

Building a Children, Peace, and Security Agenda in Latin America

CONFERENCE REPORT

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ABOUT THE DALLAIRE INSTITUTE

The Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security was founded by General Roméo Dallaire in 2007. Dalhousie University, located in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, has provided a home to the Institute since 2010. General Dallaire first experienced the issue of children used as soldiers as the Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda during the 1994 genocide. During this time, General Dallaire realized that he and his troops were ill-prepared to face them. Drawing on this experience, the Dallaire Institute was created with the unique premise that preventing violence against children requires a dual lens that is focused on prioritizing the protection of children as well as understanding the significant operational impacts upon security sector actors.

Through interdisciplinary and applied research, global advocacy, academic and practitioner training, and community engagement, the Dallaire Institute advances innovative strategies for preventing the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts and violence. Uniquely, the Dallaire Institute works directly with the security sector to implement this prevention strategy. The Dallaire Institute has fifteen years of experience working with security actors, including the military, police, intelligence, and corrections, to strengthen strategic, operational, and tactical capacities to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts and violence.

The Dallaire Institute advances understanding about the fragile contexts that threaten children which increase their vulnerability to extreme violence and insecurity, and diminishes their agency to positively impact change. These challenges perpetuate cycles of inequality and violence that continue over generations. Through this work the Dallaire Institute hopes to build a more holistic, prevention-oriented approach to the issue of children recruited and used in armed violence that complements current efforts while providing innovative solutions with the ultimate vision of building a world where children are at the heart of peace and security.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security (herein referred to as the Dallaire Institute), held its Fourth Annual International Knowledge for Prevention (K4P) Symposium in Montevideo from November 29 - December 1, 2022, with support from the Government of Uruguay, and in particular, the Ministry of National Defense of Uruguay. The symposium celebrated the 5th Anniversary of the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers (Vancouver Principles). The Vancouver Principles, which were jointly developed by the Dallaire Institute and the Government of Canada in 2017, are a set of 17 distinct commitments, that taken together, aim to empower Member States of the UN (United Nations) to undertake early, effective, and coordinated action to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict.

This year's symposium also officially launched the Dallaire Institute's Latin American Centre of Excellence (LACoE). Based in Montevideo, Uruguay, the Dallaire Institute's LACoE will serve as a regional hub bringing together Latin American security sector personnel, civil society organizations, researchers, and practitioners to develop and implement approaches to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed violence across the region. On this point, the symposium presented the Dallaire Institute with an opportunity to: engage with key regional subject matter experts; build new partnerships with security sector personnel and representatives from civil society; and, discuss early warning capabilities for preventing the recruitment and use of

children in armed violence, in a region where armed violence is a grave concern that has led to high levels of homicides that have directly and indirectly impacted children. Understanding how to prevent such armed violence is critical to break generational cycles of violence.

There are several key United Nations Peacekeeping troop-contributing countries (TCCs) in the Latin American Region. Uruguay has been at the forefront of Latin America's commitment to UN peacekeeping; a commitment that is predicated on the belief that the international community has a responsibility to prevent conflict and to act when confronted with challenges to peace and security. The critical work carried out by the Latin American Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (ALCOPAZ), has contributed to educating the region's military, police, and civilian personnel on issues related to UN peace operations.

The K4P Symposium brought together a regional collective of security sector actors, academics, policymakers, and youth to discuss the importance of prioritizing children's protection in regional peace and security efforts. The symposium's agenda¹ demonstrated the importance of developing strategic relationships within the region to build a Children, Peace, and Security (CPS) agenda across the region. Importantly, building a CPS agenda requires a deeper understanding of how the recruitment and use of children in armed violence causes harm and trauma not only to children, but also to their families, communities, and security sector personnel.

¹ For a more detailed overview of the symposium's agenda, see Annex 3.



The K4P Symposium in Montevideo is an example and assertion of constructive international cooperation between two countries: Canada and Uruguay. It shows the nations' commitment to advancing an agenda of peace and security and to placing a focus on children's rights. – Canadian Ambassador to Uruguay, Isabelle Valois

We need to make prevention something operative – this is what we need “down to earth prevention”. It is necessary to increase possibilities to address violence against children and those are values, strategies, and tools for prevention. This is the vision promoted by UN Resolution Security Council 2427, since 2018 and the Dallaire Institute was the first to push for prevention on a global scale. – UN SRSG CAAC, Virginia Gamba

As such, advancing a CPS agenda in Latin America requires an understanding of the various regional approaches and challenges to implementing the Vancouver Principles, an understanding of early warning indicators of recruitment and use, and finally, a recognition of the criticality of integrating community perspectives into approaches to prevent children's engagement in armed violence.

