

## Section 3



# PREVENTING ORPHANHOOD AND VULNERABILITY

## by Addressing Violence Against Children and Poverty

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# THE OVERVIEW

According to research from the Harvard Center on the Developing Child and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, root causes of orphanhood and vulnerability in children include violence and poverty. The world's best research has also shown what works to address violence against children and poverty for all children, including those with disabilities. This research is described in INSPIRE, which is an evidence-based resource for everyone committed to preventing and responding to violence against children and poverty — from government to grassroots, and from civil society to faith communities, to the private sector. It represents a select group of strategies based on the best available evidence to help countries and communities intensify their focus on the prevention program and services with the greatest potential to reduce violence against children and poverty for all children, as well as their tragic consequences — including family separation, injury, infectious diseases, and even death. The seven strategies are:

- Implementation and Enforcement of Laws
- Norms and Values
- Safe Environments
- Parent and Caregiver Support
- Income and Economic Strengthening
- Response and Support Services
- Education and Life Skills

There are two cross-cutting activities that help connect and assess progress towards the strategies — Multisector Collaboration and Monitoring and Evaluation.

The seven strategies are most effective when implemented as part of a comprehensive, multisectoral plan that harnesses their synergies, as the strategies are intended to work in combination and reinforce each other. Though stakeholders in many countries are working to eliminate violence against children and poverty and their consequences, their efforts are not always well coordinated and supported, and few are undertaken at a large scale that serves all children, including those with disabilities. Coordination is, therefore, essential, as no single sector or organization can deliver the full package of programs and no individual government can tackle the growing threats to its children that now transcend national borders.

# THE VISION

WWO supports INSPIRE's vision as a world where all governments, with the strong participation of civil society, faith alliances, and communities, routinely implement and monitor interventions to prevent and respond to violence against all children and adolescents and help them reach their full potential. We believe Christ cares about all children who are abused — including those who are being abused in their homes, those who are abused in orphanages, and those whose abuse drove them from their homes and into orphanages and the streets. Jesus himself shows his concern when He says that it would be better for someone to have a millstone tied around their neck and to drown in the deepest sea than to harm a child (Matthew 18:6, Luke 17:2). The clear meaning of His words is that all abuse of children should be avoided.

The *WWO Roadmap* is published on the 30-year anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC). The CRC obliges nations to take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, and educational measures to protect all children — including those with disabilities — from all forms of violence while in the care of parents, legal guardians, or any other person who has the care of the child. It reflects the urgent need to address the huge public health, social, and spiritual burden created by violence against children and poverty. From the very beginning, INSPIRE linked to the CRC as the driving force behind these strategies.

INSPIRE also aims to help countries and communities achieve key United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which the heads of state from EVERY NATION in the world have signed. This includes “ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children” (Target 16.2).

A core global WWO resource to guide dialogue for church, faith, and government leaders on the precious worth of children is provided here, courtesy of VIVA.

#### **Understanding God’s Heart for Children — VIVA**

[wworoadmap.org/resource/understanding-god-s-heart-for-children](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/understanding-god-s-heart-for-children)

## THE COLLABORATION

The World Health Organization (WHO) initiated preparation of the INSPIRE package, which is a set of essential strategies that, together, dramatically reduce violence, poverty, and vulnerability in children. WHO prepared this in collaboration with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), End Violence Against Children: The Global Partnership, 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. Each of these agencies has a long history of galvanizing evidence-based approaches to preventing violence against children and poverty. Additionally, many church alliances and faith-based organizations have endorsed INSPIRE, mindful of the importance of using best practices to help the most vulnerable children and families. These include the World Evangelical Alliance, the World Council of Churches, World Vision, Catholic Relief Services, World Without Orphans, and Forgotten Voices, in addition to a large number of NGOs and civil society organizations.

The *WWO Roadmap* is moving forward to provide core resources from INSPIRE, as they highlight a small number of the very most effective programs in the world for protecting children and their families from violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, and poverty.

We believe that when engaged churches collaborate to strengthen families by implementing these best programs with love, humility, wisdom, prayer, and integrity from God, the result will be thriving children who reach their God-given purpose. Together, we will co-labor with our Heavenly Father to change nations for generations.



# PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AND ORPHANHOOD: A GLOBAL PRIORITY

*Adapted from INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children, available here in Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, English, French, Georgian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Ukrainian*  
[wworoadmap.org/resource/inspire](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/inspire)

WHO, UNICEF, the CDC, the World Bank, and the UNODC estimate more than 1 billion children — one out of every two — experience physical, sexual, or psychological violence every year. Violence against children and adolescents includes physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect. For infants and younger children, violence mainly takes the form of maltreatment at the hands of parents, caregivers, and other authority figures. As children grow, peer and intimate partner violence — bullying, fighting, sexual violence, online sexual exploitation, and assault — become more common.

## Magnitude of Violence Against Children

Over the course of their childhood, one in four children suffers physical abuse, and almost one in five girls and one in 13 boys suffer sexual abuse. For children with disabilities, rates of abuse are three to four times higher than for other children. Tragically, such violence commonly is perpetrated by people the child knows and trusts and in places that should be safe, such as homes and schools. Such violence against children and adolescents has devastating health, social, and spiritual consequences, and often children with disabilities are at even greater risk. Exposure to violence at an early age can impair brain development and lead to a host of lifelong physical and mental health consequences. Social consequences of violence include disruption of families. For example, a study of street youth in Eastern Europe found that these youth went to the streets because they felt safer there than at home. Despite its high prevalence, violence against children is often hidden. Though such violence may be hidden, the destructive consequences eventually surface.

