Taking Action Together for Children

Civil Society Coalitions in Pathfinding Countries & Pathfinding in Discussion Countries

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Abstract

Collective Actions of Civil Society to End Violence against Children

The Civil Society Forum to End Violence against Children, a coalition of 15 member organisations, advocates for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)16.2 and other SDG targets to end violence against children. This report highlights the collective actions of more than 398 national, regional and international civil society organisations to end violence against children in 17 Pathfinding countries and 8 countries in discussion to become Pathfinding.

Summary of main findings and priorities

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Executive Summary

The Civil Society Forum to End Violence against Children (CSO Forum) is a broad coalition of civil society organisations operating at the national, regional and global levels to advocate for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.2 and other SDG targets to end violence against children. The Forum, counting more than 15 member organisation, operates in support of End Violence – The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. This report captures some of the collective actions of national and international civil society organisations (CSOs) in seventeen (17) Pathfinding countries and eight (8) Pathfinding in Discussion countries to promote the protection of children from all forms of violence.

This report captures activities of more than 398 CSOs (including national offices of global CSOs) across 17 Pathfinding countries. The largest networks of CSOs include 73 CSOs in Romania, 100 CSO partners in Mexico and 161 CSO partners in Zimbabwe. The collective impact of their activities at the national level help to increase accountability, support transparency and foster inclusion of participation of children and their communities. This report demonstrates how civil society is acting collectively and in partnership with governments, private sector, media, faith leaders, communities and children.

The greatest contributions of civil society has been in creating spaces for meaningful participation of children at all levels of decision making: from the local district administrations to influencing the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to speaking out at the Solutions Summit. The members of the CSO Forum recognize children’s participation as one of the greatest challenges and most significant opportunities in achieving SDG 16.2 and other VAC related targets. However, meaningful child participation is not only a responsibility of civil society organisations. Governments, international agencies and partners must facilitate the creation of institutional frameworks and mechanisms as well as increase the investment to ensure meaningful inclusion of children.

Civil society organisations have been playing a key role in supporting engagement in Pathfinding countries, as well as supporting efforts in countries that are in the process of becoming Pathfinding. Collective actions in many countries built upon the shared learning and momentum generated at the Solutions Summit. In all its actions, civil society promoted the utilisation of the evidence-based frameworks to end violence against children and INSPIRE package. Several reports note contributions to development of National Plans of Action. Additional advocacy successes are achieved through partnerships with private companies and media, including large scale advocacy initiatives and campaigns engaging the role of traditional and social media, for instance in Armenia and Zimbabwe.

The report shows that implementation of SDG 16.2 and other targets related to ending violence against children can be significantly accelerated through participatory and inclusive processes that leave no one behind. Key opportunities for the movement to end violence against children include formalising structures and mechanisms for children’s participation and increasing capacity of local civil society organisations to lead the way forward together.
I. Background
The CSO Forum to End Violence against Children (CSO Forum) is a coalition of civil society organisations operating at the national, regional and global levels to advocate for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16.2 to end violence against children. The Forum seeks to facilitate inclusive, effective and accountable engagement from civil society organisations in End Violence - The Global Partnership to End Violence against Children (End Violence). The strength of this movement is through a dedication to open and transparent collaboration among partner organisations, horizontally and vertically. The CSO Forum intentionally convenes a diverse coalition of large child focused agencies, regional networks, and smaller civil society organisations with thematic and/or regional expertise with a purpose of securing broad-based representation in the operation of the Global Partnership, its governance and Fund.

Through collective advocacy, CSOs contribute to knowledge development and sharing, engage children and communities to demand action to end VAC through social accountability models, raise public awareness, and inform national policy to protect the rights of all girls and boys in all circumstances. CSO coalitions work together to also drive change at the global level on ending all forms of violence against children.