Moreover, to effectively prevent grave violations against children, including their recruitment and use by armed groups and gangs, stakeholders need timely, reliable, and systematic data on what makes children vulnerable to these violations. The Dallaire Institute used its 2022 symposium as an opportunity to introduce its Knowledge for Prevention (K4P) predictive model on preventing the recruitment and use of children to Latin America – a region where most situations of instability are classified as armed violence and not armed conflict². While the distinctions between armed violence and armed conflict are often blurred, children, in both instances, are impacted by the many conditions created by adults that often lead to their insecurity.

Representatives present at the symposium ranged from the UN Special Representative to the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Vice Minister of Defence of Uruguay, Canada's Ambassador on Women, Peace, and Security, members of the diplomatic corps in the region and both the current and former president of ALCOPAZ, as well as youth participants, academics, and security sector representatives.

The symposium represented an important opportunity to bring stakeholders from the security sector, civil society, and academia together to share knowledge and increase the Dallaire Institute's understanding about the diverse contexts within Latin America and how these contexts impact the recruitment and use of children by armed groups.

² The 2009 OECD report on “Conflict and Fragility: Armed Violence Reduction, Enabling Development” defines armed violence as including the use or threatened use of weapons to inflict injury, death, or psychological harm, which undermines development.

THE DALLAIRE INSTITUTE'S LATIN AMERICAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN URUGUAY

The Dallaire Institute's Latin American Centre of Excellence (LACoE) was launched in Montevideo, Uruguay, in February 2021 in partnership with the Government of Uruguay and the Association of Latin American Peacekeeping Training Centers (ALCOPAZ). The LACoE will provide training for the increasing number of troop contributors from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay, through the National Peace Operation Training School of Uruguay (ENOPU).

ENOPU is one of the first training schools for peacekeepers established in the region. It has a professional military staff who possess vast operational experience. Many instructors have served in numerous peacekeeping missions and have supported training other instructors around the world. In February 2021, ENOPU began to implement a directive put forward by the Ministry of Defence of Uruguay as part of a national strategy to protect children's rights. The directive establishes that ENOPU should train personnel for the protection of children's rights as part of deployment training. In 2020, the first training course with a focus on child protection for peace support operations was delivered. In February 2021, the Ministry of Defence and the Dallaire Institute signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which outlines a collaboration to implement the Vancouver Principles.

Since July 2021, all the ENOPU pre-deployment trainings include the following three components of the Dallaire Institute's Children, Peace, and Security module:

- i) Integrated Training Services from United Nations Headquarters;
- ii) The guide for child safeguarding created by MoD, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and ENOPU; and
- iii) The Dallaire Institute's training curriculum for preventing of the recruitment and use of children in armed violence. This module was developed by ENOPU as part of the implementation of international commitments to promote the maintenance of peace and security, advance national child protection policies, and train peacekeeping personnel on the prevention of grave violations against children around the world.

The partnership between the Government of Uruguay and the Dallaire Institute will help to advance knowledge sharing of good practices to inform contextualized solutions to address preventing the recruitment and use of children and contribute to breaking cycles of violence in the region.

CONTEXTUALIZING A CHILDREN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA IN LATIN AMERICA

There is an urgent need to advance our understanding about the fragile contexts that threaten children, increase their vulnerability to extreme violence and insecurity, and diminish their agency to positively impact change. These challenges perpetuate cycles of inequality and violence that continue over generations. The creation of a global Children, Peace, and Security (CPS) agenda is a response to address these challenges and complement existing frameworks, including the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda and the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda. All three agendas aim to include groups that have historically been excluded or marginalized from peace and security processes and while it is important to recognize how these agendas are interlinked, we should avoid grouping women, youth, and children together, as this would overlook the unique needs and agency of each group.

UN SRSG CAAC, Virginia Gamba, mentioned in her opening remarks that there is only one country in Latin America in which she has a mandate to act – Colombia. This is the only country in the region identified as an armed conflict by the UN. However, the levels of violence against children and the increasing numbers of children being recruited and used by armed groups in the region is a great concern and these are signs that there is desperate need for prevention work. Currently, increasing violence particularly in Haiti and other countries are not part of the SRSG CAAC mandate.