In many countries, the size of the violence problem is greatly underestimated because estimates come from reporting data used by justice systems (and many experiences of violence are never legally reported), instead of from national survey data. Child abuse rates are underestimated because of the widespread beliefs that lead people — including children — to see violence as normal rather than a problem demanding attention. Furthermore, children who do report such violence are often not believed, and no protective legal action is taken. In such situations, gatekeepers, including faith leaders, teachers, and police officers, have an opportunity to speak on behalf of abused children as an advocate for their protection in alternative family care. The global Church is uniquely positioned to prioritize the best interests of the child as the highest value in considerations of abuse and its implications. Of note, the advocacy of faith leaders in Zambia led the government to ask church leaders to identify safe families who could be trained to provide emergency foster care for such children. Increasingly, governments recognize the potential of faith leaders and congregations to promote justice and show compassion for vulnerable children and families.

## Root Causes of Violence Against Children and Vulnerability are Similar to Root Causes of Orphanhood

Much of this violence and its enormous impact can be prevented through programs that address its root causes and risk factors. Violence arises from an interplay of factors related to the child, the family, the community, and the society, and these four levels represent key entry points for the INSPIRE strategies. Of note, poverty is both a root cause of violence and vulnerability and it is also a root cause of orphanhood; thus, addressing poverty contributes to both preventing abuse and preventing orphanhood. As described earlier, the World Without Orphans cornerstones include a similar description of these same four levels (child, family, church community, and movement) — all contextualized within a fifth cornerstone: the care, help, compassion, and provision of God.

### Components of INSPIRE

The INSPIRE package includes **seven strategies** that together provide an overarching framework for ending violence against children and preventing vulnerability in children and families. Each strategy is accompanied by a key **goal**, the **rationale** for the strategy, its potential **effects** on preventing violence against children, and specific **approaches** (including types of programs, practices, and policies) that advance the strategy.

Finally, each strategy will include at least one specific link to a **recommended program or resource for churches** that can be accessed at no cost.

### Criteria for Evidence-Based Programs

The selection of recommended programs or resources for churches was limited by the inclusion of programs that are considered 'evidence-based.' Evidence-based means that the program has

1. been evaluated using experimental research methods (that must include both a group that received the program and a comparison group that did not receive the program),
2. been shown to reduce one or more of these types of violence or abuse: maltreatment, bullying, youth violence, intimate partner violence, and sexual violence,
3. been used in global settings,
4. used high quality scientific methods,
5. received recognition by global experts as leading to significant decreases in the risks of violence and abuse.

Someone interested in knowing whether a violence prevention program that is not included in the Roadmap is evidence-based can consult with research experts in experimental studies of global violence prevention, to help determine whether at least each of the first four criteria above are met.

It is helpful to understand the difference between **evidence-based programs** and **best practices** programs. Whereas the **evidence-based programs** are most relevant for the ‘prevention’ of violence and vulnerability, **best practices programs** are well-suited to helping provide immediate help to children needing alternative family-based care, such as kinship care, foster care, or adoption. In this case, there are recognized professional child protection global standards (instead of the experimental studies of programs as described above for ‘**evidence-based programs**’) that guide the ‘**best practices**’ for ensuring that such alternative care is necessary and suitable for the particular child in need.

For this Prevention section of the Roadmap, these evidence-based programs were made available at no cost for the WWO community. This recommendation of an example model program for each strategy is *not* intended to suggest that other programs in use should be discontinued, and it does not mean that other programs are ineffective. Our recommendation simply includes programs for each INSPIRE strategy that have been rigorously evaluated and are recognized by the very top experts around the world as being those that have been shown to work in protecting children from abuse. The ones included here have also been adapted or can be easily adapted for use in faith settings. For the 2024 WWO Roadmap revision, additional strong programs that have research-based evidence of effectiveness have been added.

National and local pastors and faith leaders who use INSPIRE will often be implementing aspects of the activities within the context of a local church. In light of the central place of the Scriptures in influencing motivation, prayer, and action for faith leaders and faith collaborations, the *WWO Roadmap* includes a **Biblical reference** that supports each strategy.

The INSPIRE strategies were chosen as far as possible to represent programs and policies that have been implemented and evaluated in low-resource settings. Where drawn from high-income settings, interventions that appear especially effective in reducing violence against children — and also likely to succeed across various cultural settings — were selected. In practice, the effectiveness of the strategies and approaches included in INSPIRE will depend on the quality and characteristics of their implementation.

### **Purpose and Call to Action**

Our purpose is to provide free access to the most effective evidence-based resources worldwide, to equip national leaders to build programs, which strengthen families and children. Please join us in using these evidence-based programs, approaches, and strategies to make the most impact towards reducing violence and orphanhood, for the purpose of children worldwide.

“And let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”  
Galatians 6:9

# 2 STRATEGIES, APPROACHES, AND PROGRAMS OF INSPIRE

## Implementation and Enforcement of Laws

The aim of this strategy is to **ensure the implementation and enforcement of laws and policies to prevent child sexual abuse and child physical abuse, reduce excessive alcohol use, and limit youth access to weapons**. Laws prohibiting violent behaviors, such as sexual abuse or violent punishment of children, signal that society considers these behaviors unacceptable. Such laws provide a way to hold perpetrators accountable. Laws and policies can also reduce key risk factors for violence against children. Specific Child-Safeguarding Policies are now considered essential for every organization working directly with children, including governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), faith-based organizations, and churches. These Child-Safeguarding Policies outline when it is necessary for gatekeepers to report suspected child abuse to legal authorities. Child protective custody is used by legal authorities when they believe a child's health or welfare is in danger. A social worker or police officer can place a child into protective custody if he or she believes immediate action is needed to protect a child from abuse or neglect.