CSOs engagement focused on accelerating action to end violence against children at the national level by demanding accountability for the implementation of SDGs 16.2 and related targets through:

- The adaptation and implementation of INSPIRE\(^1\) and other evidenced-based interventions at national level;\(^2\)
- Support for the implementation of road maps, national plans of actions and other interventions to accelerate progress to end VAC, especially in pathfinding countries;
- Joint advocacy on issues/interventions that are not included in the national plans of action but which are considered relevant to advance the agenda (i.e. on legal reform)
- Coordination of our field interventions/presence in violence prevention and response, to ensure all key areas/groups of a country are included;
- Jointly bringing to the forefront the voices of the most excluded children and families;
- Joint inputs to national policy processes;\(^3\)
- Coordinating social accountability actions in the field, to allow increasing numbers of communities and children to demand essential violence prevention and response services and monitor their performance.
- Convening networks and coalitions, supporting national accountability mechanisms, and facilitating involvement of diverse stakeholders, including the private sector, children and their communities.\(^4\)

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\(^1\) INSPIRE presents a Package of Seven Strategies, based on the best available evidence, to help countries and communities intensify their efforts to prevent and respond to violence against children: http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/inspire/en/

\(^2\) The contributions to this report also build on the commitments of the CSO Forum members in the strategy Accelerating Joint Efforts to End Violence against Children (April 2017).

\(^3\) Joint advocacy to ensure that national child protection systems have interventions that addresses the protection needs of refugee and migrant children.

\(^4\) For example the Toward a Safe World for Children: Child-Friendly Accountability and SDG Target 16.2 (developed by ChildFund Alliance) an initiative that will work with and empower children to hold governments and local leaders accountable to their obligations to end all violence against children, as per Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 16.2.
From its formation in 2016, the CSO Forum has actively invested resources to elevate the voices of children, create spaces and advocate for meaningful participation of children at all levels, including with the Global Partnership, at the Solutions Summit in 2018 and throughout the Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes.

This report focuses on civil society collective action in seventeen (17) Pathfinding countries: Armenia, Brazil, El Salvador, Georgia, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda. In addition, updates are provided from eight countries that are in the process of becoming Pathfinding: Cambodia, Guatemala, Lebanon, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Inputs to this report were submitted voluntarily by national, regional and global civil society organisations; the CSO Forum Coordinator collated and compiled the information received. In respect for the diverse voices of contributing CSOs, minimal editing has been applied to give the report sections consistency. This document is not exhaustive of all activities, but offers a snapshot of recent movements, points to the challenges ahead, and explores key opportunities for the future.


Photo credit: End Violence, Solutions Summit 2018
II. Joint civil society actions in Pathfinding Countries

1. **Armenia:** In February 2017, ten major child-focused organisations came together to support a campaign on ending violence against children, along with the two media companies Lratvakan (News) Radio and Yerkir Media TV. The partners jointly developed the campaign action plan and a draft campaign narrative which presents the goals and objectives, targets and messages of the campaign, child participation principles and etc. Campaign media products have been developed including the campaign symbol and the name, posters with children’s messages, infographic video with statistics on child abuse, one pager on initiative, one pagers on signs of abuse and parenting tips, and a music video promoting love, not violence. The campaign has a website (www.mankutyun.am) and social media pages.

On July 4th, 2018 the Partners revisited the action plan for the up-coming year to include actions aimed at supporting the Government of Armenia in leading the Pathfinding process. Some illustrative examples of activities undertaken by the coalition under the joint campaign include:

- Campaign on June 1st to speak out about bullying and its consequences for children;
- Advocacy to prevent unethical publications/ broadcasts via media channels that engage children (media conferences, official letter to the Radio and TV Commission of Armenia demanding to monitor how media illustrate children in their programs, participation/ contribution in development of media monitoring standards and etc.);
- Public messages aimed at rights of children to participate in decision making process and peaceful demonstrations;
- Advocacy aimed at adoption of the Law on Domestic Violence in Armenia (messages to decision makers, participation in legislative discussion, etc.).

2. **Brazil:** A group of 15 CSOs, convened by the Alana Institute, have convened since November 2017 and formed a coalition to support the Global Partnership with the specific objective to convince the government to become Pathfinding. CSOs organized formal acts and delivered letters to key ministries, garnering significant media coverage. The result is that Brazil became a Pathfinding country formally in June 2018.

