

**Mission Report: 1<sup>st</sup> INSPIRE Regional Workshop in San Salvador, El Salvador – 12-15 November 2019**  
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**Summary**

From 12 to 15th of November in San Salvador, government representatives from 9 countries - Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Dominican Republic, Cuba, and from 4 different sectors - Health, Justice, Social Protection and Education - attended the 1st INSPIRE Regional Workshop in Latin America for Central America, Mexico and the Spanish speaking Caribbean.

The Workshop was organized by the Global Partnership together with regional offices from PAHO, Save the Children, Together for Girls, UNICEF and UNODC. The organization of the event was a coordinated effort where all partners provided financial and technical support and shared their experience and country knowledge of programmes, policies and networks.

It was the first of three workshops the partners are organizing in Latin America to cover the different countries and sub-regional contexts. The 1st INSPIRE Workshop focused on the adaptation of the INSPIRE 7 strategies to pressing issues in the sub-region, such as gang and armed violence, education, physical and sexual violence and migration.

For the first time, an INSPIRE workshop was held entirely in Spanish, which is an important step towards dissemination of the INSPIRE Package to non-English speaking countries. All programmes presented were from participating countries to stimulate horizontal cooperation and exchange. Although they were all considered reference programmes nationally or regionally, most of them have not been evaluated yet and there was a strong call for the importance of programme evaluations in the region throughout the event.

The next Workshop is planned to take place in Colombia in May 2020 for South American countries - Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname Venezuela, Uruguay – plus Jamaica and Haiti.

**I. Objectives of the mission**

<p><b>Objective 1</b></p>	<p>Present and sensitize government representatives of countries in the Region on INSPIRE 7 Strategies to end violence against children and present successful programmes, policies and experiences from the region.</p>
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<b>Objective 2</b>	Presente the work of End Violence and the concept of Pathfinding Countries and moderate experience sharing discussions between pathfinding Honduras, Mexico, El Salvador.
<b>Objective 3</b>	Hold individual and group meeting with representatives of Pathfinding countries Honduras, Mexico and El Salvador to plan next steps.

## II. Overall evaluation of the mission

The Workshop was organized by the Global Partnership together with PAHO, Save the Children, Together for Girls, UNICEF, UNODC offices in the region. It was a coordinated effort and all partners provided financial and technical support to the organization of the event, sharing their experience and country knowledge of programmes, policies and networks. The coordination with partners to organize the event was an invaluable asset and we hope the workshop inaugurated a regional network to work together and advance action within the various countries.

With a clear objective to overcome the language barrier and to bring INSPIRE closer to the reality of the region, the Workshop was entirely delivered in Spanish and all programmes presented were from the sub-region. Most of the programmes presented have not been through proper evaluation processes yet and this became a point of attention throughout the workshop and the importance of evaluation and the use of evidence-based programmes was discussed repeatedly. It was fully agreed that the sub-region does not have the practice of evaluating programmes and this is something we – government and partners - should work together to change.

The Workshop received a very positive feedback from participants and engagement was permanent throughout it. The high quality of guiding questions and country-by-country presentations passed a clear message of interest, attention and engagement with the contents discussed at its highest. Most participants did not know INSPIRE before the workshop and received with enthusiasm its strategies and the way it is organized to stimulate intersectorial work, as well as the programmes presented.

Because of the profile of the sub-region and of the participants, who were mostly representatives from government, it was also interesting to see how often questions and reflection about the scalability of programmes as public policies, as well as concerns related to adaptation and its costs, were raised. This is a point which should be more robustly discussed with this kind of audience, reflecting about experiences of scalability, pre-conditions, methodologies, different policy designs, etc.

Related to the agenda, the workshop started with the presentation of the Manifesto Against Violence created by children and adolescents from El Salvador participants of the Plan Z Programme. After their powerful presentation, End Violence Ex Comm member and WHO Director of Social Determinants of Health, Etienne Krug talked about accelerating action to end violence against children. The regional context was

presented by Esther Ruiz, representing UNICEF LACRO, who discussed the overall context of violation of right of children and adolescents in the sub-region, UNODC representative Antonino de Leo sent a video discussing the high rates of homicide in the sub-region and OIM El Salvador representative Ugo Ramos talked about the realities of migration in the sub-region.

The programmes presented per INSPIRE strategy were a mix of government and CSO programmes from almost all 9 countries. There was a mix of programmes to contemplate, when feasible, priority matters in the region: gang and armed violence, school, physical and sexual violence and migration. There was also 3 presentation on online violence prevention (and the presence of at least 2 Fund Grantees – UNICEF Rep Dom and PANIAMOR from Costa Rica).

