

## CONCEPT NOTE:

Regional meeting prior to the World Ministerial Conference, 6 November

### **Preconference of the Americas: Strengthening the role of the health sector as part of a multisectoral response to violence against children and adolescents**

*Fairfield by Marriott Bogotá Embajada, Avenida Esperanza No 51 – 40, Bogotá, Colombia.  
Main Meeting Room next to the lobby*

#### **BACKGROUND:**

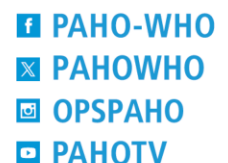
Violence against children and adolescents is widespread in the Region of the Americas and takes many different forms, all equally unacceptable. The costs are enormous for children and adolescents, families and communities. The Region has the highest child homicide rate in the world. In addition to these deaths, millions of children suffer, for example, violence-related trauma that requires emergency medical treatment.

Violence against children and adolescents can be prevented. This requires a multi-sectoral approach that addresses the social determinants of violence. Health is not the only sector, but it has an important role. The role of the health sector includes helping to identify abuse at very early stages, providing survivors with necessary treatment and support, and referring survivors to essential services in other sectors. There are opportunities to intervene early to reduce the burden of violence in the Region, for example, by integrating violence prevention into broader efforts to improve the health and well-being of children and adolescents. In collaboration with others, the health sector must also work to prevent violence from occurring. This includes strategies and interventions in line with the INSPIRE framework. *INSPIRE: Seven strategies to end violence against children* is a toolkit developed to ensure that policymakers have access to the evidence, experience and resources they need to prepare and implement a National Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence. INSPIRE identifies a select group of multisectoral strategies that have been shown to be successful in reducing violence against children and adolescents, and represents an evidence-based approach to revitalize, focus and expand current multisectoral efforts and to support governments in identifying potential gaps. at policy and response levels.

The Region has numerous tools and good practices to help countries strengthen the response to violence against children and adolescents. The proposed meeting is an opportunity to take stock of lessons learned and discuss next steps to strengthen the health sector's response to violence against children and adolescents within a multisectoral framework.

525 23rd St. NW  
Washington, DC 20037

[www.paho.org](http://www.paho.org)



This meeting will take place on 6 November, the day prior to the Global Ministerial Conference to End Violence against Children and Adolescents, and therefore represents a great opportunity to strengthen the regional dialogue between representatives of the region's health sector and prepare together for the conference.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Discuss the challenges and opportunities in order to advance in strengthening the health sector's response to violence against children and adolescents;
- Strengthen dialogue between countries on good practices and what works to improve the role of the health sector as part of the multisectoral response to violence against children and adolescents; and
- Promote the political commitment of the countries of the Americas to end violence against children and adolescents in a collaborative manner in order to inform the global conference and its follow-up.
- Agree on key regional priorities and possible next steps for the Americas

#### **PARTICIPANTS:**

The meeting will have approximately 40-50 participants, including representatives from PAHO, UNICEF and other partners.

Participants include at least one high-level representative from the Ministry of Health from each PAHO Member States, with experience in violence against children and adolescents, who is expected to share their country's experience on violence from the perspective of the health sector and discuss and agree on next steps for the Region. There is the possibility of being able to include the nominated representative of the Ministry of Health of each Member State in the Global Ministerial Conference that will take place on November 7 and 8, 2024 in Bogotá, Colombia. Therefore, we kindly ask that the person nominated by the Ministry of Health of each Member State for this regional preconference meeting on 6 November is also part of the country's delegation to the Global Ministerial Conference.

PAHO will cover the travel costs of the nominated person representing the health sector of PAHO Member States (economy class air ticket and per diems) in the regional preconference and global conference from 6 to 8 November, giving priority to low and middle-income countries.

The participation of representatives from other government sectors in countries of the Region, who will be part of the country's multi-sector delegation to the Global Ministerial Conference, will also be welcome, at their own expense.

## PARTICIPANT'S ROLE

Participants are expected to share their country's progress, lessons learned, and current challenges in the health system's response to VAC. There will be different opportunities for exchange: 1) plenary sessions; 2) group work sessions; and 3) poster presentations.

All countries have been invited to prepare a **poster on the progress** of the health sector's response to VAC. The poster includes the following sections: the main priority issues identified by the country regarding violence against children and adolescents (VAC), the actions implemented by the health sector to address this issue and their outcomes, intersectoral collaboration between the health sector and other sectors to prevent violence, identified areas gaps, and opportunities for regional collaboration. The posters will be displayed during the event, and specific time slots have been allocated in the agenda for their review and discussion.

During the **plenary sessions**, some countries will share a brief presentation (maximum 5 minutes) on *how they have strengthened health services in response to VAC in their country*, while others will present an example of *how they have improved VAC prevention through collaboration with other sectors* (an optional template will be provided). All participants are expected to actively engage in the exchange to reach conclusions and recommendations on how to continue strengthening the health sector's response to violence against children and adolescents in the Americas.

## POSTER AND PRESENTATION SUBMISSION:

**Poster:** The deadline for submitting the poster is October 25, 2024 at 12 PM (Washington DC time).

**Presentation:** For those countries giving a presentation, the deadline for submission is November 4, 2024.

Both documents should be sent via email to [perezmai@paho.org](mailto:perezmai@paho.org), with a copy to [baerbri@paho.org](mailto:baerbri@paho.org).

## DATE AND PLACE:

The meeting will take place on November 6, 2024, with a duration of 1 day, in the main meeting room, located in the lobby of the Fairfield by Marriott Hotel, Avenida Esperanza No 51 – 40, Bogotá, Colombia.

The pre-conference will end at 5 PM so that participants can attend the satellite event "[Prevention of violence against adolescents, building a future with equity](#)" to be held at 7 PM at the Hotel Opera in Bogotá (prior registration is required through this [link](#)). In order to facilitate participation, PAHO will guarantee transportation from the Fairfield by Marriott Hotel.

## AGENDA

8:30-9:00	Registration's participants
9:00-10:00	<p>Opening session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Jarbas Barbosa Da Silva Jr., PAHO Director</li> <li>• Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Colombia, Dr. Guillermo Alfonso Jaramillo</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Introduction of the participants</li> <li>• Presentation on context and objectives by Britta Baer, PAHO Regional Advisor, violence and injuries prevention</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> <li>• Group photo</li> </ul>
10:00-10:15	Break (and review of posters)
10:15-11:00	Group work: Lessons learnt in the Americas
11:00-12:30	<p>Plenary 1: strengthening the health service response to violence against children and adolescents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Round of presentations from 5 selected countries on example of best practices in strengthening health services to respond to VAC</li> <li>- Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:00	<p>Plenary 2: strengthening the prevention of violence against children and adolescents in collaboration with other sectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Round of presentations from 5 selected countries on example of best practices in the prevention of VAC in collaboration with other sectors</li> <li>- Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
15:00-15:45	Group work: priority actions for the Americas
15:45-16:00	Break
16:00-16:30	Conclusions and recommendations
16:30-17:00	Closing