

# MHPSS LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

Meeting Report #26  
September 10th, 2024

Subgroup discussion on Ending Violence  
Against Children: Data-to-action efforts in  
Colombia and Honduras

This report is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Health Evaluation and Applied Research Development (HEARD), Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-17-0000. The contents of this report are the sole responsibility of City University of New York and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**CUNY**  
**SPH** CENTER FOR INNOVATION  
IN MENTAL HEALTH

**HIAS**

**URC**



# REPORT OUTLINE

3 / PARTICIPANTS

5 / AGENDA

6 / SPEAKERS

8 / MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

12 / RESOURCES & EVENTS

13 / NEXT STEPS

## MHPSS LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

Established in 2020, the ISC MHPSS LC is a global network of practitioner and researcher pairings, policy-makers, donors and other stakeholders who regularly convene to share and consult the group on intervention studies, collaborate on evidence-to-use products, and consider emerging priorities.

Supported through USAID's HEARD project, the ISC MHPSS LC aims to identify priorities informed by diverse stakeholders, link experts, identify opportunities for collaboration, and facilitate information exchange.

ISC MHPSS strategies include:

- Strengthening ownership through co-hosting with regional partners
- Prioritize key issues across the ISC, including intersections with other ISC domain areas (e.g. child protection and women-centered care) and strengthening the evidence base for community-based mental health
- Expansion to new members and sites

The LC is co-hosted by CUNY Graduate School of Public Health, Universidad de los Andes, The East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC), and HIAS.

# MHPSS Learning Collaborative Hosts

---



**HIAS**



**CUNY Center for Innovation in Mental Health (CIMH)**



**The East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSCA-HC)**



**The IMAGINA Center at Universidad de los Andes**



**University Research Co., LLC (URC)**

# PARTICIPANTS

## **BASICNEEDS- GHANA**

- Yaro, Peter

## **CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND COUNCELLING NEGAP (CMC NEPAL)**

- Mahat, Pashupati

## **CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (CUNY)**

- McLaren, Francesca

## **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

- Hermosilla, Sabrina

## **NICOLAE TESTEMITANU MOLDOVA STATE UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY**

- Gherghelegiu, Evelina

## **RED COIPRODEN**

- Aquino, Rosa
- Reyes Lira, Martha
- Romero, Jessy
- Toro, Gonzalo

## **UNIVERSIDAD DE LOS ANDES**

- Harker-Roa, Arturo

## **UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CO., LLC (URC)**

- Kandavel, Krithika
- Peca, Emily
- Ski, Samantha
- Smith, Adriana

# AGENDA

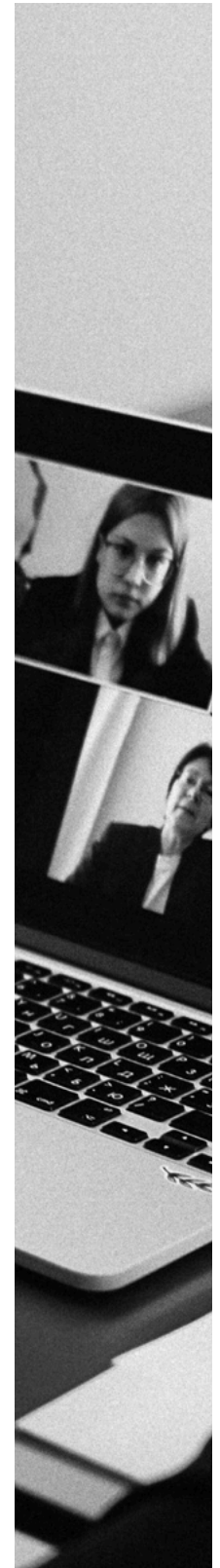
## Subgroup discussion on Ending Violence Against Children (EVAC): Data-to-action efforts in Colombia and Honduras

This meeting was the third ISC MHPSS Learning Collaborative subgroup discussion on Ending Violence Against Children.

The goal of this meeting was to build on the previous and provide a space for further discussion on sub-national action planning for EVAC initiatives in Colombia and Honduras.