Non-state actors such as armed groups, gangs, cartels, and violent extremist organizations are increasingly prevalent in Latin America.



In Latin America the time for prevention has come, rather than lamenting and protecting when it is too late.

These groups recruit and use children in armed violence, but the links and commonalities with the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict contexts is often not compared or contrasted. Applicability of the rules of armed conflict and the domestic laws that govern armed violence become challenging to navigate due to the political sensitivities and outdated approaches to defining armed conflict.³ For the purposes of the Dallaire Institute's work, we recognize that there are similarities in risk factors, recruitment practices, and uses of children across several types of armed violence and conflict. It is important to underline the complex and diverse security environments across Latin America, recognizing the differences both between countries and within countries (e.g., between rural and urban areas). The levels of insecurity and the recruitment and use of children, as such, are equally diverse across the region. Developing an operational plan to work in the area requires fostering strategic relationships and prioritizing countries where prevention efforts can play a significant role in preventing the recruitment and use of children by armed

³ <https://www.rulac.org/browse/map>

groups, gangs, and other criminal organizations. Enhancing our understanding of the links between the recruitment and use of children in armed violence and sustaining cycles of violence is an urgent task in Latin America. Preventing children's involvement in, and exposure to, armed violence, coupled with concerted efforts to work directly with children and youth to build and sustain peace, must become fully integrated in global peace and security efforts.

Key findings from the panelists

- **The main reasons children are at risk for being recruited and used for armed violence in Latin America** are:
 - i) lack of access to basic security and physical protection.
 - ii) lack of access to communities that provide safe spaces for children to grow and build a sense of belonging.
 - iii) lack of investments from the government into social programs to support families and children. These three gaps create the perfect conditions for gangs and illegal groups to recruit children. These groups benefit from these institutional weaknesses and the recruitment and use of children for violence becomes an industry and a way of life for thousands.
- **Gangs and illegal groups** are organizations with deep roots in societies. These groups often have a good understanding of what children need and, as a result, they can effectively recruit children, not necessarily using physical violence or threats, but through promises to provide children with what they need (e.g., security, employment, food, and shelter etc.). Recruitment is a process that changes according to the region and context. Gangs and illegal groups infiltrate public activities

and places developing relationships that exploit children's expectations, frustrations, and desires. In many cases, the gangs are selling and promoting a life of luxury. Moreover, in a cultural context driven by hypermasculinity (i.e., "macho culture"), carrying guns and being involved in a gang often gives young people a particular perceived standing in society.

- **Criminal organizations and gangs** mix their illegal activities with presence in communities to fill voids left by the state. This is an important aspect to be considered when designing interventions to prevent the recruitment and use of children in violence. For instance, if the primary, or even singular, strategy is to crackdown on gangs this may, unintentionally, increase the "legitimacy" of the gang as a provider of some daily basic needs for the community. In addition, this strategy does little to address the gaps created by the state's absence. Finally, this approach can sometimes lead to an increase in violence as gangs increase their demands of loyalty, discipline, and control of an area, which can lead to more abusive and exploitative patterns.
- **Preventing the recruitment and use of children** in an environment where illegal groups, linked to drug trafficking, are emerging requires quality information about the social dynamics, risk factors for youth, and characteristics of the illegal groups to develop some action pathway that would create opportunities for youth in those communities.
- **Prevention requires asking questions** about when, how, and why gangs operate as well as how the intervention of security forces impacts how gangs operate. How is

the state going to relate to youth that live in areas governed by gangs but who are not members of the gang themselves? Do state authorities have the tools to change behaviours to prevent gang recruitment? Do the justice and security systems have alternatives to punitive measures?

- **The recruitment and use of children for violence as a cause, and effect of forced migration.** In some countries in Latin America, the lack of security and the constant threat that children face in violent communities are the principal reasons for the forced migration of children. They often face physical and mental abuse, sometimes even sexual violence, at home, at school and in their communities. The anguish from these types of abuses often forces the children to walk along dangerous paths where armed groups and border patrol officers are ready to capture them or seize what few possessions the children may have. In these situations, children become increasingly vulnerable to being recruited and used.

- **Child survivors of recruitment and use** in Colombia detailed how these traumatic experiences can also help raise awareness amongst communities and youth that can prevent this victimization from happening to others. Youth leaders should be empowered as key actors for change.

