



ISPCAN Africa Huddle and Rise Up Policy Forum

Concept Note

Concept Overview

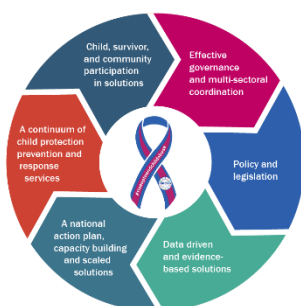
The [ISPCAN Rise Up Policy Forum](#) is a global initiative to catalyse progress in advancing child protection through a public health and system strengthening approach.¹ It brings together governments, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to build on momentum, develop domestic capacity, and translate into action the country pledges made at the Global Ministerial Conferences on Ending Violence Against Children by sharing knowledge, integrating research with practical policy responses, driving innovation, and advancing bold evidence-based solutions to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect more effectively across diverse regions and systems.

The Policy Forum serves as a community of practice, where countries can engage in ongoing learning, cross-sector collaboration, and the co-creation of child protection strategies. It supports system strengthening by aligning efforts with global frameworks such as INSPIRE, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Sustainable Development Goals, and providing actionable solutions grounded in local data and realities. Discussions also focus on how to improve the accountability and sustainability of national child protection systems.

The first international Rise Up Policy Forum took place at ISPCAN’s International Congress in [Vilnius, Lithuania](#) in 2025 attended by 55 government representatives, and the second one will be in Melbourne, Australia in August of 2026.

An African Rise Up Policy Forum + Huddle

The first regional Rise Up Policy Forum + Huddle will take place in Africa, from 24-26 June 2026 in Kampala, Uganda. The Forum + Huddle will explore the contexts, strengths, challenges and solutions specific to the African region, convening African child protection expertise, promoting strong national child protection systems, and creating a regional dialogue aimed at transforming child protection into a more data-informed, collaborative, and preventive system.



1. Six pillars of a public health and system-strengthening approach to preventing child abuse and neglect:

1. Ensure effective governance and multi-sectoral coordination.
 2. Improve policies and legislation.
 3. Advance data driven and evidence-based solutions to ending violence, abuse and neglect of children.
 4. Invest in national action plans, capacity building and bringing solutions to scale.
 5. Ensure child rights through universal access to a continuum of child protection prevention, early intervention, and response services.
 6. Establish mechanisms for child, survivor, and community participation in solutions.
- Aligned with: <https://childprotectionsystems.com/framework-for-action/>

Critically, the Policy Forum will bring together government policymakers and technical experts to share their experiences and most effective strategies, challenges and learning, along with leading CSOs, academics, practitioners and survivors, in order to foster a community of learning and practice that catalyses progress in child protection across the continent.

The [ISPCAN Huddle](#) takes a step-by-step 360-degree deep dive into a local case of child abuse from an African country. By placing the child at the centre and exploring missed opportunities, the Huddle fosters learning, builds best practice and re-frames the case within a public health and multi-disciplinary lens.

The Huddle will take place on the 24 June, followed by the Rise Up Policy Forum on 25 - 26 June.

Key Objectives of the Rise Up Policy Forum + Huddle

- **Advance Child Protection Policies:** Promote the development and implementation of effective, evidence-based child protection policies grounded in public health principles.
- **Foster a Community of Learning:** Bring together policymakers, practitioners, researchers, survivors and youth leaders to co-create solutions and exchange best practices.
- **Integrate Research and Practice:** Encourage alignment of data and research with practical applications to inform shareable data-driven solutions and enhance accountability.
- **Catalyze Regional Solutions:** Develop context-specific, scalable strategies that address regional challenges and support sustainable, community-led change.
- **Resource Maximization and Sector Collaboration:** Optimize use of resources and cross-sector collaboration to assist governments in child protection prevention and response.

Target audience

250 delegates are expected at the first African ISPCAN Regional Rise Up Policy Forum + Huddle, bringing together local, regional and national government child protection technical experts, policy makers and practitioners; researchers and academics; I/NGOs, partner and community organizations; and survivors, from across the geographical African region and sectoral disciplines.

Program Overview

On the first day of the programme, [the Huddle](#) will put the child at the centre, taking a step-by-step 360-degree deep dive into a local case of child abuse. The programme will bring together experts across health, law, law enforcement, mental health, social work, to explore missed opportunities and successful strategies, demonstrate the important child protection structures and processes that influence the outcomes for children and families, learn what works, and how to do better.

The following two-day Rise Up Policy Forum programme will include a range of sessions focused on building knowledge and capacity on strategic African child protection issues and solutions. Full plenary sessions will explore fundamental approaches to child protection including the evidence, theory and practice of adopting a public health and system strengthening approach; and strategic priorities such as funding and resource mobilisation, collecting and integrating data and evidence, and multisectoral coordination and leadership. Breakout sessions will provide opportunity for governments and their multisectoral partners to present their work, and multi-sectoral speakers to present the frontiers in African evidence and initiatives. The full programme will be developed over the coming months and will be made public at the end of April 2026. Governments and others will be invited to submit proposals for Rise Up sessions.

Organizing Partners

The African Rise Up Policy Forum is convened by ISPCAN and hosted in partnership with the Government of Uganda and ISPCAN country partners AfriChild and IIDC.

It will be developed in partnership with regional partner organizations including ISPCAN's African country partners, members and network of practitioners and researchers, who will provide further technical expertise and support.

The global Rise Up Policy Forum initiative is organised in partnership with many international partners including WHO, UNICEF, the Office of UNSRSGVAC, the INSPIRE Working Group, the EVAC CSO Forum and others.

Contact



For more information contact Bess Herbert at policy@ispcan.org or register your interest in the event using this QR code.

Registration and further information available on the ISPCAN website from March 2026: [ISPCAN Uganda 2026](#)