World Without Orphans collaborators and partners are expected to have child safeguarding policies in place or alternatively to sign and use the **WVO safeguarding policy**:

[wworoadmap.org/resource/wwo-safeguarding-policy](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/wwo-safeguarding-policy)

### **Additional tools:**

[wworoadmap.org/resource/safeguarding-resources](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/safeguarding-resources)

### **Expected outcomes:**

- Reductions in physical violence towards children by parents, caregivers, and authority figures
- Reductions in sexual abuse of children, including forced or pressured sex, unwanted attempted sex, and unwanted sexual touching
- Reductions in sexual exploitation of children including trafficking, pornography, and prostitution
- Reductions in excessive alcohol consumption and binge drinking
- Reductions in need for child protective services and need for alternative family care associated with sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, physical abuse, and neglect
- Reductions in firearm-related deaths and nonfatal injuries
- Increases in positive gender and social norms

**Recommended resource for churches**, for each organization participating in National Without Orphans collaborative teams, when the organization has contact with children:

### • **How to Begin Developing and Updating a Safe Sanctuaries Policy**

[wworoadmap.org/resource/safe-sanctuaries-policy](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/safe-sanctuaries-policy)

### • **Creating Safe Environments for Children – VIVA**

[wworoadmap.org/resource/safe-environments](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/safe-environments)

- **World Without Orphans Safeguarding Policy**

[wworoadmap.org/resource/wwo-safeguarding-policy](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/wwo-safeguarding-policy)

**Biblical principle that supports this strategy:**

**Implementation and Enforcement of Laws:** Rom 13:1 *“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.”*

## Norms and Values

Social and cultural norms can create a climate in which violence is encouraged or normalized. In many countries, such harmful norms are even more common for children with disabilities. This strategy aims to **strengthen norms and values that support non-violent, respectful, nurturing, positive, inclusive, and gender equitable relationships for all children and adolescents**. Achieving this often requires modifying deeply ingrained social and cultural norms and behaviors — in particular, the idea that some forms of violence are not only normal, but sometimes justifiable. It involves approaches such as community mobilization programs, bystander interventions, and small group programs that challenge harmful gender and social norms of boys. In the area of inclusivity, media has a key role; by including children with disabilities in stories, films, and books, media sends the message that all children are important for families and communities.

**Expected outcomes:**

- Reduced acceptance of violence against women and children
- Reductions in early and forced marriage of young girls
- More favorable beliefs towards gender equity and gender-equitable division of labor
- More favorable attitudes to nonviolent approaches to parental discipline
- Greater recognition of what constitutes abusive behavior towards children and intimate partners
- Increased bystander intervention to prevent violence against children and intimate partners
- Reductions in physical or sexual violence against a child or teen by a parent, relative, or intimate partner
- Reductions in need for child-protective services and need for alternative family care associated with sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, physical abuse, and neglect

**Recommended resource for churches** for training church influencers to promote healthy gender norms:

- **SASA! Raising Voices — Faith Training Manual** includes a Christian adaptation for helping local pastors and faith leaders catalyze transformational dialogues to advance equitable treatment of girls and boys and of women. Developed in Uganda and now used widely in many nations, studies show more than a 50% reduction in sexual abuse in communities that implement the program.

[wworoadmap.org/resource/sasa-faith](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/sasa-faith)

- **Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence Against Children: A Workshop for Faith and Community Leaders** – This workshop has been widely used in 12 countries to help pastors and faith leaders teach the adults and teenagers in their churches about preventing sexual violence against children and youth. WWO Uganda and WWO Romania teams have also used it for training church leaders and youth.

[wworoadmap.org/resource/preventing-and-responding-to-sexual-violence-against-children](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/preventing-and-responding-to-sexual-violence-against-children)

- **Bystander Intervention Programs** – teach people how to recognize and safely intervene to stop sexual violence, intimate partner violence (IPV) or harassment. Bystander programs identify and challenge norms that support sexual and IPV and promote norms of community responsibility for protection and



prevention. The program equips participants with skills to identify problematic or dangerous behavior, develop empathy for victims, practice safe and effective methods of intervention, and commit to taking action as a bystander.

[wworoadmap.org/resource/bystander-intervention](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/bystander-intervention)

### **Biblical principle that supports this strategy:**

**Norms and Values:** Gal 3:28 *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, ... nor is there male and female, for you are all one.”*

James 3:17 *“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate”*

## Safe Environments

This strategy aims to **create and sustain safe streets and safe community, digital, and other environments where children and youth gather and spend time**. It focuses on modifying communities’ social, digital, and physical environment (rather than the individuals within it) to foster positive — and deter harmful — behaviors. It involves approaches such as problem-oriented policing directed towards “hotspots” for violence, interrupting violent conflicts by stopping retaliatory violence, and changing the built environment, including by assuring accessibility for all children, without regard to age or ability, to the highest extent possible.

### **Expected outcomes:**

- Reductions in assault-related injuries
- Increased safety when moving around the community
- Increased digital safety online

**Recommended resource for churches**, for each organization participating in National Without Orphans collaborative teams:

- Global proliferation of digital technology, including mobile and internet communication platforms, have rapidly increased the online exposure of children and teens to exploitive sexual images and pornography. These new internet threats make children and teens around the world more vulnerable to sexual exploitation than ever before. It is, therefore, essential that every church and faith leader engaged in WWO Collaboration have at least a minimum level of understanding of this subject, as well as of approaches to protecting children online. We recommend these resources:

#### **UNICEF 8 Strategies to Keep Your Children Safe – Online and Off**

[wworoadmap.org/resource/online-safety-unesf-guide](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/online-safety-unesf-guide)

#### **Touch Talk**

Touch Talk is an educational resource to help children stay safe, protect themselves, and get help if abuse occurs. A Safeguarding Policy must be in place and safeguarding training for those teaching Touch Talk must have occurred and be documented BEFORE this book can be given to children or used with children.

