

INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children

Uptake between 2016 and 2021

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Summary

This report documents uptake of the World Health Organization's *INSPIRE: seven strategies for ending violence against children* technical package during the 5 years since its launch in 2016. The original INSPIRE Working Group has doubled in its membership, from 10 agencies to 20, and a Community of Practice has evolved, involving more than 400 members. Thanks to the Community of Practice's contributions, the INSPIRE technical package today includes the:

INSPIRE Core Document



The INSPIRE Handbook



The INSPIRE Indicator Guidance and Results Framework



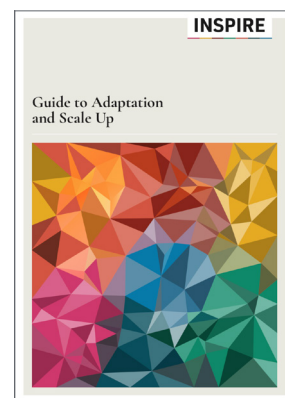
The INSPIRE Competency Framework



The INSPIRE Massive Open Online Course



The INSPIRE Guide to Adaptation and Scale-up



In addition to this:

- INSPIRE has been translated into Armenian, Azerbaijani, Bulgarian, Georgian, Khmer, Portuguese, Serbian, and Ukrainian, as well as Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish, and Russian, making the core document available in a total of 14 languages.
- The INSPIRE Fund has disbursed US\$ 750 000 through grants ranging from \$5000 to \$30 000 to increase awareness of INSPIRE at national and regional levels and to actively promote leadership in shaping and driving the INSPIRE agenda globally.
- The number of cumulative downloads of INSPIRE from the WHO website is 140 000 – this does not include downloads via other websites or the total number of people engaging with INSPIRE.
- In addition to local communications products developed by partners, the INSPIRE Working Group launched a website, three global videos, a series of seven podcasts, and eight webinars (one per INSPIRE strategy).
- Since the release of INSPIRE in 2016, 67 countries have shown at least some engagement with the framework and adoption of the INSPIRE strategies at the national or local level.

The rapid and widespread uptake of the INSPIRE package indicates a strong belief in its value and its continued potential to reduce violence against children. Based on the learnings over the past five years, the following priorities have been identified for the way forward.



Valuing awareness-raising



Prioritizing local actors



Building national coordination structures and capacity



Supporting adaptation and scale-up of INSPIRE



Building evidence and sharing the knowledge



The INSPIRE Working Group will continue to strengthen ownership, coordination, evidence, and capacity building in countries throughout the world in our collective efforts to prevent all forms of violence against children.

Introduction

Since its publication in 2016, *INSPIRE: seven strategies for ending violence against children* has acted as a key global resource for implementing, adapting and monitoring interventions to prevent and respond to violence against children. The first 5 years of INSPIRE now require a stock-take on the degree to which the violence prevention community has adopted the INSPIRE framework, how the strategies have been used, and the extent to which these global tools and resources have found ownership at local, national, and regional levels.

The *Global status report on preventing violence against children 2020* explores countries' progress on ending violence against children through the seven INSPIRE strategies. It shows, for example, that on average 88% of countries have laws in place for preventing violence against children but just 47% of government respondents felt that these laws were enforced strongly enough to ensure violators would be penalized. And while around 56% of countries provide some national support for implementing the INSPIRE prevention and response approaches, just 25% considered this support sufficient to reach all, or nearly all, who need them.

This report – based on a desk review, a global literature survey, and interviews with key stakeholders – seeks to document uptake, adoption, and implementation of INSPIRE over the past 5 years, and identify the challenges and opportunities that have arisen along the way.

Background

INSPIRE: seven strategies for ending violence against children is an evidence-based technical package to help countries prevent and respond to violence against children aged 0–17 years.