- **Research related to children, violence and Latin America** has suggested that children suffer from multiple challenges. These challenges leave little choice for children but to migrate, facing the most extreme risks, like recruitment and use in armed violence. In 2021, child migration peaked, with 146,000 children detained

in the United States and 152,000 children detained on the Mexico – US border (Council on Foreign Relations, 2023).

- **The security sector perspective** is also a key consideration in Latin America as the lack of trust between the security sector institutions and civilians creates barriers, making it challenging to build and develop plans for preventing the recruitment and use of children and enabling their protection. Perceptions of corruption and collusion with criminal networks and undemocratic regimes has tainted the community perspective where the security sector is seen as the problem and not the solution. In addition, countries in the region have invested in building security sector institutions since they are perceived by governments to play a fundamental role in the region's stability.

- **The role of security sector personnel** in the displacement of children and youth from Latin America is not well understood. Police and border control officers that guard borders do not have a clear mandate, nor do they possess the necessary knowledge or skills to prevent grave violations against children. The key role of the security sector personnel seems to be to ensure that no one crosses the borders illegally. There is a desperate need to rethink this mandate, approach, and training as it is neither beneficial to the children, their communities, nor to the security sector. The resources spent on imprisonment, border fences and patrols, coupled with the lack of preparation for this moral injury imposed upon border security officials is a huge gap in policy, research and knowledge.

- **International legal instruments** can play a significant role to improve the protection of children at a national level. Countries in the region should address their adoption and adherence to these legal instruments to strength the protection of children. Criminal law must be developed to include the prohibition of, and punishment for, the recruitment and use of children in armed violence at the national level. At the same time, international cooperation for prosecution of those adults who recruit and use children should be enhanced across the region. This should also contribute to improving systems for reintegration of children that were victims of recruitment and use by armed groups to prevent further re-recruitment patterns. According to Luis Ernesto Pedernera, Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child of the United Nations, “countries have endorsed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC), and while **focusing on the age of recruitment is an important aspect to improve child protection, it must also be complimented** with other important measures to prevent, protect and reintegrate children who have been recruited in armed conflict and armed violence.”

- **Latin America and the UN** - multiple agencies work with governments and civil society organizations in the region. Regional bodies have a robust endorsement of international human rights instruments, **but the level of implementation varies from country to country.** Civil society organizations in the region have used platforms on human rights to communicate

their vision for peace and democracy throughout the region which includes a large spectrum of practitioners, leaders, experts, and academics.

The Centrality of Youth in Advancing a Children, Peace and Security Agenda

Since 2020, the Dallaire Institute has engaged youth from its Knowledge for Prevention (K4P) Youth Advisory Committee, highlighting the importance empowering youth to be advocates for the inclusion of children’s perspectives and protection in the global peace and security agenda. In keeping with the promise of “nothing about us without us,” the Dallaire Institute’s symposium in Montevideo highlighted the vital role youth play in advancing a Children, Peace, and Security agenda in the Latin American context. Participants on this panel had experience working with children and advocating for their meaningful participation on issues of peace and security in the region.

Key Points from Panelists

- **Children’s meaningful participation** is an example of a tangible implementation of child protection and the prioritization of children’s rights. Children who are victims of recruitment and use in armed violence are affected by more than one type of violation or abuse and by more than one armed group. Listening to their stories reminds us that these children are daughters, sons, brothers, and sisters, and not simply another set of statistics. That said, data is especially important when informing decision makers on how to design programs that address children’s needs but that also integrate children’s perspectives on their own needs.

- **Those responsible for recruiting and using children in armed violence also control the narrative** by suggesting that recruitment and use is a deliberate decision made by a child to leave his or her family and join an armed group. One of the first requirements for meaningful children’s participation is to shed light on the fact that recruitment and use of children in violence is a deliberate strategy used by those in armed groups. Acknowledging the violation is the first step in opening a safe space for children’s participation. Understanding the processes and nuances of recruitment and use can provide essential information to prevent and to initiate the appropriate actions to protect and prevent.



The world is changing, the dynamics of violations against children are changing too, we need to understand the context to generate early prevention in complex and highly violent contexts. – UN SRSG CAAC, Virginia Gamba

- **Acknowledging children’s agency** can be difficult in a world run by adults. The lack of knowledge about how to interact with children to promote their agency increases when adults have encounters with children who have been recruited and used in violence. These interactions with children can trigger reactions from adults that may not be respectful or appropriate for

the situation. Adults, whether in the security sector or in local communities, need to be trained on what to do when they encounter children in situations of armed violence so that they can ensure that children in these contexts are supported and protected. Just because a child has been the victim of a grave violation like recruitment and use, does not mean that he or she has lost his or her agency. Empowering children to positively impact change requires us to provide children with a safe space to learn, make mistakes, make their own decisions, develop self-confidence, express emotions, and receive support.