[wworoadmap.org/resource/touch-talk](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/touch-talk)

#### **Welcome Talk – For refugee and displaced children**

Welcome Talk is an educational flipbook to help children on the move, who are displaced by crisis of any type, stay safe and get help if abuse occurs.

[wworoadmap.org/resource/welcome-talk](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/welcome-talk)

### **Biblical principle that supports this strategy:**

**Safe Environments** — I Kings 4:25 *‘During Solomon’s lifetime, Judah and Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, lived in safety, everyone ...’*

## Parent and Caregiver Support

This strategy aims to **reduce harsh parenting practices and create positive parent-child relationships** by helping parents and caregivers understand the importance of positive, nonviolent discipline and of close, effective communication. Parent and caregiver support can be provided through parent training programs delivered through home visiting or in groups. In these approaches, parents are educated about their children's development and trained to adopt positive parenting practices such as nonviolent discipline and effective parent-child communication on sensitive topics. Added support may be needed for parents and caregivers of children with disabilities, including respite care and support groups.

### Expected outcomes:

- Reductions in proven child maltreatment cases and referrals to child protection services
- Reductions in abusive, negative, or harsh parenting, especially in relation to discipline
- Reductions in bullying and being bullied
- Reductions in physical, emotional, or sexual violence victimization against children and youth by peers, relatives, and romantic partners
- Reductions in aggression and delinquency during adolescence
- Increases in positive parent-child interactions
- Increases in parental monitoring of child and youth safety

### Recommended programs for churches:

The training program Parenting for Lifelong Health is the only one recommended officially by the World Health Organization, due to it having exceptional impact on protecting children from abuse and vulnerability. While created for low literacy settings, the program is being adapted for use around the world. It is commonly used in churches. Training manuals for instructors and for parents, for these two programs, were developed by the London School of Tropical Medicine:

- **Parenting for Lifelong Health for Teens – Instructors Manual and Teens Family Handbook**  
[wworoadmap.org/resource/parenting-for-lifelong-health-for-teens](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/parenting-for-lifelong-health-for-teens)
- **Parenting for Lifelong Health for Young Children – Instructors Manual and Parent's Handbook**  
[wworoadmap.org/resource/parenting-for-lifelong-health-for-young-children](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/parenting-for-lifelong-health-for-young-children)
- **REAL Fathers - The Responsible, Engaged and Loving (REAL) Father's initiative**  
A core program that was developed in Uganda by Save the Children, has now been well-studied, has a full implementation guide as above, and is the only program specifically for fathers – and especially for young fathers. The resources include a Mentor's Guide, Participant's Guide, Mentor Resource Sheets, and Young Mother's Guide:  
[wworoadmap.org/resource/real-fathers](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/real-fathers)

### Recommended programs that can be adapted for delivery in the context of crisis

- **COVID-19 Parenting Tips** – Parenting for Lifelong Health has produced easy-to-distribute parenting tips in over 100 languages. WWO endorses these tips as effective in helping strengthen families and prevent violence against children.  
[wworoadmap.org/resource/parenting-tips](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/parenting-tips)
- **Parenting Tips: A Guide for Church Leaders** – This **multi-language leader guide** includes sermon suggestions, conversation starters, template text messages, radio announcements, and social media content that can be used to reach families in need.  
[wworoadmap.org/resource/parenting-tips](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/parenting-tips)
- **Script outline for phone conversations with parents and children** – Viva has designed an 8 week phone

mentoring program, that will support families to build stronger relationships, encourage positive parenting, and reduce the risk of violence against children at home. These scripts are useful for any crisis context.

[www.roadmap.org/resource/parenting-tips](http://www.roadmap.org/resource/parenting-tips)

- **Parenting Tips for Challenging Times** – Parenting can be tough - and more so in a crisis.  
[www.roadmap.org/resource/parenting-tips](http://www.roadmap.org/resource/parenting-tips)
- **Hope Groups Psychosocial and Parenting Support Resources** – please see ‘Hope in Crisis,’ Section 4. This program builds skills by using a combination of five evidence-based INSPIRE Strategies described above, including: Parenting and Caregiver Support; Norms change; Safe Environments; Education and Life Skills programs. When used in churches, the Hope Groups can be complemented by combining them with the **Parenting Tips: A Guide for Church Leaders**, above.  
[www.roadmap.org/resource/hope-groups](http://www.roadmap.org/resource/hope-groups)

### **Biblical principle that supports this strategy:**

**Parenting Support** — I Thessalonians 2 “*Mothers “tenderly care”; fathers ‘exhort and encourage.’*”

## **Income and Economic Strengthening**

This strategy aims to **improve families’ economic security and stability, thereby reducing intimate partner violence and child maltreatment**. It involves approaches such as making cash transfers to families in combination with parent training and/or on condition that they ensure their children attend school, training mothers and/or fathers and youth in Community Savings and Loan approaches, or providing microfinance in combination with education for men and women on gender norms, domestic violence, and sexuality.

### **Expected outcomes:**

- Reductions in physical violence towards children by parents or other caregivers and in associated child protection referrals
- Reductions in intimate partner violence
- Reductions in early and forced marriage of young girls
- Reductions in children witnessing intimate partner violence in the home
- Increases in social norms and attitudes that disapprove of intimate partner violence

### **Recommended program for churches:**

A widely used and generously available curriculum that builds the capacity of the local church to train its local leaders in appropriate aspects of small group savings and loans uses Community Savings and Loan Groups to help. The weekly small group savings and loan program is designed by HOPE International to be implemented as part of local church programs and plans. Needed resources for teaching this course can be found here:

- **Restore: Savings — Church Facilitator Guide**  
[www.roadmap.org/resource/restore-savings-church-facilitator-guide](http://www.roadmap.org/resource/restore-savings-church-facilitator-guide)

### **Biblical principle that supports this strategy:**

**Income Strengthening** — Luke 4:18, 21 “*Jesus’ first sermon, quoting from Isa 61:1-2: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor... Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’*”

Matt 25:20 “*The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more!’... ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant.’*”

## Anu from India

In India, Anu previously ran a children's home, but as she faced burnout and began to see there were ways she could help kids remain in their families and never enter an orphanage to begin with, she changed her ministry strategy.