INSPIRE is an acronym for seven strategies: **I** for the implementation and enforcement of laws; **N** for norms and values; **S** for safe environments; **P** for parent and caregiver support; **I** for income and economic strengthening; **R** for response and support services; and **E** for education and life skills. In addition, two cross-cutting activities (multisectoral action and coordination, and monitoring and evaluation) help connect and strengthen the seven strategies and track the extent of their implementation and impact on the problem. The INSPIRE framework is an essential tool to help achieve SDG Target 16.2, which calls for ending all forms of violence against children, and also helps the achievement of goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, and 16 that target poverty, health, education, gender equality, safe environments, and justice.

INSPIRE Technical Package

Following the 2016 launch of the “*INSPIRE core document*” in six UN Languages, the INSPIRE technical package was expanded to include the following five resources:

- The *INSPIRE Handbook*, which explains in detail how to choose and implement interventions that will fit users' needs and context, available in Arabic, English, Spanish and Ukrainian.
- The *INSPIRE Indicator Guidance and Results Framework*, which is designed to help organizations monitor progress over time as they implement INSPIRE strategies, available in English.
- The *INSPIRE Guide to Adaptation and Scale up*, which can be used to support the selection, implementation, adaptation and scale-up of violence-prevention activities, available in English, French, Spanish and Khmer.
- The *INSPIRE Competency Framework*, which describes the core knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to deliver the INSPIRE framework across different domains and actors.

- **INSPIRE Massive Open Online Course**, which introduces all seven INSPIRE strategies, illustrated by short videos and case studies.

All resources are available on the [WHO violence prevention page](#) and the [INSPIRE website](#).



INSPIRE Working Group

The original INSPIRE Working Group included the World Health Organization (WHO), the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (End Violence), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Together for Girls, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Bank. Over the years, the core partnership has evolved into a **Working Group** of 20 agencies and a **Community of Practice** that includes over 400 representatives from UN agencies, bilateral agencies, international professional associations, national non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations (NGOs/CSOs), grassroots groups, government bodies, philanthropic organizations and foundations, and academia. The Working Group is co-chaired by WHO and the University of Colombia-based Care and Protection of Children Learning Network, that along with End Violence, the Institute for Security Studies, UNICEF and the United States CDC provide leadership and strategic guidance for the Working Group as a whole on the implementation of INSPIRE-related interventions; harmonize members' work to achieve collective impact; identify emerging implementation support opportunities and capacity needs; and generate, collect, and share new evidence on what works to address violence against children.

INSPIRE Fund

Launched in July 2018 by the INSPIRE Working Group, the INSPIRE Fund was designed to enable leaders from low- and middle-income countries to take an active role in shaping and driving the INSPIRE agenda globally. A total of US\$ 750 000 was available in the Fund for this purpose, with grants ranging from US\$ 5000 to US\$ 30 000 with smaller flexible travel support grants. Funding was made possible by Ignite Philanthropy: Inspiring the End to Violence Against Girls and Boys, a project of New Venture Fund. The Fund, managed by the INSPIRE Working Group Coordinator and a diverse group of 13 Review Committee members, prioritized local ownership and supported rapid INSPIRE promotion and dissemination activities. The Fund supported some 120 local, national, regional, and international training workshops, conferences, roundtable discussions, webinars, podcasts, radio talks, and high-level political meetings on INSPIRE strategies in 38 low- and middle-income countries. Approximately 70% of funding was distributed among local actors (CSOs, NGOs, government bodies, academic institutions, and individual actors). The results of surveys of grantees, and focus group discussion outcomes, highlighted a high impact on awareness and uptake of INSPIRE by their organizations, local stakeholders, and the child protection field in general.

The most significant impact of the INSPIRE Fund is to enable communities and local organizations to [understand] that the best way to fight violence against children is to be networked, to work together, and not to disperse interventions. In addition, there is participation and involvement of community actors in the INSPIRE strate[gies].” – IDETTE, Haiti