- **Stereotypes and criminalization** – the idea that children are innocent and well-behaved is a cultural stereotype that is often held. Those who do not match these stereotypes are often the subject of prejudice, borne out of a lack of understanding of their circumstances. The stigma that children who have been recruited and used is another layer of victimization that they suffer. In many cases, the only attention and response children receive are the punitive measures (e.g., imprisonment) implemented by the state. These are fundamental points where the cycle of violence is often repeated. Government authorities and civil society must shift how they view and think of security as it relates to children, and they must find creative, multifaceted ways to interact with children in a way that promotes respect and invites us to challenge our own stereotypes. How a country’s criminal justice system treats its children reflects how ready the society is to prevent grave violations against children and respond to the complexity of children’s rights.

- **Addressing the mental health of children who have been recruited and exposed to violence is an important healing process and a gap that exists.**

Children that have been recruited and used in armed violence must go through a healing process but so too do their families and communities. The trauma should not be stigmatized, and it is not an illness; it is a physical, mental, and spiritual reaction to a distressing experience or event. If adults are aware of this, they will be open to listen to children and what they have experienced and witnessed. As Juan Sebastian Campo from *Benposta*⁴ said “Not recognizing that someone is a victim of recruitment is revictimization.” That said, sharing one’s story is always a personal choice, it cannot be demanded or forced.

- **Interactions with children affected by, or at risk of, recruitment** and use must be able to rebuild their self-confidence and learn skills to make their own decisions. This requires creative solutions aimed at building trust, support, and independence.

- **Children’s participation** in Latin America requires an integrated approach – this means working to lift children out of poverty and give them access to a basic level of security. There is a considerable proportion of the population affected by armed violence and natural disasters.

- **The main problems for children are twofold:** violence and a lack of communication with adults. Children suffer the most from violence at home, and from there it escalates to other levels of society. Repeated exposure to violence, especially among youth and children, can normalize violent behavior and can cause violence to be reproduced intergenerationally. To advance prevention, it is necessary to support families and revitalize public places with activities that encourage children’s participation and integration. Punitive measures only add to the spectrum of violence that children are already experiencing.

4 <https://benpostacolombia.org/>



Photo: Dallaire Institute Executive Director, Dr. Shelly Whitman, speaks with UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia Gamba during the 2022 K4P Symposium in Montevideo, Uruguay.

IMPLEMENTING THE VANCOUVER PRINCIPLES IN LATIN AMERICA

In 2017 the Dallaire Institute co-developed the Vancouver Principles with the Government of Canada as part of the UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial held in Vancouver. The Vancouver Principles represent a set of 17 distinct commitments, that taken together, aim to empower Member States of the UN to undertake early, effective, and coordinated action to prevent the recruitment and use of children. The Vancouver Principles are motivated by the conviction that preventing the recruitment and use of children is not a peripheral issue to UN Peacekeeping, but rather, is critical to achieving overall mission success and to setting the conditions for lasting peace and security. Today there are 106 nations that have endorsed the Vancouver Principles including 15 states in Latin America.

This symposium was aimed at drawing on the experience of Latin American governments, as well as security forces deployed on peacekeeping missions, in advancing the implementation of the Vancouver Principles. A particular focus of the symposium was on early warning indicators of the potential for recruitment and use of children in armed violence and how this can be effectively translated into early and collaborative action. In addition, understanding the gender implications of implementing the Vancouver Principles from a Latin American perspective was discussed.

Panel 1 of the symposium was an opportunity for key representatives from international and national institutions in Latin America to share information on, and challenges to, the implementation of the Vancouver Principles in Latin America.



The Vancouver Principles are an international instrument that are not legally binding but an example of best practice. They improve the capacity to prevent and provide an additional operational set of tools to increase security forces' capacity to prevent violations against children in armed conflict but also in armed violence. The Paris Principles and Safe Schools Declaration complete a set of instruments that allow for the creation of holistic and integrated protection tools to improve prevention. – UN SRSG CAAC, Virginia Gamba

The panel focused on:

- i. The integrity of the international legal system to address prevention, protection and reintegration of children recruited and used for violence in a rapidly changing armed conflict environment.
- ii. Peacekeepers' description of the challenges faced by troops operating in extreme conditions, often in countries

with weak institutions and fragile communities, and the challenges to carrying out their missions.

iii. Political and strategic perspectives that impact implementation of the Vancouver Principles.