Now Anu and her team at her local NGO work to prevent family separation in their community in India by creating income-generating opportunities for poor families. Additionally, the NGO runs day education centers for children while their parents are at work.

Seema is one woman who has been impacted through the work of Anu and her team. Previously she struggled to provide for her daughter and pay rent for her little home. Thanks to the tailoring classes provided by the local NGO, Seema began making beautiful patchwork quilts, from which she could make an income. Today Seema can provide for her daughter and pay their rent. Family separation due to poverty and lack of access to work and education was prevented.

## Response and Support Services

This strategy aims to **improve access to quality health, social welfare, and justice support services for all children who need them—including for reporting violence—to reduce the long-term impact of violence.** Children who have experienced sexual, physical, or emotional violence need access to a variety of services to help them heal, cope, and recover and to help break the cycle of violence. Basic health services, such as emergency medical care for violence-related injuries and clinical care for victims of sexual violence (including post-exposure prophylaxis against HIV when indicated), are the urgent priority. Where these basic child-focused services are in place, companion services can help children seek other essential aspects of care, report violent incidents, and receive added referrals. These include counseling and foster care interventions involving social welfare services.

**System Strengthening:** All sectors, including social services, health, and justice, are responsible for strengthening the system to ensure an effective response to violence against children. This may include the development of policies, guidelines, and national plans of action, strengthening institutions responsible for preventing and protecting children from violence, strengthening the workforce, ensuring effective coordination and collaboration between government, NGOs/FBOs, business, and faith alliances, providing comprehensive prevention and response services that ensure a continuum of care, and ensuring strong accountability and monitoring systems. The relationships among those engaged in the system are critical to ensuring the best outcomes for children. It is helpful to conduct a mapping analysis across the system, involving all stakeholders, to identify gaps and develop a plan for system strengthening.

### Expected outcomes:

- Reductions in recurrence of the same type of violence in the short-term
- Reductions in trauma symptoms (e.g., posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety)
- Reductions in sexually transmitted infections and negative reproductive health outcomes
- Reductions in victimization or perpetration of violence in the short-term and later in life
- Increases in child welfare interventions, including alternative family care when needed

### Recommended resource for churches:

This resource provides a short overview of the types of services needed when abuse has occurred. It will educate the reader about what types of referrals should be considered in any country, when there is concern about abuse of any child.

- **Response and Support Framework Table 3 (p. 198); Foster Care (pp. 216-217), Trauma-Focused Cognitive**

**Behavioral Therapy (pp. 218-219) in INSPIRE Handbook: Action for Implementing the Seven Strategies**  
[www.roadmap.org/resource/response-and-support-framework](http://www.roadmap.org/resource/response-and-support-framework)

### **Biblical principle that supports this strategy:**

**Response services** — Isa 58:10 *“If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness.”*

## Education and Life Skills

This strategy aims to increase children’s access to more effective, gender-equitable education, social-emotional learning, and life skills training and ensure that school environments are safe, inclusive, and enabling. The aim is that schools are constructed and administered so that all children can experience quality learning and recreation together. Gains in education for both girls and boys protect against both victimization and perpetration of violence. This strategy involves approaches such as increasing enrollment in preschool (which can be particularly helpful for promoting early development in children with disabilities), primary, and secondary schools, establishing a safe, inclusive, and enabling school environment, improving children’s knowledge about sexual abuse and how to protect themselves against it, adolescent intimate partner violence prevention programs, and life and social skills training programs. Programs that strengthen children’s social and emotional learning enhance their communication and relationship skills and help them learn to solve problems, deal with emotions, empathize, and safely manage conflict — life skills that can prevent violence.

### **Expected outcomes:**

- Increases in school attendance and academic success
- Reductions in aggressive and violent behaviors
- Reductions in bullying behaviors
- Reductions in physical and sexual intimate partner violence victimization and perpetration
- Increases in awareness of and improved attitudes about intimate partner violence
- Reductions in drug use and excessive alcohol use

### **Recommended program for churches:**

Life skills programs that aim to promote healthy and equitable relationships have been shown to be highly effective. One example of such a program, Coaching Boys into Men, was associated with nearly a 50% reduction in sexual violence perpetration. Based on biblical principles, Bible verses can be added.

- **Coaching Boys into Men** — life skills program that is evidence-based, 12 lessons free online; leads to 50% reduction in sexual violence by teaching respect and dignity, healthy relationships  
[www.roadmap.org/resource/coaching-boys-into-men](http://www.roadmap.org/resource/coaching-boys-into-men)
- **The Good Schools Toolkit** was created to help educators and students explore what makes a healthy, vibrant and positive school, and guide them through a process to create their vision. The program focuses on influencing a child’s school experience and whole-school culture, to help reduce peer violence in schools, among other outcomes. Led by a team of two teachers, two students and two school-linked community members, the program influences school-wide culture through four entry points: teacher-student relationships, peer-to-peer relationships, student and teacher to school relationships, and parent and community relationships. In one study, GST use reduced the risk of physical violence by teachers and school staff against children by 42%, and 50% fewer teachers reported using physical violence against students in intervention schools compared to controls. The GST was created by the Ugandan-based NGO Raising Voices, is recommended by the World Health Organization, and has been implemented across countries for children ages 5 – 17 years.  
[www.roadmap.org/resource/good-schools-toolkit](http://www.roadmap.org/resource/good-schools-toolkit)

