, children, and key partners.



This participative, open dialogue marked a turning point from consultation to co-design of the revitalized Alliance's framework, aims, and goals.

Participants defined and endorsed the renewed direction of the Pathfinding Global Alliance, a State-led and flexible cooperation platform that provides a practical space to connect, share, and learn, without adding new bureaucratic layers.

This **renewed framework, under sound States' ownership, represents a key opportunity** to reaffirm the highest political commitment to translating intentions into expanded investment in children's protection and well-being, thereby triggering more integrated services.

The Alliance offers a wide range of opportunities to accelerate efforts to end violence against children by 2030 and beyond.

Most importantly, it will provide a platform to share ideas, actions, and lessons learned, as well as to collaborate and demonstrate progress.

After the workshop, a summary report of the meeting and the Pathfinding Global Alliance Overview were shared with all participants.

32

member states gathered for the technical workshop towards the first Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children.



The First Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children

The Special Representative's engagement leading to the **Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children** formed part of a deliberate, multi-year strategy that, in 2024, used the fifteenth anniversary of the UN mandate on violence against children as a global mobilization moment.

Over 15 months, the Special Representative worked closely with Member States, the United Nations, regional organizations, Civil Society Organizations, Religious networks, donors and partners, survivors, and children to prepare the Conference. This included support for national multi-stakeholder preparatory processes, the facilitation of regional and thematic consultations, and the organization of webinars.

In 2025, the Special Representative visited and engaged with the national authorities of the following Pathfinding Member States: Angola, Gambia, Gabon, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, and Uzbekistan.

The Bogotá conference was co-hosted by Colombia and Sweden (both Members of the Pathfinding Global Alliance) in collaboration with the Special Representative, WHO, and UNICEF. It brought together high-level delegations from more than 120 countries. Member States adopted concrete national pledges to accelerate action toward ending violence against children by 2030. Several governments have submitted new or renewed commitments, including an interest in joining the Pathfinding Global Alliance to sustain and expand the momentum generated.



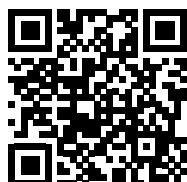
120+
countries participated
at the Bogotá
Conference.



The **Pathfinding Global Alliance**, formally launched at the Conference, with 41 States, was designed as an innovative cooperation platform to reactivate and advance the child-protection and well-being agenda. Its purpose is to support Member States in translating political commitments into sustained progress through facilitating peer learning, strengthening cooperation, and sharing promising practices.

The Special Representative sustained momentum through regional meetings, webinars, and targeted bilateral follow-ups, which helped countries refine priorities, share practical solutions, and advance the implementation of their pledges. These engagements ensured continuity after Bogotá, strengthened peer learning across countries and regions, and supported Member States in translating global commitments into concrete national actions.

This global mobilization, aligned with the Special Representative's year-long campaign and stocktaking report marking 15 years of the mandate, was presented to the UN General Assembly.



Watch the video on
*Ending violence against
children is possible*



Pathfinding Regional meetings

In 2025, focused regional meetings have been characterized by lively and dynamic exchanges. These efforts have been at the center of multi-stakeholder regional processes convened by the Special Representative at ministerial and technical levels with members of the Pathfinding Global Alliance.



