INSPIRE frequently asked questions

Q: What is INSPIRE and the INSPIRE technical package?

A: *INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children* is an evidence-based technical package to support countries in their efforts to prevent and respond to violence against children aged 0-17 years. Each letter of the word INSPIRE stands for one of the strategies, which are: Implementation and enforcement of laws; Norms and values; Safe environments; Parent and caregiver support; Income and economic strengthening; Response and support services; and Education and life skills.

The package includes:
- the core document describing what the INSPIRE strategies and interventions are (*INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children (2016)*);
- an implementation handbook giving details on how to implement the strategies and interventions (*INSPIRE handbook: action for implementing the seven strategies for ending violence against children (2018)*); and
- a results framework and set of indicators to monitor the prevalence of violence, risk and protective factors, and the implementation and impact of the INSPIRE strategies (*INSPIRE Indicator guidance and results framework – ending violence against children: how to define and measure change (2018)*).

Q: How were the strategies and interventions identified?

A: The strategies and most interventions included in INSPIRE were identified through reviews of the scientific literature on what works to prevent and respond to violence against children. They include interventions shown to be effective in reducing the prevalence of violence against children and risk factors for such violence, and in strengthening factors that protect against it, and preference was given to those that have been tested in low- and middle-income countries. A small number of interventions not supported by evidence but deemed by global treaties or resolutions to be critical for reducing violence against children and some demonstrated by qualitative or observational studies of promising preventive value are included. The detailed criteria for inclusion are set out in Section III of the INSPIRE core document.

Q: What is the difference between the INSPIRE core document and the handbook?

A: The core document specifies what should be done by describing the seven INSPIRE strategies and summarizes the evidence for the effectiveness of the approaches and interventions included within each strategy. The handbook provides detailed guidance on how to implement INSPIRE as whole and how to implement each of the interventions it includes.

Q: Should the INSPIRE technical package be the “go to” resource for ending violence against children?

A: The goal is to make INSPIRE universally recognized as the “go to” resource for governments, bilateral aid agencies, other UN agencies and civil society organizations that are committed to ending violence against children. The most effective public health programmes are those grounded in an evidence-based technical package. As exemplified by INSPIRE, a technical package is a selected
group of related interventions that together will achieve and sustain substantial improvements in a specific outcome. A technical package of proven interventions sharpens and focuses what otherwise might be vague commitments to “action” by agreeing to the implementation of specific interventions known to be effective. It also avoids a scattershot approach of using a large number of interventions, many of which have only a small impact.¹

Q: Who should implement the INSPIRE strategies?

A: Wherever possible, the INSPIRE strategies should be implemented by state structures. However, it is recognized that in many instances implementers will be a mix of government and non-government organizations, and in some settings may be predominantly non-government organizations. Different sectors are relevant to implementing each of the strategies and Table 1 on p.24 of the INSPIRE core document lists these sectors by strategy. Across all strategies:

- **policy-makers and legislators** are needed to build a supportive environment and generate the commitment needed for comprehensive, multisectoral action;
- **planners and technical staff** within ministries, service sectors or civil society are needed to inform national plans of action to address violence against children;
- **practitioners and implementers** of violence prevention and response policies, programmes and services, are required to apply evidence-supported guidance for effective action and good practice;
- **funders** of social, economic, humanitarian, and civil society initiatives are needed to develop portfolios that include violence prevention and response strategies that are mutually reinforcing, evidence-supported and cost-effective over the long term, and
- **advocates** are required who can build support for funded, multisectoral commitments to implementing INSPIRE.

Q: How can progress and impact of INSPIRE be measured?

A: The INSPIRE Indicator Guidance and Results Framework provides a core set of indicators and a results framework to support governments and organizations to monitor the prevalence of violence, risk and protective factors, and the implementation and impact of the INSPIRE strategies. Indicators are provided for each of the seven strategies and for multi-sectoral action and monitoring and evaluation. The indicators are designed for use at national and sub-national levels. Data for most of the indicators can be obtained using questions from existing survey instruments, which are highlighted in the guidance.

Q: When will INSPIRE be updated?

A: INSPIRE is a living document – evidence on what works will evolve and grow over time as governments and other organizations implement the INSPIRE strategies. INSPIRE will be revised when it is judged that sufficient new scientific evidence has been published to justify new systematic reviews of the evidence for interventions within each of the strategies. The revision process will apply the same criteria for effectiveness as used in the first edition. It is anticipated that reviews to inform a second edition of INSPIRE will begin in 2020.