**Biblical principle that supports this strategy:**

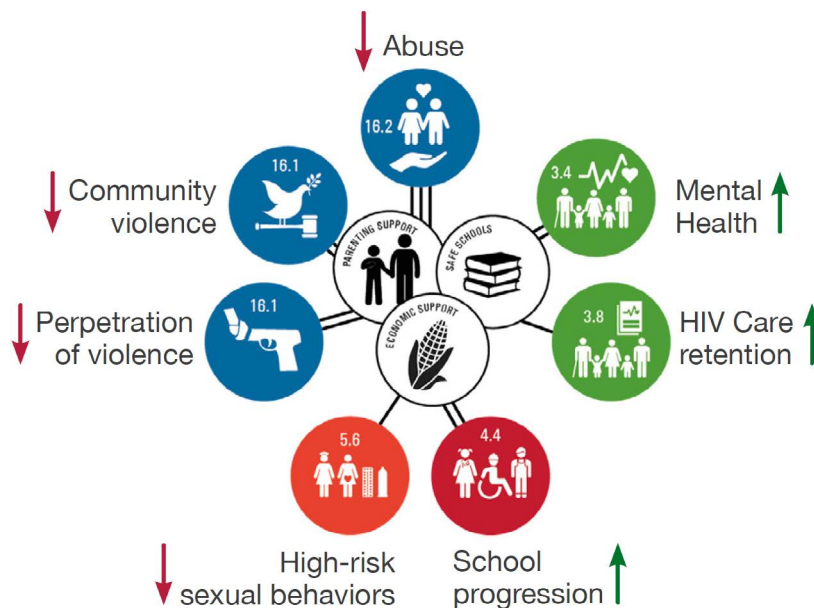
**Education and Life Skills** — Proverbs 18:15 “*The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge...*”; I Pet 1:5 “*...make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control...*”

**INSPIRE Accelerators**

While each INSPIRE components contributes importantly to preventing violence and orphanhood, including in the context of crises, there are 3 strategies that, when combined, have a particularly powerful impact on multiple positive outcomes for children (which is why they’re called ‘Accelerators’). We have strong evidence from South Africa and other countries that these three cost-effective programs are particularly powerful when combined together, protecting children who have lost caregivers and/or are vulnerable:

- Provide families caring for orphaned children with a social grant,
- Strengthen caregiving with a parenting support program,
- Make sure children can go to school.

This Figure shows the impact of combined services to strengthen parenting, economic, and schooling or life skills support. Together, these programs protect children from abuse, violence perpetration, and HIV-risk behaviors, and improve education, mental health, and healthcare access. The color-coded circles and numbers represent programming achievements in specific 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and targets respectively, benefiting health, education, gender equality, and peace and justice.



Source: Cluver, Orkin, Toska, Campeau, Webb, Carlqvist, Sherr, (2019) *Lancet CAH AIDS, South Africa*, with circles representing 2030 Sustainable Development Goals for health, peace, education, and gender equality.

# 3

## FROM CRISIS TO HOPE

### Growing Crises

From 2019 to 2024, many children who were already living in disadvantaged families became even more vulnerable, because of the great increase in new crises. Many of these crises also occur together – making the lives of children and families even more unstable. The growing number, severity, and types of crisis presents new opportunities for churches and communities to bring hope and healing those who are fearful, worried, and discouraged. These crises – whether due to epidemics, climate events, disasters, or wars – tend to have similar negative effects on children and families, often destroying homes, lives, and communities, and even forcing them to be displaced to unfamiliar locations and little support.

These needs open the door for churches and faith communities to remember the words of Jesus in Matthew: “When the Son of Man appears in his majestic glory, with all his angels by his side, he will take his seat on his throne of splendor, and all the nations will be gathered together before him. And like a shepherd who separates the sheep from the goats, he will separate all the people. The ‘sheep’ he will put on his right side and the ‘goats’ on his left. Then the King will turn to those on his right and say, ‘You have a special place in my Father’s heart. Come and experience the full inheritance of the kingdom realm that has been destined for you from before the foundation of the world! For when you saw me hungry, you fed me. When you found me thirsty, you gave me drink. When I had no place to stay, you invited me in, and when I was poorly clothed, you covered me. When I was sick, you tenderly cared for me, and when I was in prison you visited me’... When you cared for one of the least of these, my little ones, my true brothers and sisters, you demonstrated love for me.’ (Matt 25:31-40 The Passion Translation).

### Multiplying Hope

The time has come for every church in every nation to become crisis-ready for children – as we follow our call to multiply compassion, resurrection hope, and unfailing love for those most affected. Together, we can bring hope that multiplies in communities for children and families who are in crisis – no matter what the cause.

A new small group program called ‘Hope Groups,’ was developed this year to bring HOPE to Ukrainians affected by the war. WWO, Oxford University, Ukraine Without Orphans, VIVA, Children’s Mission, Parenting for Lifelong Health (PLH) adapted evidence based mental health and the PLH positive parenting program for families to crisis for any reason – whether due to family crisis – such as death of a parent or loss of a home – or to community crises, such as floods, earthquakes, war, epidemics and economic threats. We are learning to deliver evidence-based, contextualized, ‘Hope Groups’ programs to those affected by a variety of crises. These programs are 12 small group sessions that increase hope for parents in crisis by over 60% and strengthen positive parenting. Hope Groups decrease depression in parents by over 50%, and importantly – they reduce emotional and physical abuse of children in crisis by over 50%! One of the reasons it appears the Hope Groups work so well is that they combine these five evidence-based INSPIRE Strategies for Parents and Caregivers in Crisis -- Parenting and Caregiver Support; Norms Change; Safe Environments; Education and Life Skills programs; and Response programs to strengthen mental health in crisis.