- 11:00 - 11:10    **Welcome & Opening Remarks**  
Kathleen Cravero | CUNY SPH
- 11:10 - 11:50    **Discussion: Municipal-level action planning support within National Plans to End Violence Against Children**  
Moderator: Adriana Smith | URC
- 11:50 - 12:00    **Updates & Wrap-up**  
Samantha Ski | URC

Link to the meeting recording can be found [here](#), passcode: **&5q76Q=x**



# Speakers

---



## **Adriana Smith, MPH**

Adriana Smith is an international research consultant. She has extensive experience supporting local and international organizations in the design, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and systematization of international development projects related to health, education, economic and social empowerment, violence prevention and justice.

---



## **Kathleen Cravero, PhD, MPH**

Kathleen Cravero PhD, MPH is a Distinguished Scholar at the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy and a co-Director of CUNY's Center for Immigrant, Refugee and Global Health Policy. She led the USAID-funded effort to improve the scope and impact of national Violence against Children Surveys, which were undertaken in 22 countries

---



## **Samantha Ski, DrPH, MA**

Samantha Ski DrPH, MA is a Senior Implementation Research Scientist at University Research Co., LLC (URC), where she focuses on evaluation design and evidence translation within research systems. She provides technical management for a portfolio of support to national data-to-action efforts to prevent and address violence against children.

---



# MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## Discussion

The discussion focused on subnational initiatives to ending violence against children. Examples from Red COIPRODEN's work in Honduras supporting action planning with Municipal Councils for the Guarantee of Children and Adolescents' Rights (CMGDNA) was used to spark dialogue and give participants the opportunity to share their own experiences and ask questions to the Red COIPRODEN team.

To learn more about Red COIPRODEN's most recent work and their Municipal Councils, click [here](#)

### Discussion Questions:

#### 1. **Personnel Turnover:**

- What are the best practices to overcome the challenge of staff turnover in child protection initiatives, and how can ongoing training and capacity-building efforts be institutionalized to maintain program momentum and expertise?

#### 2. **Challenges in Data Collection:**

- In regions with limited resources and high levels of violence, such as La Ceiba, what innovative methods can be applied to improve data collection and reporting on child protection issues, ensuring a more accurate reflection of the problem?

# MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## Discussion: Staff Turnover Challenges

Across all municipalities in Honduras where COIPRODEN operates, high staff turnover has consistently posed a significant challenge, impeding progress.

This issue is not unique to Honduras; it is a common obstacle for organizations participating in multi-institutional initiatives globally

What are the best practices to overcome the challenge of staff turnover in child protection initiatives, and how can ongoing training and capacity-building efforts be institutionalized to maintain program momentum and expertise?

### Experiences from Colombia

- LC members based in Colombia highlighted challenges with high staff turnover during the development of national EVAC plans. They emphasized that **clear and accessible documentation of processes was a crucial strategy for overcoming these obstacles.**
- In particular, their challenges with turnover were tied to changes in national government leading to large shifts in administration and policy. As a result, thorough documentation, including formal agreements, became essential for preserving the background of consensus and national commitments. This ensured that initiatives like EVAC could transcend individual personnel and the political cycle.
- That being said, with the change of governments, they continued to face challenges where new administrations reference EVAC initiatives in their plans, but fail to acknowledge the existing local and national action plans already developed. This is an area the team in Colombia are eager to improve and are actively working on.

### Experiences from Honduras, La Ceiba Municipality

- In La Ceiba, high staff turnover, particularly among local government leaders, has made it difficult for new leaders to grasp the significance of EVAC action plans. Consequently, COIPRODEN has observed limited participation from certain key actors in municipal planning council meetings.
- To address this, COIPRODEN has engaged directly with all individual actors to help them recognize the crucial role their organizations can play in driving positive change. **Emphasizing the significance of their roles and the value of their participation—within the framework of human rights protection and the national action plan—has been a key strategy.**
- Another challenge has been engaging the national police, due to significant structural changes hindering coordination. It is vital for the police to understand the EVAC initiative, as they play a crucial role in protecting children. COIPRODEN has sought to directly involve them in monthly planning meetings to ensuring their support of local councils. COIPRODEN's strong connections at the national level provide local actors with access to broader institutional network and help them feel more supported.



# MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## Discussion Continued

### Experiences from Honduras, San Pedro Sula Municipality

- In San Pedro Sula, COIPRODEN has also faced challenges with high staff turnover. The local government representative responsible for coordinating the municipal council meetings has changed more than three times, which has discouraged the actors in the council. As a result, many have stopped attending meetings due to frustration with the constant changes. There is also an upcoming election which will likely increase staff turnover.
- To address this, COIPRODEN encourages new representatives to become active participants of the council and reactivate council activities as a whole. **Ensuring all participants understand their roles and responsibilities, as well as the legal framework that obligates them to engage in these spaces has been essential.** COIPRODEN aims to clarify that this is a national obligation rather than a matter limited to the previous government. Additionally, they will provide the representatives with all existing documentation, including the INSPIRE framework and the national response plan, to ensure that they understand the context and foundations of the EVAC plan.