Key Points

- To prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed violence in Latin America it is important to develop mechanisms for early action and for prevention. This involves bringing different stakeholders together to discuss opportunities to strengthen human rights protection and overcome some of the existing human security challenges in the region. The ability to find creative solutions to some of these challenges and to rethink peace and security with a focus on children's rights as a priority is an opportunity to advance the aims of the Vancouver Principles.
- There are a robust set of international instruments designed to protect children in armed conflict and armed violence. However, there are multiple challenges when trying to implement these instruments. In the context of Latin America, these include:

- The fact that Latin America is a region with one of the highest rates of violence and highest number of armed groups, the only recognized armed conflict – as defined by international law -- is the conflict in Colombia. Applying instruments related to armed conflict and peacekeepers is a challenge in the Latin American context due to the lack of understanding about the role of domestic law and the security sector in preventing the recruitment and use of children in armed violence.
- Many existing rules and norms focus on what actors cannot do in armed conflict and little on what actors, e.g., security forces, can do to proactively protect children and prevent their recruitment and use. This is a large gap.
- The protection of children's rights is a salient topic in the international community. However, for some states their commitment is temporary, occurring only when it is politically popular. Political commitment should represent a broad understanding about how the Vancouver Principles are not only important to the security sector in harnessing their role within child protection and recruitment prevention, but also significant to changing perspectives of societies toward children and their place in society.

IMPLEMENTING VANCOUVER PRINCIPLE #3: EARLY WARNING

Research has shown that armed violence dramatically increases children’s vulnerability to being recruited and used by armed groups (Maclure & Denov, 2006). Exploiting children and exposing them to violence can increase the likelihood that they will engage in violent behaviour in the future. Preventing recruitment and use in the first place is therefore paramount to breaking cycles of violence and improving the protection of children and communities in fragile and vulnerable environments. Vancouver Principle #3 states that it is essential “to support UN efforts to monitor, report and identify, and address early warning signs of the recruitment

and use of child soldiers, recognizing that such acts can amount to war crimes and can be a precursor of other war crimes, including attacks on civilians and civilian objects, crimes against humanity and genocide.” Effective prevention requires timely, reliable, and systematic data on what makes children susceptible to recruitment and use. To address this gap, the Dallaire Institute has developed a research project that created the first early warning predictive model that helps to identify combinations of factors that increase or decrease the likelihood that children are recruited and used.