3. **El Salvador:** In 2018, the national chapter of the regional Movimiento Mundial por la Infancia (MMI-LAC) was reactivated by six child-focused agencies under the initiative ‘Joining Forces to End Violence Against Children’. The collective was expanded in an effort to bring together a wider group of CSOs active in the country. CSOs met with the Consejo Nacional de la Ninfey Adolescencia (CONNA) the acting focal point for End Violence, State institutions, UNICEF and other stakeholders, and agreed to a public launch of End Violence on July 24, 2018. The event was chaired by the President of the Republic of El Salvador. In this launch, CSOs and others signed a letter of understanding with the State, with which they commit to join efforts and work on concrete actions to eliminate all forms of violence against children, supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, CSOs will be working with all the End Violence stakeholders on the national road map to end violence.

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5 The ten organisations include Child Protection Network, Children of Armenia Fund, Child Support Center of the Fund for Armenian Relief, Civil Society Institute, Family and Community NGO, Ombudsman Institute, Save the Children, SOS Children’s Villages, UNICEF, and World Vision.

6 The six international NGOs are Educo Foundation (ChildFund), Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children’s Villages, Terre des Hommes, and World Vision.
In addition, a coalition of national and international civil society organisations, in partnership with UNODC, and representatives from the government of El Salvador, private internet companies, and local law enforcement are working together to support the government in adopting a process to remove child sexual abuse material from the internet. The convening of the multi-stakeholder consultations began in February 2018, following the Solutions Summit, and will culminate with the launch of a reporting solution for online child sexual abuse material later in 2018.⁷

4. **Georgia:** A new National Human Rights Plan, which contains a child rights and ending violence plan as well, has been drafted to be signed by a decree of the Prime Minister by the end of January 2018. The plan includes the country’s commitment to become a Pathfinding country. Once approved, it forms the basis for a formal government announcement. CSOs had a direct input into the drafting of the plan under the leadership of one of the members of the CSO coalition.

5. **Indonesia:** The Indonesia CSO Alliance on EVAC (Aliansi PKTA) brings together all major NGOs working to end violence. They have been working closely with the Government and UNICEF in the Pathfinding process, for instance to identify best practices to submit ahead of the Solutions Summit in November 2017. The Alliance supported the participation of child delegates to the Solutions Summit in February 2018, and the World Health Organisation (WHO) 8th Milestone Meeting on Violence Prevention in October 2017.

Aliansi PKTA was formally launched by the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection in May 2018. The Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection provided in 2018 a dedicated physical space free of charge at the Ministry Office where CSOs can come together and convene with other stakeholders. Aliansi PKTA worked closely with Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, Ministry of National Planning and Development, Coordinating Ministry of Human Development and Culture and UNICEF to advocate for the regulation adopting the **National Strategy on EVAC** to be formally signed by the Coordinating Ministry. At a sub-national level, Aliansi PKTA members work with their respective partners (local government, local NGOs, children’s groups) to support the implementation of the National Strategy on EVAC and develop the Provincial Action Plan on SDGs Target 16.2.

In 2018, Aliansi PKTA established a website, developed a book of civil society’s good practices to end violence against children, and ensured that civil society’s activities were formally included in the National Action Plan on SDGs Target 16.2. Aliansi PKTA has distributed information through social media on online sexual violence, parents/caregivers’ guidance, child marriage, child trafficking, digital literacy, and other issues. It also published articles in mainstream media about the children who attended the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention Meeting in Canada and the Solutions Summit in Sweden.

6. **Japan:** The GPEVAC Japan Forum brings together nine key Japanese NGOs focused on SDG16.2.⁸ The Forum was extremely successful in their advocacy with the Japanese Government: at the Solutions Summit in February 2018, Japan announced that it was becoming a Pathfinding country, and that it would allocate 6 million USD to fund the humanitarian pillar of the GP Fund. On April 27th,

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⁷ This activity is supported by a grant of the Global Fund EVAC to the Internet Watch Foundation. More information on the Portal launch and roundtable meeting available at www.iwf.org.uk

⁸ The nine CSOs are ACE, Child Fund Japan, C-Rights, Human Rights Now, Human Rights Watch, Plan International Japan, Save the Children Japan, Japan Committee for UNICEF, and World Vision Japan.
the GPeVAC Japan Forum held a public seminar on Solutions Summit together with MOFA and UNICEF, with around 90 participants from ministries, CSOs, academics and private sector.