Learn more about the regional meetings



Africa

7th and 8th May, 2025 | Abuja, Nigeria



Americas

10th and 11th July, 2025 | Mexico City, Mexico



Arab Region

1st and 2nd September, 2025 | Cairo, Egypt



Asia-Pacific

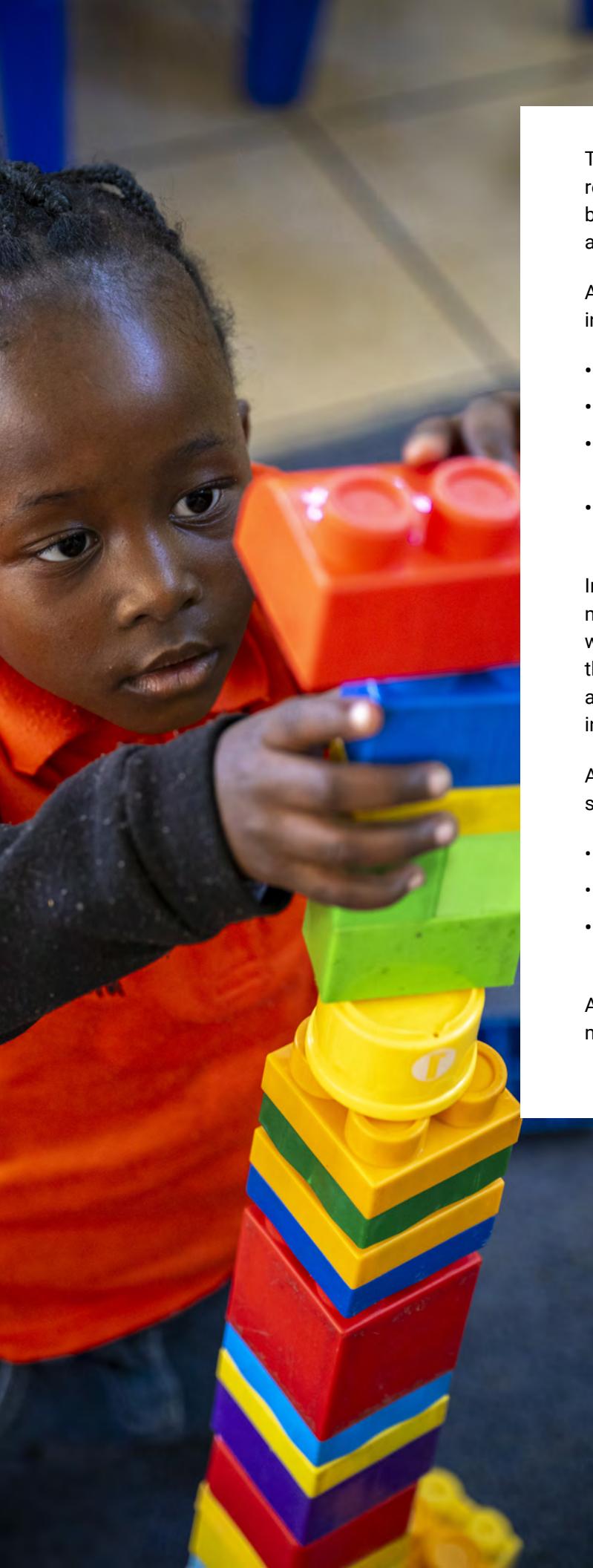
12th and 13th November, 2025 | Manila, Philippines



Europe and Central Asia

2nd April, 2025 | Strasbourg, France

13th and 14th October, 2025 | Bucharest, Romania



These meetings brought together governments, regional organizations, civil society, survivors, faith-based and traditional leaders, UN agencies, academia, and children, among others.

All these meetings allow open, inclusive, intergenerational, and multi-sectoral dialogues where:

- **promising practices were presented;**
- **common challenges were discussed;**
- **areas requiring further support were identified;**
and
- **bridge building was facilitated through peer learning and networking.**

Intergenerational dialogue was a central feature of all meetings. Each region convened dedicated sessions with children from Pathfinding countries, who shared their expertise, realities, and proposed actions to accelerate progress. Governments were encouraged to involve children in decision-making processes actively.

A key outcome of these regional meetings was the strong interest expressed by all the participants in:

- sharing **promising practices;**
- using the **Investment Case Toolkit;** and
- **strengthening peer learning, networking, and regional and cross-regional cooperation**

A report was shared with all the participants after each meeting.



Marketplace for Knowledge-Sharing: Ideas in Actions



The Marketplace for Knowledge-Sharing is a **secure digital platform** where Pathfinding countries can share expertise, access practical resources, and learn from one another. It will document the actions taken by various stakeholders that have led to impactful, concrete change, thereby enabling the acceleration of peer learning and showcasing how to turn Ideas into Action.

This platform is being developed with the support of the Government of Iceland and the United Nations System Staff College.

A global mapping process is currently underway to collect concrete "**Ideas in Action**" under each of the seven building blocks of the Marketplace for Knowledge Sharing.

Building blocks of the marketplace

How can progress on ending violence against children be measured?

How to translate policies into a set of integrated services accessible to all children?

How can co-operations and partnerships strengthen action to end violence against children?

How to involve CSOs, religious & traditional leaders, communities & children?

How to prioritize Child Protection and wellbeing in the political agenda?

How to ensure a whole-of-government approach to end violence against children?

How to ensure a protective legal framework and a child friendly justice for all children?



The Investment Case on Ending Violence against Children



Read the investment case

Child protection and well-being should be seen as an essential investment in building human capital and ensuring people-centered development across the lifecycle. Yet current levels of spending on the prevention and response to violence remain low.

