



ISPCAN Africa Huddle and Rise Up Policy Forum

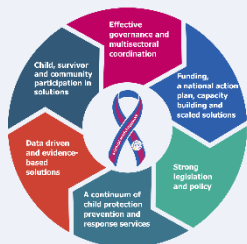
Concept Note

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 and the second was in [Melbourne, Australia](#) in August 2026.



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. Funding, a national action plan, capacity building and scaled solutions.
3. Strong legislation and policy.
4. A continuum of child protection and response services.
5. Data driven and evidence-based solutions.
6. Child, community and survivor participation in solutions.

Aligned with: <https://childprotectionsystems.com/framework-for-action/>

An African Rise Up Policy Forum and Huddle

[The first regional Rise Up Policy Forum and Huddle](#) will take place in Africa, from 23-25 February 2027 in Kampala, Uganda. The Policy Forum and Huddle will explore the contexts, strengths, challenges and solutions specific to the African region, convening African child protection expertise, reflecting on recent regional developments, 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.

Critically, the Policy Forum will bring together government policymakers and technical experts to share their experiences and 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.

Key Objectives of the African Rise Up Policy Forum and Huddle

- **Advance Child Protection Policies:** Promote the development and practical implementation of effective, evidence-based child protection policies grounded in public health and system strengthening principles.
- **Foster the African 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 frameworks, and support sustainable, community-led change.
- **Resource Maximization and Sector Collaboration:** Optimize use of resources, pursue strategies to secure sustainable funding, and foster cross-sector collaboration to assist governments and their partners in child protection prevention and response.

Target audience

250 delegates are expected at the first African ISPCAN Regional Rise Up Policy Forum and 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.

Programme Overview

The Huddle and Rise Up Policy Forum will examine public health approaches to strengthening child protection systems across Africa. Bringing together governments and a multisectoral African audience, the programme will explore regional challenges and solutions, discuss recent regional developments including the CAP-EVAC and latest Ministerial EVAC pledges, elevate African expertise, and promote more collaborative, data-informed, and preventive child protection systems.

Strategic priority programme themes:

- Effective governance and multisectoral coordination
- National data systems, evidence generation and monitoring
- Building domestic capacity through sustainable funding
- Prevention

Day one: The ISPCAN Huddle model is a multidisciplinary, case-based learning approach that reviews real child maltreatment cases through a public health lens. Developed with the Haruv Institute, it supports professionals and policymakers to strengthen assessment, intervention, and systems improvement. Policy Huddles bring together policymakers, NGO leaders, researchers, and system administrators to identify systemic gaps, policy reform opportunities, and prevention priorities.

Days two and three: The Rise Up Policy Forum features plenaries, technical workshops, and interactive sessions focused on strengthening child protection systems through a public health approach. Four priority themes will be explored in plenary masterclasses, with breakout sessions providing deeper discussion and related perspectives. The Forum highlights diverse African expertise and fosters open peer learning on key challenges and promising solutions.

[See the full programme.](#)

Posters

All governments, organisations and individual experts are invited to submit a poster presenting their work, providing opportunity for showcasing an even wider range of the best research, projects and expertise in Africa. Read [the guidance](#) on submitting a poster.

Site visits, networking and cultural events and wellbeing

In addition to the programme, the Uganda Rise Up Policy Forum will include optional site visits, social networking and cultural events, and wellness activities. AI interpretation is being explored.

Organizing Partners

The African Rise Up Policy Forum is convened by ISPCAN and hosted in partnership with the Government of Uganda, ISPCAN Country Partners AfriChild and IIDC, and knowledge partner Haruv University.

Regional partner organizations including ISPCAN's African Country Partners, members and network of practitioners and researchers, and the Ugandan National Stakeholder Group are also involved in the development of the Ugandan Policy Forum.

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

Contact

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