7. **Mexico:** The EVAC CSO coalition organised a national Forum on 17 January with more than 100 organisations to discuss and present CSO solutions to end violence, and inform the key messages from Mexican civil society to the Solution Summit (agenda available [here](#)). CSOs conducted a series of child participation workshops using a common methodology across 10 Mexican states in February/March, culminating in a national meeting of child representatives in April. Using the proposals drafted by the children, a sensitization campaign was created; the proposals will be officially entrusted to the new government in August 2018.

The members of the EVAC coalition have also been part and driving the movement #MxporlaNiñez which brings together more than 100 CSOs in Mexico, promoting a national dialogue around the Agenda of Childhood and Adolescence during the electoral period and political transition of the federal government in México (2018-2024). Nine commitments to children and adolescents (two of which focused on violence against children) were put to public debate. On the 30th of April, presidential candidates Margarita Zavala, Ricardo Anaya, Jose Antonio Meade and Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (the latter now president elect of México) declared their public commitment to the movement #MxporlaNiñez, and shared their childhood experience, their perspective on the topic and committed to continue the dialogue and coordination after the general elections on the 1st of July. The event garnered significant attention by the media.

8. **Mongolia:** Young Voices survey conducted in 2017 of 1250 high school children provided strong evidence on VaC in schools and at home which children’s CSOs used to advocate to the Mayor and Council of Ulaanbaatar (where half of Mongolia’s population resides) for better information and services for children at risk. The Young Voices survey and report resulted in the Council accepting revised procedures for its engagement with young people. A group of Mongolian NGOs, including the National Network for Child Protection and the National Network to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor, challenged the government’s decision to lift the ban on child jockeys racing in high risk winter conditions. Over the year, the group’s legal actions, lobbying and media campaigns brought about widespread public support for the ban which resulted in the government reinstating it and pledging to put children’s safety before commercial exploitation.

In addition, Mongolia has organized International Spank-out Day on April 30 every year since 2006. In 2017, nine targeted communities (known as soums/baghs/khoroos, and organized as the lowest administrative units in urban and rural areas) initiated activities for raising public awareness. This campaign directly reached a total of 5,942 children and 7,263 parents. In addition, TV spots, social media information were broadcasted nationwide.

9. **Nigeria:** In 2017, UNICEF supported the Government of Nigeria in its first baseline assessment of child protection expenditure, the Child Protection Financial Benchmark, and started analysing the costs and budgets of child protection services; results should be available in the first quarter of 2018. These studies materialize the presidential commitment made in the Road Map and are expected to inform the development of a sound budget for the implementation of the Priority Actions. The Nigeria Government along with Civil Society Organisations, including Religious groups developed a comprehensive national plan to end VAC with an associated timeline, budget, identification of clear responsibilities and national targets in view of the baseline obtained from the VAC Survey.
10. **Paraguay:** A coalition of child-focused agencies signed a cooperation agreement with the National Secretariat of Childhood and Adolescence to provide technical support and develop actions to implement SDG 16.2 and related targets. These agencies have worked closely with the government and civil society, including children, to develop the Paraguay Action Plan to End Violence Against Children. The Action Plan was submitted to End Violence and launched in Paraguay at a public event at the Foreign Affairs auditorium in August 2017 as one of the key activities during the month of children’s rights. Two adolescents from the National Network of Children and Adolescents (REDNNA) represented Paraguay at the 8th Milestones meeting of the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention Meeting in Ottawa, hosted by the Government of Canada and WHO in October 2017.

