

Rise Up Policy Brief

2026



From Commitments to Implementation: A Policy Blueprint for Scaling Parenting Support

Executive summary

Evidence-based parenting programmes have demonstrated effectiveness in preventing violence against children, strengthening family environments, and enhancing child well-being – yet scaling these interventions remains a persistent challenge. Despite global commitments to expand parenting support – including pledges made at the 2024 Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children in Bogotá – few countries have translated these commitments into sustainable, large-scale action.

This policy brief highlights what it takes to build a world where every parent is equipped to protect their children and support their health, safety, and development. It explores practical strategies to bridge the gap between commitment and implementation. Drawing on global, regional, and humanitarian insights, it identifies key enablers and barriers to scale, including financing,

system integration, contextual adaptation, and cross-sector collaboration. It also underscores the importance of grounding policy and practice in robust evidence.

Key recommendations include:

- designing parenting programmes with scale in mind;
- integrating parenting support into existing national systems;
- adopting gender-transformative approaches and addressing intimate partner violence as well as VAC;
- strengthening intersectoral and government-NGO partnerships;
- leveraging research to inform decision-making.

The importance of engaging faith-based organisations, adapting programmes for humanitarian contexts, and securing sustainable, diversified funding is also highlighted.

The questions we sought to answer

- ✓ What practical steps can governments take to turn bold global commitments—such as the Bogotá parenting pledges—into sustainable, system-wide action to expand parenting support?
- ✓ What practical strategies and innovations help overcome implementation challenges and ensure parenting programmes are adapted effectively to local contexts?
- ✓ How can intersectoral collaboration and accountability mechanisms accelerate the integration of parenting support into existing national systems?



A public health approach to child protection

This policy brief presents strategies that represent a holistic public health approach. Specifically it strengthens the following pillars:

- Policy and legislation
- Data driven and evidence-based solutions
- A national action plan, capacity building and scaled solutions

The problem: progress towards scaled, sustainable implementation of impactful parenting programmes remains slow

Violence against children remains one of the most pervasive yet preventable global public health crises. An estimated one billion children – half of all children worldwide – experience some form of violence every year, with long-term consequences for health, education, and economic productivity [1]. The scale of this crisis has prompted widespread commitments from governments and global actors to expand evidence-based parenting support, a proven strategy for reducing violence and strengthening family well-being [2,3]. Yet despite these commitments – including pledges made at the 2024 Bogotá Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children [4] – progress toward large-scale, sustainable implementation has been slow.

Many countries continue to struggle with fragmented delivery systems, insufficient and inconsistent financing, and limited cross-sector coordination. Parenting programmes are often not adapted to local cultural, social, or humanitarian contexts, and gender-transformative approaches – critical for shifting harmful norms and household dynamics – remain under-utilised.

Costing analyses of parenting programmes, including cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit, and social returns on investment, are rarely conducted or seldom inform national level strategic planning and budgeting.

This gap between commitment and practice is of urgent concern.

Evidence shows that parenting programmes can reduce child maltreatment and improve positive parenting even in resource-constrained settings [5] and humanitarian contexts [6]. However, without deliberate, systems-level integration and long-term funding, these interventions risk remaining small, short-term, and unable to reach the millions of families who need them most.

Now is a pivotal moment as global commitments are higher than ever, and cost-effective digital and community-based delivery models are expanding. Governments can leverage this momentum to translate commitments into real-world impact for children and families.



Policy recommendations

1. Integrate evidence-based parenting support into national systems

Governments should adopt evidence-based parenting programmes as a core element of child protection, social protection, health, justice, human capital development, and early childhood development strategies within the next 2–3 years. This includes embedding services within case management approaches, child protection, social welfare, health, education, labour, and justice sectors, and community delivery systems.

Rationale: Systems-level integration is more effective and cost-efficient than stand-alone projects and ensures long-term sustainability and community-level reach.

2. Establish sustainable financing mechanisms for nationwide delivery and scale-up

Finance ministries, with support from donors, should allocate dedicated multi-year budgets to support scale-up, workforce development, digital delivery, and monitoring. Funding should support the co-design and/or adaptation of cost-efficient and scalable evidence-based parenting interventions, building human resource and technological infrastructure, providing ongoing training and supervision to frontline service providers, ongoing monitoring and evaluation, and sustainment of interventions within service delivery systems.

Rationale: Dedicated financing is essential for sustainably equipping programme implementers, reaching large populations and avoiding fragmented, short-term implementation.