### Experiences from Honduras, Choloma Municipality

- In Choloma, high turnover has also resulted in a significant loss of documentation. To address this, COIPRODEN has **developed a strategy for preserving important information, including previous work and legal frameworks.** This approach ensures that, despite inevitable turnover during rotations and upcoming elections, there will always be someone available with the necessary information at hand.

### LC member suggestions

- An LC member shared their perspective that **high turnover, from a training standpoint, can also be seen as an opportunity for knowledge dissemination rather than merely a negative.** For example, individuals who transition to new roles can become valuable supporters of the initiatives in their new positions. Developing online training modules can be a crucial strategy for ensuring continuous access to information.
- An LC member suggested linking across municipalities to help maintain momentum, especially when one municipality is experiencing a high level of transition compared to others. **Cross-pollinating among municipalities could facilitate knowledge sharing, enabling all of them to better weather periods of high turnover.**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ***Upcoming Learning Collaboratives Meetings***

- ***Subgroup Discussions on Ending Violence Against Children:***
  - Tuesday October 22nd – 10AM EST
  - Tuesday November 26th – 10AM EST

# UPCOMING CONFERENCES:

## **Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum 2024**

- October 21 - 28 2024, Cape Town, South Africa
  - The Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum 2024 will be a vibrant space to connect, share and learn about holistic, intersectional, and innovative approaches to prevent and respond to violence against women, violence against children, and other forms of violence driven by gender inequality.
  - Register [here](#):

## **1st Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children:**

- November 7-8, 2024, Colombia
  - In just under 100 days, world leaders will gather to take decisive action to end violence against children at the first-ever [Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children](#) this November. This pivotal event represents a historic opportunity to change the lives and futures of the billion boys and girls affected by violence each year.
  - For more information, click [here](#)

# RESOURCES & FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

## ***Resources shared during the meeting:***

- [ColumbiaX: INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children MOOC \(Online course\)](#)

## ***ISC Website:***

- [Protecting Children from Violence Hub](#)

## ***MHPSS Knowledge Hub Updates:***

- [Resource Repository](#)
- [Expertise Directory](#)

## ***Funding Opportunities:***

For a full list of upcoming funding opportunities, please visit our [MHPSS Knowledge Hub](#)

- Recent Announcements:
  - [Grand Challenges Canada – Request for Proposals: Funding Bold Ideas for Youth Mental Health in 12 countries - Next intake period 06.25.24-09/25/24](#)
  - [RFA-MH-25-160 Suicide Prevention Across the Life Span in Low- and Middle-Income Countries \(R34 Clinical Trial Optional\) - expires 10/25/2025](#)
  - [PAR-23-318 Mobile Health: Technology and Outcomes in Low- and Middle-Income Countries \(R21/R33 - Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

# NEXT STEPS

We welcome new and existing members to fill out our [expertise survey](#), if you would like your profile to be included in our Experts Directory on the MHPSS Knowledge Hub.

We also welcome you to share with us research news, initiative announcements, and publications to be included in our ISC Newsletter and MHPSS Knowledge Hub websites.

Are you interested in presenting your work at an upcoming ISC meeting or webinar? Do you want to explore collaboration opportunities on a project? Are you considering utilizing data from our MHPSS Data Repository for your research? Please reach out to Francesca McLaren ([francesca.mclaren@sph.cuny.edu](mailto:francesca.mclaren@sph.cuny.edu)) for more information.

- For resources and upcoming funding opportunities and events, please visit our [MHPSS Knowledge Hub](#)
- To learn more about the ISC Learning Collaborative, please visit <https://iscollab.org/>

# KNOWLEDGE HUBS



<https://mhpssknowledgehub.sph.cuny.edu/>



<https://imagina.uniandes.edu.co/hub/>



<https://ecsahc.org/knowledge-hub/>



<https://hias.org/>

**For additional information, email [heard@urc-chs.com](mailto:heard@urc-chs.com)**

[iscollab.org](http://iscollab.org) | [mhpssknowledgehub.org](http://mhpssknowledgehub.org)