In May 2018, an international seminar on child and adolescent participation and the eradication of violence against them “Toward compliance with SDG 16.2 and related targets” was held. Together with REDNNA, the National Secretariat of Childhood and Adolescence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay, SDG 2030 Paraguay Commission, the National Commission for the Prevention and Integral Attention to Children and Adolescents of Paraguay, ChildFund Alliance, the Inter-American Institute for Children and Adolescents (IIN OAS), the Global Movement for Childhood of Latin American and Caribbean (MMI-LAC) and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. At the end, organizers and supported organisations signed a statement to disseminate and replicate the initiatives and processes presented in the seminar within the Latin America and Caribbean region. It also urged regional bodies such as Mercosur (Common Market of the South) and the Organisation of American States to promote the status of Pathfinding country among their member countries and promote, by both governments and civil society, a process for the creation of a regional network for Latin America and the Caribbean for the eradication of violence against children with the active participation of children and adolescents.

Paraguay is an active member of the Permanent Commission of the NiñoSur Initiative from Mercosur. Paraguay, as President Pro Tem of the bloc, hosted the XXXI Meeting of Human Rights Authorities of Mercosur RAADHH in June 2018, where CSOs, including children and adolescents organized through REDNNA, presented advances and their experiences on ending violence against children, a topic that is strongly promoted by Paraguay at these events. This provided a favourable setting to establish in the Mercosur Agenda the importance of creating a Network of the Americas in pursuit of compliance with SDG 16.2 and related targets, and promote the state of Pathfinding country status among the member states of Mercosur.

In July 2018, Paraguay was one of the 48 countries to present its Voluntary National Review (VNR) during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) at the UN. Civil society successfully incorporated details of progress on SDG 16.2. The report on the Pathfinding status of Paraguay and main achievements toward SDG 16.2 on pages 28 and 29 (the table is a summary of a document that we at the CO prepared and presented at the May 30th international event). The report also includes as an annex the 16.2.1. SDG indicator (page 90) and the children’s participation in following up on the 20 commitments signed by the President of the nation (pages 96 and 97). On 16 August 2018 (Children’s Day), as his first act of government, elected President Mario Abdo Benítez ratified the 20 commitments in favour of children and adolescents, signed as candidate in a process promoted by more than 20 organisations from civil society.

11. **Peru:** A collective of 25 CSOs have been working together to advocate with Congress on the financing for ending violence against children. In September 2017, six CSOs came together as ‘Grupo

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9 The coalition includes Christian Children’s Fund of Canada (CCFC), SOS Children’s Villages, and UNICEF.
Impulsor Peru Pais Pionero para poner fin a la violencia contra la ninez’ and sent an official letter to the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations and to UNICEF, to request that Peru becomes a Pathfinding country. In January 2018, the same six organisations sent another letter to request the Minister’s attendance to the Solutions Summit. A best practices/solutions workshop was organised on February 2nd by CSOs ahead of the Solutions Summit, to discuss the INSPIRE framework and local solutions to end violence (a report from this event is available here). On April 12, CSO organised another workshop to share the outcomes of the Solutions Summit and discuss the application of INSPIRE into the Peruvian context. The coalition of CSOs grew to 16 organisations. Due to the recent changes in the government, the coalition re-sent to all the key Ministries a new letter providing information about End Violence and INSPIRE, and requesting the acceleration of actions to end violence. On June 12, 2018, members of the collective met with the Vice Minister of Vulnerable Populations to get information about Peru’s progress towards becoming a Pathfinding country. The focal points are the Vice Minister of Vulnerable Populations and the Director General of Children and Adolescents of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations. The CSO collective proposed an outline and ideas for the drafting of the action plan, including how CSOs will contribute to its preparation.

12. The Philippines: The Civil Society Coalition on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CSC-CRC), an alliance of 19 local and international child rights organisations, in collaboration with Social Watch Philippines, is conducting in 2018 a baseline study of public investment for child protection systems at the local level. The study aims to contribute to benchmarking and identifying indicators for measuring and assessing the application of the budgeting principles for child rights. The indicators will facilitate future assessments and impact studies on the effectiveness, efficiency, equity, transparency and sustainability of public investment in children. The study takes place in the municipalities of Roxas, in Zamboanga del Norte, and Malabon City, in Metro Manila, covering both rural and urban settings. The research will also endeavour to identify gaps and recommendations in public investment for children, and provide technical assistance to concerned Local Government Unit (LGU). The latter are mandated to allocate at least 1% of their Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) for child protection programs and services. On the occasion of the launch of the Philippines Plan of Action to End Violence against Children 2017-2022, in May 2018, CSC-CRC released a statement of support for the implementation and localization of the plan.

