Summary

The Civil Society Organisations Forum to End Violence against Children (CSO Forum) is a group of civil society organisations working together to deliver greater impact through collective CSO action to end violence against children. As a key constituency in the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (End Violence), CSOs can contribute significantly to the achievement of the strategic goals of End Violence and the CSO Forum exists to support this. The key objectives of the grant included:

1) Growing the movement to end violence against children by: expanding and diversifying the CSO movement to end violence at national, regional and global level (End Violence strategy: Grow demand for change).

2) Strengthening capacity of CSOs to mobilize and demand an end to all forms of violence against children, including through engaging with governments in Pathfinding and Pathfinding-in-discussion countries (End Violence strategy: Equip practitioners).

3) Building capacity with CSOs and CSO Coordinators from Pathfinding countries.
Introduction

CSO Forum is strengthening movement and will to end violence at all levels, in Pathfinding countries and other countries where the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children is engaged, through:

• coordinating the dissemination of information about the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children with civil society, and to children and communities

• influencing global policy agendas to end violence against children through development of joint advocacy messages at national, regional and global level and though proactive engagement with national governments

Over the past nine months (August 2019 - April 2020), the CSO Forum EVAC has strengthened its collaboration with the End Violence Secretariat through a grant of $50,000 USD. This vital investment in broad and inclusive collective civil society actions to end violence against children focuses on two strategic pillars of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children: 1) growing the demand to end violence against children, and 2) equipping practitioners.

Results

This section outlines the results achieved during the project period, challenges encountered, and key learning from the project activities. Additional information is available upon request in the 2019 - 2020 CSO Forum workplan grant activities.

Project Indicators:

1. Increase the number of local, regional and global CSOs that are part of the CSO Forum for an expanded reach

2. Develop products to support CSO mobilization, such as webinars, reports, or call to action

3. Conduct regional trainings with key CSO coordinators in Pathfinding countries
The CSO Forum EVAC membership increased from 15 CSO member organizations at the start of the grant period, to 20 CSO member organizations by the end of the grant period, with additional new members pending. Member engagement also increased, with more than half of member organizations actively engaged in planning processes, regional outreach, translations, and/or presenting content for the regional webinars. As it is anticipated that the CSO Forum EVAC membership will continue to grow, the need emerged to review and update the CSO Forum EVAC Terms of Reference.

Key Results

- CSO Forum EVAC page on the new website for End Violence — https://www.end-violence.org/cso-forum

- Created a new CSO Forum EVAC contact form to collect contact details and information from civil society organizations interested in joining the Forum

CSO Engagement in Pathfinding Countries

The CSO Forum EVAC is dedicated to engaging with CSOs and CSO groups working together to end violence against children at the regional and national levels. CSO actions in Pathfinding countries
highlights that organizations achieve more by collaborating together than they do in isolation.

CSOs working collectively amplify and sustain the movement and will to end violence against children at all levels, in Pathfinding countries and other countries with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, through:

- coordinating the dissemination of information about the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, the Secretariat and the Fund to other parts of civil society, and to children and communities

- influencing global policy agendas to end violence against children through development of joint advocacy messages at national, regional and global level and through proactive engagement with national governments

The first level of engagement has been to identify CSO colleagues in Pathfinding and Pathfinding discussion countries.

Key Results

- Collected 209 contacts from CSO professionals working on EVAC in 28 Pathfinding Countries total; and, 28 CSO contacts in Pathfinding Countries in Discussion

- Added 86 new CSO contacts in 19 Pathfinding Countries and 8 Countries in Discussion

- Collaborated with End Violence Secretariat on CSO contact mapping in 9 focus Pathfinding Countries

- Added CSO contacts in 3 new Pathfinding Countries: Burkina Faso, France, Zimbabwe

CSO Focal Points piloted in 6 focus Pathfinding Countries

In collaboration with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, the CSO Forum EVAC are piloting CSO Focal Points in 6 focus Pathfinding Countries: Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, Philippines, and Uganda. The CSO Focal Point represents an existing group of CSOs working on EVAC at the national level, and their primary role is to facilitate information sharing and communication between
global and national levels. In addition, and per the recommendations from the GPEVAC report on *Country engagement modalities of the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children (November 2019)*, the CSO Focal Point should engage in the multi-stakeholder platform process in country.