Besides the presentation of the 7 INSPIRE strategies, the agenda had also thematic pannels on:

- coordinating action with civil society (national and global perspective with presentations of the experience of El Salvador and from Joining Forces);
- Uptake, Adaptation and Scaling up of INSPIRE Programmes by Regina Benevides from CDC;
- End Violence and the experience of Pathfinding countries Mexico, Honduras and El Salvador;
- Country-by-country presentations of priorities;
- Sector-by-sector (health, education, justice and social protection) discussions of priorities and challenges and sharing experiences;
- Thematic discussions on gang and armed violence, school, physical and sexual violence and migration.

End Violence leaded, together with UNICEF LACRO, the organization of the event and shared its experience on organizing similar workshops. Safe to Learn Campaign was presented to participants, as well as the School-based Violence Prevention Practical Handbook. The EVAC Fund was mentioned and praised by some participants as well.

The organization of the 1<sup>st</sup> INSPIRE Workshop in Latin America presented some initial challenges listed below and provided important lessons learnt, which are discussed in the next session:

- Funding availability (the 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop was fully funded by the Organizers, but there is no funds yet for the next 2 workshops planned for the region)
- Partner engagement in the organization of the event (which partners to engage; how to keep the organizing group functioning; etc)
- Coordination of partners in the direct organization of the event (lengthy decision processes and responses, numerous revisions of materials, unclear definition of responsibilities and contributions)
- Unavailability of End Violence and INSPIRE training materials printed in Spanish
- Scarce evaluated programmes in the region
- Unbalanced participation of civil society from 9 countries – lack of funds to sponsor their participation and prioritization of Government x Civil Society in the conceptualization of the Workshop

- Unavailability of speakers in a busy period of the year (CRC Anniversary and various other concomitant events directed to the same audience)

### III. Lessons Learnt and next steps

<p><b>Planning Process</b></p>	<p>The workshop planning began in January 2019 with discussions with UNICEF HQ and Regional Office. Around May/June, other partners were invited to participate, in July the concept note was finalized in English and it was translated to Spanish in August. In the end of September/October planning meetings became more intense.</p> <p>Although we had enough time to organize the workshop, some important definitions in the concept note, save the date, final list of participants, agenda and speakers took longer than anticipated and exceeded their deadlines. All organizing partners were consulted and feedback throughout the process. End Violence and UNICEF LACRO led the planning, consolidation and overall coordination process.</p> <p>For future workshops, it is very important to be more strict with deadlines and to have earlier definitions from each organization on participants (from the Organization itself and from country's partners), sponsorship and contributions.</p> <p>Lessons Learnt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Earlier engagement of relevant regional actors (BID, WB, Regional bodies such as relevant commissions of Mercosul for example)</li> <li>- Other relevant partners were left out of the conversation and should be contacted for the next workshops</li> <li>- Broader engagement with Civil Society through the CSO Coalition and VAC focal points in each country</li> <li>- Collective planning calendar with steps and deadlines and strictly follow the deadlines</li> <li>- Earlier planning meeting with national key actors such as UNICEF CO Child Protection person, CSO Coalition Focal Point to identify country priorities, reference programmes and Government invitees.</li> <li>- Earlier invitation of speaker</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agenda</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Less programmes per INSPIRE Strategy</li> <li>- Less is more: detailed presentation of reference programmes (rather than having many short presentations)</li> <li>- More cross-cutting sessions such as financing EVAC programmes</li> <li>- Keep the working sessions per country, per theme and sector but intercalate it with strategy presentations</li> <li>- Depending on the priorities of the region, have more structured panels on relevant themes such as migration,</li> </ul>

	armed violence, desinstitutionalization; and on cross-cutting issues such as VAC data and alternatives of methods to collect them, for example.
<b>Participants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep focus on 4 sectors (health, education, Justice and Social Protection) participating in the Workshop</li> <li>- Invite more CSO representatives/per country to participate (at least one representative)</li> <li>- Have partner (UNICEF, PAHO, UNODC, Save the Children, TfG) representatives from each country to also support the follow up process</li> <li>- Engage earlier with Pathfinder focal points to enhance their participation in the workshop sharing their learnings and experiences</li> <li>- Aim for a mix of high level participation with relevant technical people</li> </ul>
<b>INSPIRE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have INSPIRE Package translated and printed in Spanish</li> <li>- Enhance INSPIRE Implementation and dissemination by identifying and systematizing INSPIRE resources, networks and programmes available in Spanish (speakers, reference programmes, experts, programme evaluated)</li> <li>- URGENT: Regional TOT for partner organizations and other strategic individuals to create a training network in the region</li> </ul>

#### IV. Bilateral meeting with Pathfinder Countries

Follow up email have been sent to all 3 pathfinding countries based on discussions held during the workshop. For more information, please contact [cassia.carvalho@end-violence.org](mailto:cassia.carvalho@end-violence.org)

#### V. Links to reference materials

All presentations and materials of the Workshop have been shared with participants and are available at:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fJehBpEKHqw67VGaB5hk6\\_YcljEv\\_QUt](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fJehBpEKHqw67VGaB5hk6_YcljEv_QUt)