13. Romania: The Federation of NGOs for Child Protection (FONPC), representing 73 member CSOs, has been disseminating information about ending violence against children, the End Violence Global Partnership, and the CSO Forum to a variety of national audience and using TV, press and social media. It convened the national conference ‘Accelerating Joint Efforts to Stop Violence Against Children at National Level’ on 22 November 2017, with central and local authorities, civil society, the University of Bucharest, private companies, children and youth (agenda and speakers here). The conference was uploaded to Facebook and reached over 2,313 people; news about the conference also appeared in online media from the Social Assistance General Directorate. In addition, a brief video from the conference was created by the students from Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest. FONPC has mobilised its members to help the government conduct the self-assessment required as part of the Pathfinding process. In particular, more than 30 NGOs members of FONPC responded to a questionnaire designed to gather data on existing programmes to prevent and respond to violence. A Working Group was initiated between FONPC, the National Authority for Child Rights Protection and Adoption (NACRPA), UNICEF, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of

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10 The six CSOs include Acción por los ninos, Fundacion Anar, Save the Children, SOS Children’s Villages, Warma Pura and World Vision.
Education, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Agency for Equal Opportunities. Three workshops discussed, inter alia, how the group could influence public policies to end violence against children; it was agreed to establish a National Coordination Platform in the field of child protection against all forms of violence and to develop a joint Action Plan to be adopted by the NACRPA and/or by the whole government. The Executive Director of FONPC has appeared on various media channels such as ProTV and TVR1, where she discussed about the importance of a solid partnership between CSOs, authorities and other actors in order to eradicate or minimise violent acts against children.

14. South Africa:
The Government of South Africa submitted their interest in becoming a Pathfinding country in December 2017, with the Minister of Social Development, Susan Shabangu, appointed as focal point. As part of implementing the recommendations from the Stockholm Solutions Summit, the Department of Social Development (DSD), in consultation with stakeholders and civil society, adopted to use the INSPIRE model for structure of the revised National Plan of Action for Children. The department noted that the previous three-year Programme of Action was never officially launched, nor was it fully implemented, and had not been consulted broadly with civil society, nor had it reflected the views of children themselves. To address these shortcomings, the DSD convened a consultation process with national childcare and protection stakeholders to plan, deliver and evaluate interventions implemented in country.

On 16 and 17 May 2018, thirty (30) representatives from non-governmental organisations (NGOs), government departments, international organisations and the research community gathered for the sixth meeting of the Dialogue Forum for evidence-based programmes to prevent violence against women and children. To address violence against children and issues concerning fragmentation in the sector, the forum has sparked the development of numerous working groups on topics such as policy mapping, implementation research, advocacy and positive parenting. The Dialogue Forum, in response to South Africa agreeing to be a Pathfinder country, and under the partnership with the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, UNICEF, Save the Children, International Social Services, Media Monitoring Africa, and the Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), launched a two-year campaign:

- To raise awareness about the problem of violence against children, why it must be prevented, and how it can be prevented.
- To engage political parties and members of parliament ahead of the 2019 elections about the importance of including the prevention of VAC in their election manifestos.
- To raise awareness about the problem of VAC amongst senior policy makers and stimulate commitment to ensuring the scale-up of primary and secondary violence prevention interventions.
- To bring together a broad consortium of NGOs, INGOs, policy makers and academics to undertake activities to raise awareness about VAC.
- The partners invited organisations that work to prevent violence against children to join the initiative.