This Toolkit was developed in close collaboration with States, including Ministers of Finance and other stakeholders, to make the case for greater investment in child protection and well-being. This Toolkit builds on these efforts and provides a step-by-step guide to assess the economic costs of violence against children and the return on investing in violence prevention. This Investment Case Toolkit, launched in May 2025, provides a roadmap: countries can systematically analyze, cost, and advocate for interventions that matter.

Many workshops and consultations were undertaken at national, regional, and global levels to ensure strong ownership and implementation of this Toolkit.

More and more countries are using evidence generated from investment case processes to drive, amongst others, increased allocations for social protection and workforce strengthening, aiming to have an integrated and cross-sectoral budget which spans across planning and finance ministries.

Key achievements to date

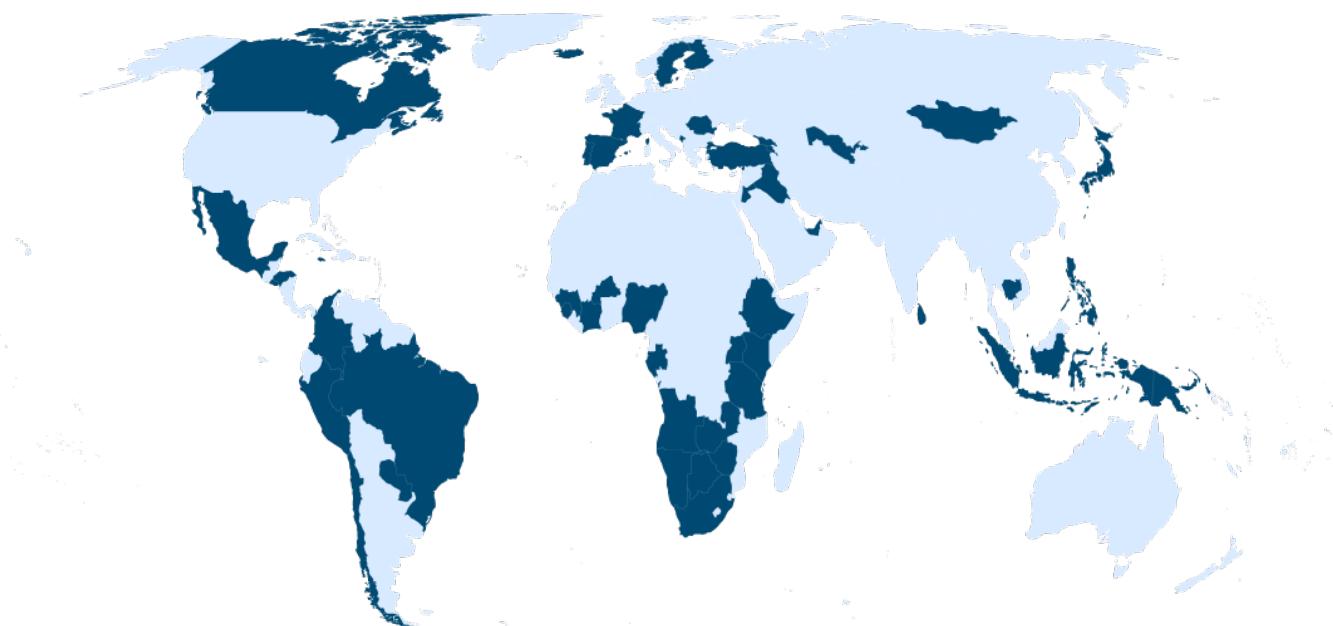


Through this dynamic process, the Global Alliance helped catalyze the growth of momentum and expand multi-stakeholder mobilization.

Onboarding of a growing number of countries

Since launch, membership has expanded from 38 States to 48, with many more expressing interest.

An approximate
25%
increase over the past twelve months.



The Alliance is gaining momentum by:

Deepening Member State ownership and engagement

Connecting national efforts to local realities through a bottom-up approach

Facilitating peer learning and the exchange of promising practices

Strengthening peer accountability

Promoting context-specific partnerships and cooperation



Growing multi-stakeholder mobilization

Beyond States, the Pathfinding Global Alliance has seen the strong engagement of a broad range of stakeholders. Including UN partners, civil society through the CSO Forum on Ending Violence Against Children and regional CSO networks, survivors, faith-based, cultural, and sports organizations, traditional leaders, academia, child- and youth-led organizations, and, most importantly, children and youth themselves.

The involvement of regional bodies illustrated the value of regional and sub-regional solidarity and shared accountability in accelerating progress.

Engagement continues to expand across partners such as foundations, donors, technology, travel, tourism, and entertainment, supporting accelerated action to end violence against children.

