CONCEPT NOTE

ISPCAN Rise Up Policy Forum

Inaugural Forum: 9 October 2025, Vilnius, Lithuania

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 and translate into action the country pledges made during the 2024 Ministerial Conference 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 address child abuse and neglect more effectively across diverse regions and systems.

The 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 CRC and SDGs, 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 Rise Up initiative will feature an annual high-profile convening at ISPCAN's International Congress[2], complemented by regional forums that explore the contexts, strengths, challenges and solutions in each locality, creating a sustained global dialogue aimed at transforming child protection into a more data-informed, collaborative, and preventive system.

Key Objectives of the Rise Up Policy Forum

- **Advance Child Protection Policies**: Promote the development and implementation of effective, evidence-based child protection policies grounded in public health principles at local, national, and global levels.
- **Foster a Community of Practice and Learning:** Bring together policymakers, practitioners, researchers, survivors and youth leaders annually 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.

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[1] Six pillars of a public health and system-strengthening approach to preventing child abuse and neglect:
1. Advance data driven and evidence-based solutions to ending violence, abuse and neglect of children.
2. Improve policies and legislation.
3. Ensure effective governance and multi-sectoral coordination.
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/

[2] https://ispcan.org/congresses/

- **Resource Maximization and Sector Collaboration:** Optimize use of resources and cross-sector collaboration to assist governments in child protection prevention and response.

Target audience

300+ attendees are expected at the inaugural Rise Up Forum in October 2025, bringing together local, regional and national government child protection technical leads; policy makers, researchers & practitioners; I/NGO's, partner organizations and survivors from across geographical contexts and sectoral disciplines.

Programme

You can view the programme for the first Rise Up Policy Forum on the ISPCAN website here.

Organising Partners

The Rise Up Policy Forum is organised by ISPCAN, in partnership with WHO, UNICEF, the Office of UNSRSGVAC, the INSPIRE Working Group, the EVAC CSO Forum and ISPCAN's members, network of practitioners and researchers and 52 country partners.

Contact

To find out more, including how to attend, present or host a session at the Rise Up Policy Forum, contact Bess Herbert at policy@ispcan.org