15. Sri Lanka: A group of CSOs and UN agencies established a working group in 2016 to partner with the government in its attempts on EVAC. This grew to become the National Partnership to End Violence against Children (NPEVAC), launched in June 2017. CSOs come together in the National Coordinating and Action Group (NACG), advocating for the government to implement its Pathfinding commitments. CSOs supported two young delegates to attend the Solutions Summit.
16. Tanzania: Led by the Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN) and the Tanzania Child Rights Forum (TCRF), 56 CSOs in the mainland Tanzania have been actively engaged in monitoring the Government's implementation of the National Plan of Action to End Violence against Children and Women. In 2017, the CSOs had conducted an advocacy meeting with the policy decision makers, including 37 Members of Parliaments and 4 male religious and traditional leaders to put an end to child marriage. A group of 40 journalists have been well informed and become part of the movement to disseminate information and to influence the full amendment of the Law of Marriage Act in Tanzania. CSOs, together with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children (MoHCDGEC), UNICEF, and UNFPA have used different platforms such as the International Day of the African Child and the International Day of the Girl Child to work with children's clubs and the Junior Councils to address various causes that contribute to the deprivation of children rights and all forms of violence against children. A coalition of local NGOs (C-Sema and Children's Dignity Forum) and international CSOs has been partnering with telecommunications representatives, the government and the police forces of mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar to launch a Reporting Portal for online child sexual abuse material in 2017. To date, 48 CSOs have also been trained and working closely with their respective Local Government Authority (LGAs) to understand about child friendly budgeting and advocating for an increase of resource allocation and spending to better protect children from abuse and violence.

17. Uganda: Six child-focused agencies came together in February 2018 under the 'Joining Forces Initiative to End Violence Against Children' initiative. Other stakeholders of the End Violence Against Children Group include the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, national child-focused CSOs and faith based organisations (FBOs). Under the umbrella of the Uganda Child Rights NGO network (UCRNN), UNICEF and other development partners, the group is implementing the Uganda National roadmap to EVAC aligned to SDG 16.2 through the Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children (UPFC).

Current advocacy efforts also include the legislative enactment of the “Human Sacrifice Bill” to address the gaps in the existing laws on holding accountable all perpetrators involved in human and child sacrifice, the finalization of the Children Act 2016 (as amended) Regulations, implementation of the INSPIRE Strategies and ensuring child-led solutions and innovations to address VAC. In partnership with UCRNN, the JFC have planned a Child Rights Situation Analysis later in 2018 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In addition, the Rights of Young Foundation (RYF) – a coalition of Ugandan children and youth focused organisations – has supported the government and other partners, including, the National Information Technology Authority (NITA), to promote the existing Reporting Portal solution for Uganda citizens to report child sexual abuse material online.

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11 This activity is supported by a grant of the Global Fund EVAC to the Internet Watch Foundation.

12 The six international NGOs are ChildFund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, Terre des Hommes, and World Vision.
III. Joint civil society actions in Pathfinding in discussion countries

1. **Cambodia**: There has been limited progress and commitment from the Government, and new elections are expected in July 2018. A regional event on EVAC scheduled for the Autumn 2018 is expected to bring new opportunities for CSO engagement in pushing the government to action.

2. **Guatemala**: UNODC and local CSOs have been supporting the government to adopt a process to remove child sexual abuse material from the internet, through convening multi-stakeholder consultations. The launch of a reporting solution for online child sexual abuse material is expected later in 2018.

3. **Lebanon**: CSOs have been coordinating ahead of the Solutions Summit, and have had dialogues with the government. The objective is to convince the government to become Pathfinding. CSOs nominated a local organisation to attend the Summit, recognizing the calls from the government to focus on violence issues affecting Lebanese children, and not only the refugee children displaced by the Syrian conflict. As of July 2018, the Cabinet was still not established after the elections in May, which hinders advocacy with the Government.

4. **Malawi**: National CSO, Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO) is being supported in their ability to handle complaints regarding online violence against children through an online Reporting Portal for Malawi for suspected child sexual abuse imagery launched in 2018. This work is done in coalition with national and international civil society organisations, the government, private internet companies, and local law enforcement to remove child sexual abuse material from the internet.

5. **Mozambique**: A coalition of national and international civil society organisations, in partnership with UNODC, and representatives from the government, private internet companies, and local law enforcement are working together to remove child sexual abuse material from the internet through launch of an online Reporting Portal for Mozambique in 2018. This work is led by national CSO, Linha Fala Criança, to address complaints regarding online violence against children through support CSO Forum member, the Internet Watch Foundation. They launched a reporting portal for suspected child sexual abuse imagery online in 2018.