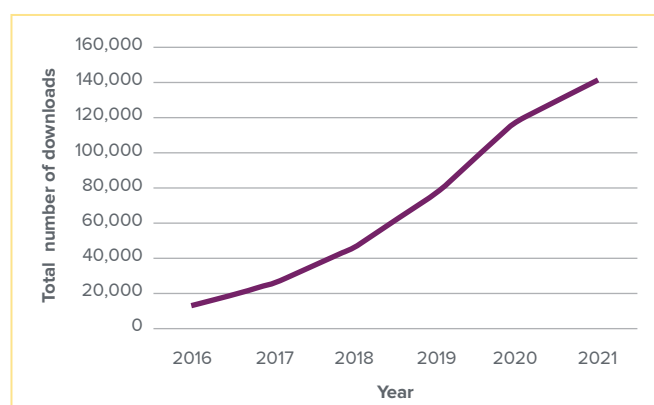
INSPIRE at the global level

Uptake of, and engagement with, INSPIRE have grown considerably from the initial development and dissemination phase. While the original framework was supported and endorsed by 10 agencies, by 2020, the INSPIRE Working Group’s Community of Practice had grown to 20 agencies and more than 400 individual representatives from CSOs, NGOs, governments, academia, philanthropic organizations UN agencies, partnerships, and other agencies. The high (and continually rising) number of people engaging with the INSPIRE Working Group suggests widespread, continued and growing interest in the INSPIRE strategies as a framework for addressing violence against children worldwide.

Dissemination

Although the total number of people engaging with INSPIRE is unknown, downloads of the core document have risen continuously and totaled more than 140 000 as of November 2021 (see Figure 1). It is important to note that this number of downloads is limited to those from the WHO electronic library and does not include downloads from other agency websites. The highest number of downloads to date has come from the United States (with more than 38 000 downloads over 5 years), followed by Switzerland, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Georgia, suggesting higher interaction with INSPIRE in high income countries.

Figure 2: Cumulative number of downloads of the INSPIRE core document



In particular, CSO, NGO and academic institutions' commitment to making INSPIRE materials available in local languages indicates an allocation of both time and resources to ensuring that INSPIRE is accessible. With the support of CSOs and academic partners working at the national and regional levels, INSPIRE has been translated into Armenian, Azerbaijani, Bulgarian, Georgian, Khmer, Portuguese, Serbian, and Ukrainian, in addition to Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish, and Russian, making the core document available in a total of 14 languages.

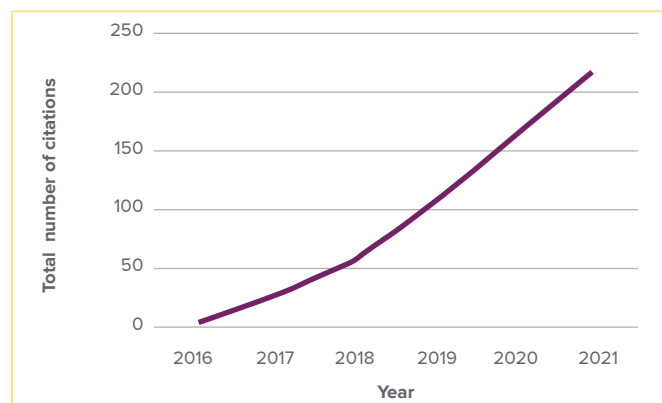
Cross-referencing

More important than the number of downloads from the WHO website is the enormous amount of cross-referencing in other topical areas and on other websites. Large agencies such as UNICEF, UNODC, UNESCO, CDC and World Vision regularly mention INSPIRE in their strategy documents and communication products. Also, technical guidance from other topical areas refers to INSPIRE, ranging from early childhood development and adolescent care to the prevention of violence against women and child protection in humanitarian settings.

Academic citations

INSPIRE has also been adopted by scholars and academics working to prevent and respond to violence against children. Since its publication in July 2016, when it was cited six times in the academic literature captured by Google Scholar, the annual number of INSPIRE core document citations has steadily increased to reach a cumulative total of 218 citations as of November 2021 (see Figure 2 and Table 1).

Figure 2: Cumulative citations of INSPIRE technical package since 2016.



Source: Google Scholar

Table 1: Citations of INSPIRE core document by year.

Year	Number of citations per year
2016	6
2017	22
2018	30
2019	46
2020	54
2021	60
Total	218

Source: Google Scholar

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