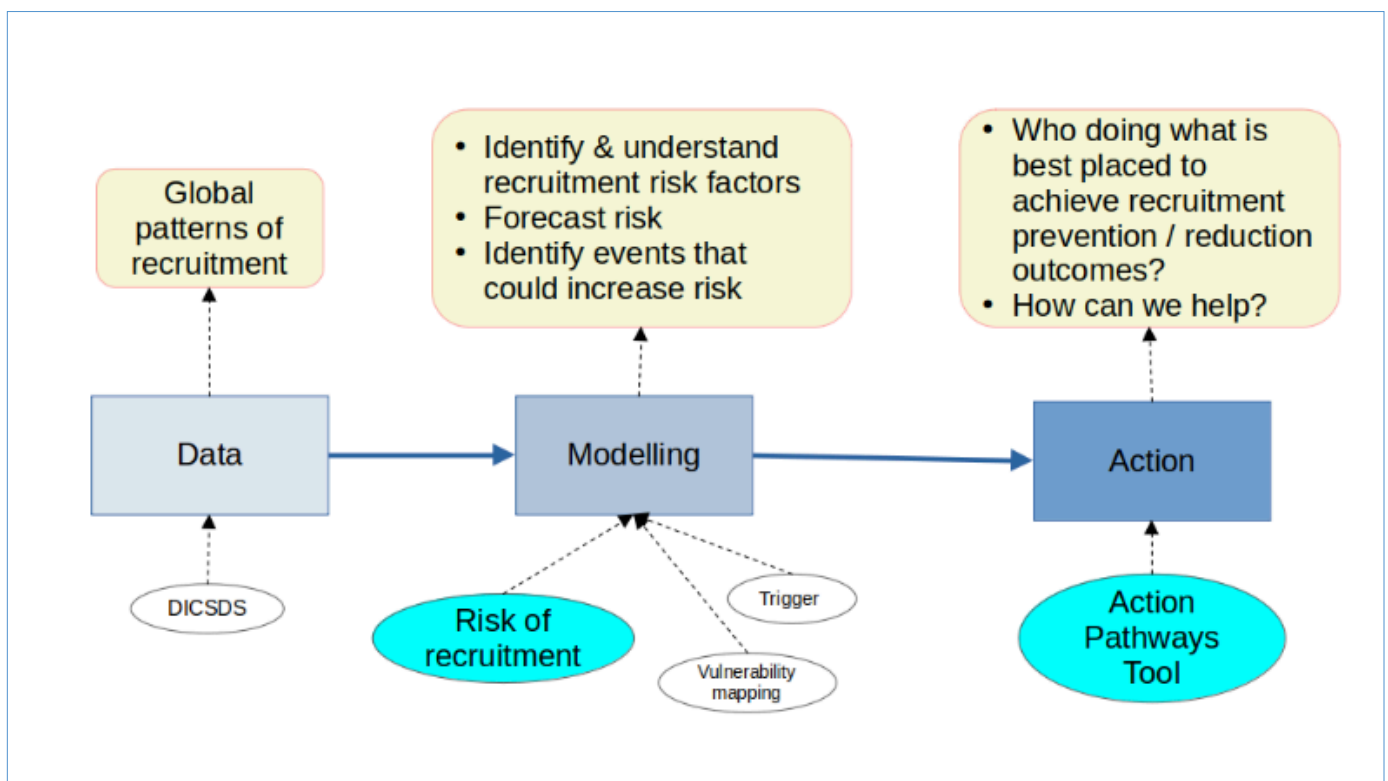


Photo Caption: System and Components of the DI Predictive Model to improve effective action to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed violence. Tim Lynam, Data Scientist DI.



To increase efficiency in prevention – requires data. The most strategic partner for the Office of the UNSRSG CAAC is the Dallaire Institute to provide analysis, information, improving training of security forces in many countries to prevent the violations of children in armed conflict.
– UN SRSG CAAC, Virginia Gamba

The Predictive Model

The Dallaire Institute’s predictive modelling process involved the creation of a data set on the recruitment and use of children that allows us to:

- Identify global patterns in recruitment and use.
- Identify the factors that increase or decrease the likelihood of recruitment and use.
- Identify where recruitment and use are most likely to occur soon.

The Dallaire Institute is aware of how quickly armed conflict can change and as new threats emerge, armed groups may change their structures, strategies, and tactics. As a result, available data is also changing rapidly. Our predictive model is therefore designed to be adaptive and reliable. Our research team updates the data set regularly and as a result the predictive model is refined. This data

model improves the Dallaire Institute’s capacity to prevent recruitment and use. As we become aware of early warning signals, we engage with key partners and experts to validate or repudiate our concerns. If validated, we work with key partners to identify viable response pathways to prevent the recruitment and use of children.

The model therefore has two principal components: risk factors and the action pathways tool.

Risk of Recruitment

With a global focus on the recruitment and use of children, the model provides strategic level forecasts on children’s engagement in conflict and violence and is broken down into three main components:

- Estimating the likelihood of the recruitment and use of children by state and non-state armed groups.
- Identifying indicators and stages of recruitment and use; and
- Identifying events as preliminary early warning signals, to examine and evaluate response options.

Action Pathways Tool

- Focuses on a specific group in a specific country or part of a country at a specific time.
- It relies on knowledge from people who know the context and the situation.
- The better and more precise the knowledge used the more useful the tool will be.

- The action pathways tool has four categories: 1. outcomes, 2. actors, 3. relationships, 4. actions. When we multiply all these together, we get a set of probable action pathways, when we are trying to achieve an outcome or apply the tool as a set of possible action pathways.
- The Dallaire Institute is in the process of refining its early action pathways tool that will enable it to translate early warning into early action by working with key partners to identify viable pathways to prevent the recruitment and use of children.

Applying the Action Pathways Tool

- We partner with institutions to determine and prioritize which pathways are most impactful in early prevention of recruitment. Multiple pathways are possible for each partner, as there are many who act as intermediaries to other intermediaries.
- We can identify potential programming responses and advocacy tools to use with intermediaries to achieve that outcome.
- We can check our capacity to deliver programming responses.
- We can identify who is doing what and who is most likely to achieve our desired outcomes.