6. **Namibia**: The Reporting Portal for suspected child sexual abuse imagery online was launched in 2017 through a coalition effort of national and international CSOs, private internet companies, and government representatives. CSOs began training NAMPOL, the national police force, in 2018. The local CSO Lifeline/Childline Nambia, on behalf of the local coalition, and with support from UNICEF Namibia and the Internet Watch Foundation, is strengthening its capacity to address reports of child sexual abuse online.

7. **Zambia**: In March 2016, the Government of Zambia adopted a five-year national action plan to end child marriage. The Zambia Ending Child Marriage NGO Network was instrumental in initiating the development of the national strategy and providing input into the content. The Ministry of Gender is responsible for implementing the action plan. Through this engagement, the NGO network will be contributing to the National Strategy on ECMs in Zambia (2016 – 2021).

13 More information, including the civil society organisations advocating to end child marriage in Zambia, can be found here: https://www.girlsnobrides.org/child-marriage/zambia/
The Zambia Ending Child Marriages NGO Network is currently headed by Women and Law in Southern Africa, Research and Education Trust, and has been documenting evidence, trends and response to Ending Child Marriage (ECM) in Zambia for the past two years (2017-2018). The Network also led collaborative meetings with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Community Development, Department of Social Welfare, Department of Victim Support Unit, Save the Children, World Vision Zambia, Lakeshore Hope, Relief Zambia and churches in all 6 districts of the Western, Southern and Central provinces of Zambia. On 28 March 2018, CSOs convened a policy dialogue with officials from the Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Sport, Youth and Child Development and the Ministry of Justice on the national child protection systems and the development of policy guidelines towards ending child marriages. On the International Day of the Girl Child, 10 October 2018, some of the member CSOs plan to participate in a side event in New York on ECM; CSOs will present a study on the causes and effects of child marriages, strategies being employed, and a position paper on ending child marriage.

In addition, a nation-wide SMS campaign with the telecommunication regulator ZICTA helped launch the Reporting Portal for Zambia for suspected child sexual abuse imagery online. This effort was led by the national CSO Lifeline/Childline Zambia as part of a multi-stakeholder collaboration with CSOs, government officials, and private companies. This helped to spark a meeting convened by civil society with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and the Zambia High Commissioner to the UK in September 2018 to advance discussions for Zambia to become a Pathfinding country.

8. **Zimbabwe**: Civil society organisations coalesced around a 3-year campaign to End Child Marriages (2016-2018). Approximately 400 boys and girls participated in the launch and the submitted their petition against child marriage to the District Administrator. Public hearings were conducted by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Women and Gender for which civil society organisations presented a written submission for the government to criminalise child marriage and to prioritise harmonisation of laws that protect children from child marriage. The Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation covered several stories of the campaign on the television news bulletins. The event was attended by delegates from across Zimbabwe, including the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare who committed to work together to end violence against children.

The Child Rights Coalition of Zimbabwe conducted a breakfast meeting on 12 June 2018. A total of 17 member organisations, including Faith Based Organisations, local NGOs and International NGOs attended the breakfast meeting themed, “Leave no child behind” in line with the theme for the Day of the African Child. The Office of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare joined the occasion. A total of 28 Junior Parliamentarians and Junior Councillors presented issues affecting children which centred on violence of children in communities including child marriages, sexual abuse and exploitation as well as physical and sexual violence against unaccompanied children on the move. The Government committed to review and act upon the issues presented by children and called upon civil society to join in the action.

The Child Rights Coalition’s 161 members continue to lobby and advocate for re-alignment of all children’s laws to the national constitution. The coalition entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Zimbabwe Broadcasting Cooperation to enable for an increase in children’s

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14 CSOs include the Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED), Childline, Development Aid from People to People (DAPP), Save the Children, World Vision, and Zimbabwe Aids Prevention Support Organisation (ZAPSO).
voices being heard through the public broadcaster. Public broadcasting staff were trained on child
safe guarding and were sensitised on the Children's Act 5:06.