The full 12-session Hope Groups program is very effective when delivered as one full program for those in extended crisis. Here is a summary of research supported by the University of Oxford that describes the evaluation results: The Effectiveness of Hope Groups, a Mental Health, Parenting Support, and Violence Prevention Program for Families Affected by the War in Ukraine: Findings from a Pre-Post Study. These groups help families in crisis move toward hope.

The Hope Groups are part of a three-phase model for being 'crisis-ready' to deliver evidence-based psychosocial and parenting support for families affected by crisis and transition, such as conflict, war, displacement, migration, natural disaster, climate disaster, epidemic, etc. These phases include evidence-based parenting resources adapted from Parenting for Lifelong Health and war-time parenting research and programs.

[wworoadmap.org/resource/hope-groups](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/hope-groups)

### **Recommended programs for churches, shelters, or communities:**

#### **Programs for Ukrainian war, adaptable to other War contexts**

Hope Groups for Displaced People and Ukrainians Impacted by War – Facilitator's and Participant's Guides available in English and Ukrainian:

[wworoadmap.org/resource/hope-groups](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/hope-groups)

#### **Hope Groups for Kinship, Foster, and Adoptive Families – for Use in Government and Community settings, adapted for Colombia, South America, as 'Parenting with Hope'**

Facilitator's and Participant's Guides available in English and Spanish

[wworoadmap.org/resource/hope-groups](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/hope-groups)

### **These core programs are for adaptation and evaluation, for any crisis:**

#### **Hope Groups Programs for Crisis - For Churches and Christian Majority Nations (General, for Disasters, Contagion/Epidemics/Pandemics/Orphanhood)**

Hope Groups - Building Hope in Parents, Families and Children in Crisis and Transition – Facilitator's and Participant's Guides available in English:

[wworoadmap.org/resource/hope-groups](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/hope-groups)

#### **Hope Groups Programs for Crisis - For Consideration in Christian Minority Nations (General, for Disasters, Contagion/Epidemics/Pandemics/Orphanhood)**

Hope Groups - Building Hope in Parents, Families and Children in Crisis and Transition – Facilitator's and Participant's Guides available in English:

[wworoadmap.org/resource/hope-groups](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/hope-groups)



# 4 CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

## Multisectoral Actions and Coordination

Successful delivery of what works for children and families— whether using Hope Groups in crisis, or INSPIRE’s evidence-based prevention program and services, depends on broadscale collaboration — as described in Section 1 of the WWO Roadmap — between multiple sectors and stakeholders. These include public, private, civil society, and faith alliances — at national and local levels — and may link departments responsible for education, health, justice, finance, social welfare, civil society organizations, professional associations, faith-based organizations, academic institutions, foundations, and other NGOs.

# 5 RESOURCES FOR THE CHURCH

Engaging the local church typically starts with discussion, prayer, and learning about the needs of orphaned and vulnerable children and their families and about the resources that can be used and adapted for church settings. All resources listed here were cited previously in each violence-prevention strategy described in Chapter 2 of this section. Here they are arranged by who they are for — children, families, churches, or communities.

## Resources that Reach Children

- **UNICEF 8 Strategies to Keep Your Children Safe – Online and Off**  
[www.roadmap.org/resource/online-safety-unesf-guide](http://www.roadmap.org/resource/online-safety-unesf-guide)
- **Welcome Talk – For refugee and displaced children**  
[www.roadmap.org/resource/welcome-talk](http://www.roadmap.org/resource/welcome-talk)

## Resources that Reach Families

### Parenting:

- **Parenting for Lifelong Health for Teens — Instructors Manual and Teens Family Handbook**  
[www.roadmap.org/resource/parenting-for-lifelong-health-for-teens](http://www.roadmap.org/resource/parenting-for-lifelong-health-for-teens)
- **Parenting for Lifelong Health for Young Children — Instructors Manual and Parent’s Handbook**  
[www.roadmap.org/resource/parenting-for-lifelong-health-for-young-children](http://www.roadmap.org/resource/parenting-for-lifelong-health-for-young-children)
- **REAL Fathers - The Responsible, Engaged and Loving (REAL) Father’s initiative**  
[www.roadmap.org/resource/real-fathers](http://www.roadmap.org/resource/real-fathers)

### Small Group Savings and Loan:

- **Restore: Savings — Church Facilitator Guide**  
[www.roadmap.org/resource/restore-savings-church-facilitator-guide](http://www.roadmap.org/resource/restore-savings-church-facilitator-guide)

## Resources that Reach Congregations

- **How to Begin Developing and Updating a Safe Sanctuaries Policy**  
[wworoadmap.org/resource/safe-sanctuaries-policy](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/safe-sanctuaries-policy)
- **Creating Safe Environments for Children — VIVA Network**  
[wworoadmap.org/resource/safe-environments](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/safe-environments)
- **World Without Orphans Safeguarding Policy**  
[wworoadmap.org/resource/wwo-safeguarding-policy](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/wwo-safeguarding-policy)

## Resources that Reach Communities

- **SASA! Raising Voices** — Builds respectful norms towards girls and boys, and women. Studies show more than a 50% decrease in sexual abuse in communities that implement the program. Because the program is designed to impact an entire community and is used in many nations, it includes both a Christian and Muslim adaptation to promote collaboration across faiths.  
[wworoadmap.org/resource/sasa-faith](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/sasa-faith)
- **Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence Against Children: A Workshop for Faith and Community Leaders.**  
[wworoadmap.org/resource/preventing-and-responding-to-sexual-violence-against-children](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/preventing-and-responding-to-sexual-violence-against-children)
- **Coaching Boys into Men Life Skills Program**, for use in schools, sports, Sunday schools, or choir groups  
[wworoadmap.org/resource/coaching-boys-into-men](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/coaching-boys-into-men)
- **Bystander Intervention Programs.**  
[wworoadmap.org/resource/bystander-intervention](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/bystander-intervention)
- **The Good Schools Toolkit**  
[wworoadmap.org/resource/good-schools-toolkit](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/good-schools-toolkit)