3. Strengthen intersectoral partnerships for coordinated implementation

National governments should lead coordination across social welfare, health, education, finance, labour, justice, and gender ministries, alongside civil society and research partners. Mechanisms should include inter-sectoral national strategies or plans of action, technical working groups, joint planning processes and procedures, and integrated data systems.

Rationale: Collaboration reduces duplication, expands service reach, aligns resources across sectors, and promotes a continuum of care in service delivery.

4. Use research and data to guide adaptation, scale-up, and continuous improvement

Governments should work with research institutions, local organisations, and capacity building organisations to co-design parenting programmes with scale in mind from the outset, ensure contextual adaptation, and implement rigorous monitoring using routine administrative data and implementation research.

Rationale: Evidence-driven design and collaborative decision-making improve effectiveness, support sustainable scale-up, promote cultural relevance, and reduce implementation failures.

5. Promote gender-transformative and socially inclusive approaches within parenting programmes

Governments and implementing partners should integrate content that challenges harmful norms, supports equitable caregiving, and addresses gender-based violence.

Rationale: Addressing gender norms, violence against women, and discrimination against vulnerable populations is essential to preventing violence against children and ensuring lasting behaviour change.



Policy recommendations

6. Engage faith-based and community organisations

Governments and partners should work with faith-based groups, community leaders, and local networks to expand the reach and cultural fit of parenting programmes, especially in underserved areas.

Rationale: These trusted, locally rooted actors boost mobilisation, cultural relevance, uptake, and long-term sustainability where government coverage is limited.

7. Tailor parenting programmes for humanitarian and fragile settings

Humanitarian agencies and governments should adapt parenting programmes for crises—using simplified delivery, flexible modalities, and links to psychosocial support.

Rationale: In crises, children face higher risks of violence and separation; tailored approaches ensure continuity of care and protection when needs are greatest.

Thailand: Parenting for Lifelong Health halves child maltreatment, bringing huge return on investment

In Thailand, The Ministry of Public Health collaborated with the University of Oxford and UNICEF on the cultural adaptation, feasibility pilot, and ‘real world’ randomised control trial of the Parenting for Lifelong Health Young Children (PLH-YC) programme, with delivery embedded in community-based routine health services [7].

Findings showed a 58% reduction in child maltreatment, as well as high parent attendance and acceptability by government health providers, leading to the initial scaling of PLH-YC by government primary care centres in 10 provinces by over 320 facilitators. Costing studies were conducted according to district, provincial, and national level scaling scenarios. A cost benefit analysis found the programme’s benefits were up to 118 times higher than its costs [8]. Further, recognizing the particular restrictions in delivery modalities for migrant and displaced caregivers on the Thailand-Myanmar border, a community-based universal film intervention was also developed, demonstrating a 9% reduction in physical violence against children [9].

“A cost benefit analysis found the programme’s benefits were up to 118 times higher than its costs.”

Implementation considerations

The following short- and long-term implementation considerations outline practical steps that governments and partners can take to effectively adapt, scale, and sustain parenting programmes for maximum impact:

Short-term steps

- Conduct a needs assessment and stakeholder mapping to identify priority areas and key partners.
- Engage in a process of careful adaptation to ensure the programme is a good fit for the context and needs of the parents.
- Integrate and test gender-transformative and IPV prevention approaches in programme design and delivery.
- Develop monitoring and accountability frameworks to track progress and impact.

Long-term steps

- Scale interventions nationally, integrating programmes into existing child protection, social welfare, health, labour, and justice systems, including in humanitarian contexts.
- Institutionalise gender-transformative approaches throughout the scaled intervention.
- Leverage existing community resources and mechanisms that can sustain parenting and caregiver support.
- Ensure sustainable financing, including public-private partnerships and international funding support.

Conclusion

Violence against children remains a pervasive and preventable global crisis, and the time to act is now! Expanding evidence-based parenting support at scale is critical to protecting children, strengthening families, and promoting long-term well-being.

Governments and partners must embed parenting programmes within national systems, secure sustainable financing, foster intersectoral collaboration, and ensure programmes are contextually adapted, gender-transformative, and inclusive.

Immediate, coordinated action will turn global commitments into tangible, sustainable impact, ensuring that every parent has the support needed to nurture safe, healthy, and resilient families.



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Parenting
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Support Parents**



The [ISPCAN Rise Up Policy Forum](#) is a global initiative to catalyse progress in child protection through a public health and system strengthening approach. It brings together governments, researchers and practitioners in a community of practice and learning, to build on and translate into action the pledges made during the 2024 Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children.



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