More and more actions

This participative process has assisted States and partners in refining the opportunities offered by the Alliance to accelerate efforts to end violence against children and to support the implementation of national plans and priorities.

- **Transition from Priorities to Implementation:** Member States have moved from priorities to implementation, with 87% of Alliance Members having identified concrete priorities and actions for impact in close cooperation with the UN regional and country teams.
- **Commitments Translating into Concrete Actions:** Many of the commitments made by States are already being translated into practical and concrete actions to tackle violence against children and its drivers.
- **Adoption of Costed National Action Plans and Cross-Sector Integration:** A growing number of States have adopted costed national plans to prevent and respond to violence against children, under the leadership of Heads of State or Government, based on a participatory and multi-stakeholder approach. Furthermore, necessary steps have been taken to embed child protection and well-being into national and local development plans and as a cross-cutting dimension of planning and budget processes. Public-private partnerships have been developed.
- **Strengthened Legal and Justice Frameworks:** There are further examples of strengthened legal frameworks that prohibit all forms of violence against children in all settings, including online. In addition, many countries are implementing child-friendly justice, restorative justice, and alternatives to deprivation of liberty.
- **Expansion of Integrated “One-Stop” Services for Child Victims:** States are increasingly providing “one-stop” integrated services for child victims of violence, which are often co-located with services for women, given the intersectionality of violence against children and violence against women.





- **Enhanced Child Safeguarding and Social Service Workforce:** Steps have also been taken to strengthen the social service workforce and to ensure mandatory child safeguarding standards in services and institutions for the care and protection of children.
- **Progress in Social Care Reform and De-Institutionalization:** Many countries are implementing social care reform to prevent family separation and ensure de-institutionalization through family-based alternatives.
- **Increased Engagement of Civil Society and Community-Based Organizations:** More States are involving Civil Society Organizations, Faith-Based Organizations, and Community-Based Organizations in the design and implementation of policies and services.
- **Strengthened Information Management and Monitoring Systems:** More States are strengthening their information management systems. The monitoring of the implementation of child rights policies has been strengthened within the Parliament and national human rights institutions.
- **Greater Inclusion of Children and Young People in Decision-Making:** There have been significant steps forward in including children and young people in decision-making processes, at local, national, and regional levels.

These are actions taken by Pathfinding countries; many other countries are acting on multiple fronts at the same time. The myriads of context and country-specific actions are being duly documented and will be disseminated through the Marketplace for Knowledge sharing.

The way forward



Building on the follow-up to the regional meetings and all consultations, a **global meeting of all members of the Pathfinding Global Alliance, co-hosted by the Government of Uzbekistan**, will be held in early 2026.

This meeting, which will bring together all Pathfinding countries and key stakeholders, will provide an opportunity to **share progress** made by States and the results of bilateral and multilateral cooperation among members of the Alliance, as well as to **launch the Marketplace for Knowledge Sharing** and determine next steps.





Support and Funding

The process to establish the Pathfinding Global Alliance on Ending Violence Against Children has been made possible by the strong commitment and engagement of Member States, the UN, and key partners.

These first steps have been supported primarily by the Office of the Special Representative's existing resources. Additional funding was provided by several Member States notably Iceland, Spain, as well as all hosting countries and institutions of the regional meetings (Nigeria, Mexico, Romania, the Philippines, the Council of Europe, UN regional and country teams), the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) and the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) with the design and technical support of the Market Place for Knowledge Sharing.

While the Office of the Special Representative has put in place a very lean internal division of work to optimize the scarce resources, to continue sustaining its role as the Secretariat of the Alliance, as well as maintaining and ensuring the full use of the Market Place for Knowledge Sharing, **additional minimum dedicated funding will be essential.**

The Office of the Special Representative is particularly grateful to all the Member States and partners already engaged in supporting the mobilization of the necessary resources to continue supporting this collective mobilization and collaborative effort through the Office's annual appeal.



Learn more

Smart pledges Work together Courage Strong institutions Raise relationships awareness
Promising Safeguarding
practices standards
Cross-sectoral
Participation
Children
participation
Government
collaboration
Multistakeholder
Mainstreaming
Evidence-based
Bridge-building
Similarities leaders
Sharing experiences
Accountability
Transcend clear
challenges action
Peer-learning
Roundtable
Brick by brick
Connecting
Links
Prevention
Pilots to
Scaling up
Inspiring
Responsibility
Consult
Cannot delay
Whole-of-government
Whole-of-nation
Academia
Structures for
children
Rights-based
approach
Adapting
Localized
Encouraging
support
Dreamworld
Family-centered



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