The CSO Forum does not operate at the national level, but is comprised of Member organizations with national offices and engaged in national coalitions. The Forum seeks to connect with existing national and regional CSO networks and groups working to end violence against children. CSO Forum members identified civil society groups working collectively on EVAC in Pathfinding countries. Using the GPEVAC report recommendations, the CSO Forum outlined the role of a CSO Focal Point, and invited CSO coalitions to recommend a potential focal point in their country. The CSO Forum EVAC strived to support the democratic processes of existing, broad coalitions of civil society in Pathfinding countries. Further, this effort aims to complement existing initiatives, and taking care to not duplicate existing efforts in country.

Learning from the initial pilot with the 6 focus countries presented challenges, including how to address lack of political will, CSO coalition leadership rotation (Cambodia, Uganda), and the need for strengthened and sustained content and capacity support to CSO Focal Points. Additional timeline sensitivity was requested in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the changes in the nature of work at global and national levels.

The CSO Focal Points for 2020 in the 6 focus countries include:

- **Cambodia**: Joining Forces - Cambodia – Mr. Phally Man (Save the Children, rotating Chair)
- **Canada**: Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children - Ms. Kathy Vandergrift (Director)
- **Colombia**: Alianza por la Niñez - Ms. Gloria Carvalho (Chair)
- **Cote d’Ivoire**: Forum des ONGs - Mr. Erik Attiapo (Chair)
- **Philippines**: CRC Coalition - Philippines - Ms. Magnolia Eva J. Escobedo (Coordinator), Mr. Marc Alejo (WVI, coalition representative)
• Uganda: Uganda Child Rights Network - Mr. Damon Kamese (Chair)

Key Results

• Successful initial group call (February) with follow-up one-to-one calls (March)

• CSO Focal Points invited to participate in the CSO Regional webinars (Cambodia, Colombia); One CSO Focal Point presented (Philippines); webinar materials shared

• New Focal Point contacts by March 2020: Cambodia, Uganda

Regional Webinars on EVAC

The CSO Forum EVAC and its member organizations produced four (4) CSO Regional Webinars on Ending Violence Against Children between February and March of 2020. Expert presenters included speakers from the World Health Organization, the End Violence Secretariat, national civil society groups from 3 Pathfinding Countries, and regional updates from Latin America on EVAC. The webinars were co-hosted by member CSOs (Arigatou International, ChildFund Alliance, Educo, ECPAT, ISPCAN, Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children’s Villages, and World Vision International); two of the webinars were conducted in English, and two in Spanish. CSO Forum members presented on how to use existing international mechanisms to accelerate actions and promote SDG 16.2 and related goals and targets: Arigatou (CRC), ECPAT (UPR/VNR), World Vision (VNR). Regional webinar topics included:

• INSPIRE Strategies

• Advocacy strategies for national and global CSOs using the Committee on the Rights of the Child and Universal Periodic Review processes

• Advocacy strategies for national and global CSOs around the Voluntary National Reviews, 2020 countries
• Convention on the Rights of the Child: A faith-based perspective on child rights and violence against children

SAVE THE DATES!

CSO Webinars

The CSO Forum EVAC, in collaboration with End Violence, will host four regional webinars to bring together civil society groups from different Pathfinding countries to share information and learn from each other - including what works well, what are the challenges, and where there are opportunities to accelerate actions for SDG 16.2 in 2020.

Part 1: Connecting national to global EVAC advocacy

- Learn more about: the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, the CSO Forum EVAC, how CSOs can engage in the VNR process, and CSO collective advocacy with Alliansi PKTA in Indonesia

- 24 February, 9:00 EST / GMT -5
  - Hosted by World Vision & ChildFund Alliance/Educo
  - Offered in Spanish

- 3 March, 11:00 ICT / GMT +7
  - Hosted by ECPAT & Save the Children
  - Presentation by Alliansi PKTA - Indonesia
  - Offered in English

Part 2: CSO collective actions at the national and regional levels

- Learn more about: INSPIRE strategies, a multi-religious study of the CRC, and CSO collective actions by the CRC Coalition in the Philippines and the CRC Coalition in Mexico

- 4 March, 8:00 EST / GMT -5
  - Hosted by Arigatou, IPCAN & Plan International
  - Presentation by CRC Coalition - Philippines
  - Offered in English

- 5 March, 10:00 EST / GMT -5
  - Hosted by Childfund Alliance/Educo & SOS Children’s Villages
  - Presentation by CRC Coalition - Mexico
  - Offered in Spanish