## Programs That Reach Families, Churches, And Communities In Crisis (See Hope In Crisis Section)

- See **HOPE GROUPS** for all crisis settings
- See **HOPE GROUPS** for war settings.
- See **HOPE GROUPS** for kinship adoptive, and foster care settings.  
[wworoadmap.org/resource/hope-groups](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/hope-groups)

# 6 MONITORING AND EVALUATION FOR PREVENTION

**BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND!!!** Please ensure you plan from the very beginning, the data you will collect to monitor your collaboration's effectiveness and to guide future service and work. Here are globally recommended CORE measures recommended by WWO for your consideration. You are free to use those that are the best fit for your program.

Monitoring systems can be used to provide data on the magnitude and circumstances of violence against children, track the implementation of planned activities, assess their impact, and address gaps. For these purposes, data on violence against children from national population-based surveys and facility-based administrative systems (such as hospitals, police records, and social services) are essential.

These are strategies for ending violence against children across the health, social welfare, education, finance, and justice sectors. The strategies are intended to reinforce each other and work best in combination.

Monitoring and evaluation will play a key role in implementing and improving this package as Lessons are Learned. Adaptation of the strategies according to cultural context and setting will strengthen their impact.

The short List of indicators recommended by the 10 global agencies that developed INPSIRE can be found here:

[wworoadmap.org/resource/inspire-indicators](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/inspire-indicators)

**Purpose:** To measure WWO national team contributions to building the capacity of: 1) **leaders**, with a primary focus on leaders in the local church and secondary focus on other practitioners or volunteers who support the WWO mission, vision and values; and 2) **organizations**, including church structures, local churches, FBO's, NGO's, and governments, to serve orphaned and vulnerable children and their parents/caregivers, using best practices as in the WWO Roadmap. Additionally, impact measures include the numbers reached, for 3) **orphaned and vulnerable children** and 4) **parents and caregivers**.

Specifically, 'Prevention' measures focus on using the best available evidence to prevent and respond to violence and abuse for those children living in vulnerable families, as these factors are key drivers of orphanhood, outcomes, and impacts, for programs and policies that prevent both vulnerability and institutionalization of children. The aim is to document outputs that prevent violence and abuse before it happens, and also promote early response for children who are victims of violence and abuse in their own homes and communities.

**Data sources:** WWO National Facilitation Team, leaders of national organizations/networks, or leaders of local organizations/networks

**Operational definition:** Use of internationally-recognized best practices to build the capacity to deliver quality programs and practices based on the WWO Roadmap, to help advance prevention of sexual, physical and emotional violence, and early response for those children that are victims of such violence in their families and/or communities. The 'Prevention' programs and policies are based on 7 evidence-based strategies for preventing violence and vulnerability. The aim is training in each strategy to help children grow up in safe,

stable and nurturing families and relationships, and to grow up protected from violence and abuse. WWO collaborative networks and WWO Roadmap trainings will serve 1) leaders (as above) and 2) organizations (as above). Such leaders and organizations will then demonstrate they are actually able to reach vulnerable children and their parents and caregivers with quality care and services in the area of 'Prevention'.

### **World Without Orphan's Prevention Questionnaire**

1. How many **children** were served through evidence-based prevention programs and services using the WWO Roadmap 7 strategies (Implement protective policies, Norms that protect children, Safe environments, Parenting and caregiver support, Income strengthening, Response services, Education and life skills), after capacity building through WWO local church ministries or WWO network collaborators? (total number of children, along with disaggregation by number of programs received (1, 2, 3+))
2. How many **parents and caregivers** were served through evidence-based prevention programs and services using the WWO Roadmap 7 strategies (Implement protective policies, Norms that protect children, Safe environments, Parenting and caregiver support, Income strengthening, Response services, Education and life skills), after capacity building through WWO local church ministries or WWO network collaborators? (total number of parents/caregivers, along with disaggregation by number of programs received (1, 2, 3+))
3. How many **leaders**, including volunteers, practitioners, advocates, champions, or providers were trained in delivering quality evidence-based prevention program training in one or more of the WWO Roadmap 7 strategies, to protect children from violence and vulnerability? (total number of leaders)
4. What number of **organizations**, by type of organization (church, FBO, etc., as above) received training to strengthen their capacity to deliver evidence-based prevention programs in one or more of the WWO Roadmap 7 strategies? (total number of organizations)? And, how many different trainings were received (total number of trainings) And, how many strategies were covered (total number).

For information on WWO Monitoring and Evaluation for all four Roadmap Foundations, please visit: [wworoadmap.org/resource/wwo-monitoring-and-evaluation](http://wworoadmap.org/resource/wwo-monitoring-and-evaluation)

# 7 CONCLUSION

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development contains a bold, ambitious, and clear call to eliminate violence against children. This provides a unique opportunity to catalyze action that builds safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments for every child. We all have the power and responsibility to act. The seven strategies and cross-cutting activities that constitute INSPIRE are the best way to accelerate progress in ending violence against children. Let's put them to work!

The true nature of a nation's standing is how well it attends to its children. When children are hurt, we, as a society, are diminished. When we work together to end violence in their lives, we rise to the best in ourselves, we help children reach their full potential, and we promote a future of peace and dignity for the next generation.

**The full package of INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children** is available here in Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, English, French, Georgian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Ukrainian: [www.roadmap.org/resource/inspire](http://www.roadmap.org/resource/inspire)





All content in the *WVO Roadmap* is also available online with added resources and media at [wworoadmap.org](http://wworoadmap.org)