Register here: https://forms.gle/8XyrMpYXRVeH5Yq6

• GP EVAC and Pathfinding

• 3 national CSO coalition presentations from Pathfinding countries: Indonesia, Mexico, Philippines

  - How CSOs can leverage collective actions to advocate at the national and subnational levels, including through the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children

  - Children’s participation in EVAC at the national level

  - Adequate and appropriate budgeting for child protection at the subnational level

Employing a two-pronged approach with capacity building and national CSO engagement, CSO contacts in countries increased significantly due to webinars. Members shared an active role in co-hosting, outreach, presenting and reporting activities which also strengthened CSO engagement and collaboration. In addition, advocacy materials were developed to support CSO mobilization, such as presentations, reports, and a 2020 CSO call to action.

Key Results
• 108 civil society participants registered for the 4 regional webinars, representing 37 organizations from 49 countries

• Produced 4 regional webinars for CSOs (in English and in Spanish)

• Produced 2020 VNRs: CSOs Call to Action (February)

• FAQ with End Violence for CSOs in Asia

*Collective Advocacy*

CSOs working together to end violence against children contribute to building a strong and agile Global Partnership, including through bringing together robust and unified CSO voices to the design processes, development of policies and governance of the Partnership. CSOs also facilitate cross-sector collaboration, bring in new partners such as the media or private sector, and facilitate meaningful and inclusive participation of children in decision-making processes.

The CSO Forum EVAC also has a Working Group on Safe to Learn, and participates in the Safe to Learn Technical Group. Members have input to the STL Roadmap, provided input to the discussion paper, feedback to the key messages in the context of COVID-19, and contributed to the End Violence Safe to Learn Technical Guidance for Online Learning.

*Key Results*

• Produced CSO Forum EVAC HLPF 2019 report (August)

• Contributed to the Safe to Learn Roadmap; developed CSO explainer note on Safe to Learn with End Violence Secretariat (August - September)

• CSO Forum EVAC country updates report input to the End Violence Executive Committee pre-read, November 2019

• CSO Forum EVAC joint advocacy asks incorporated into the End Violence key messages and statistics (December - January)

• Contributed CSO Forum updates to the End Violence newsletter: webinars (February) and summary (March); CSO resources for COVID-19 (March)
• Supported CSO endorsement of the Leader’s Statement on COVID-19

Opportunities and Next Steps

Support to the CSO Focal Points in the first six countries is crucial, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased risks for violence against children. The CSO Forum is assessing its capacity to support engagement of the focal points, including through continued capacity building and information sharing activities. In addition, securing support from the Global Partnership to convene at the national level, including civil society, is needed. Content development, capacity building of hard and soft skills, and strengthened remote communications will also be needed with support from the End Violence Secretariat.

With continued support from and in collaboration with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, the CSO Forum is interested to continue to identify and engage CSO Focal Points in all 29 Pathfinding countries, and to facilitate building capacity with CSOs to coordinate EVAC advocacy at the national level. Our next steps may include: a follow up webinar(s) to the 4 Regional webinars, development of a CSO Focal Points TOR, and presentation/papers to strengthen CSO coordination.

• Sustain the growth of the CSO Forum to End Violence Against Children to advocate collectively at the global level

• Leverage the Forum’s successes from the regional webinars in engaging with national CSOs during the first quarter of 2020 to grow the EVAC movement
• Support joint efforts to ensure civil society contribution to the functioning of an effective and inclusive multi-sectoral coordination group (multi-stakeholder platform) at the national level once it is established

• Explore new opportunities to engage CSOs at the national level to promote INSPIRE

• Participate in the Safe to Learn Technical Group

• Ensure CSO collective actions and learning are featured in the next Solutions Summit

• Promote meaningful and inclusive children’s participation in national, regional and global level efforts to end violence against children

• Build upon the successes of the CSO Forum EVAC collaboration with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, especially in the context of increased risks to children in the COVID-19 pandemic

Conclusion

The CSO Forum serves a vital role in facilitating information sharing, coordinating communication and strengthening the capacity of civil society to end all forms of violence against children. The Forum supports the participation of CSOs networks at country level, especially in Pathfinding countries, in coordination with regional networks. The ambition of the forum reflects the crucial role played by civil society in efforts to end violence against children at national, regional and global levels. CSOs increase and improve contribution to accelerated action at national and global levels, and demand accountability for the implementation of SDGs 16.2 and related targets through strong, inclusive, credible and influential CSO coalitions to end violence against children.

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