Working Session on the Predictive Model

The session began by contextualizing the state of early warning and peacekeeping, particularly as it relates to child protection, and provided an overview of the Dallaire Institute's own early warning to early action system, through a virtual presentation delivered by Tim Lynam, a consultant data scientist working with the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security.

Following a Q&A session, the audience was divided into six small groups to answer three questions. The discussions in the working session considered the applicability of such a system in the Latin American context and key lessons learned from existing early warning initiatives in the region.

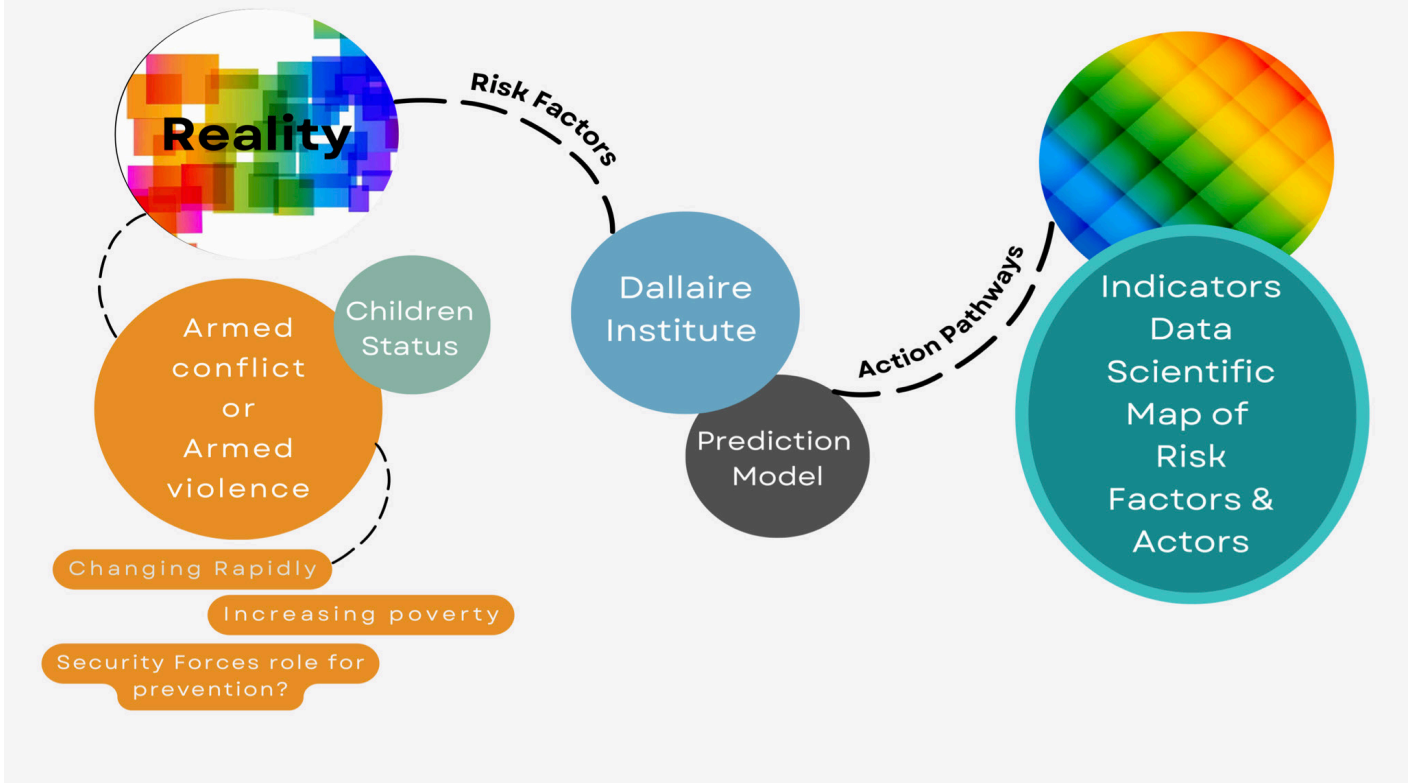
Each group discussed the questions below:

1. What are your reflections on the Dallaire Institute's early warning and early action tools? Are they applicable in the context of Latin America?
2. What indicators of children's engagement in violence are critical to consider in the context of Latin America?
3. What are your recommendations and lessons learned for moving warning into action from a regional perspective?

It is worth noting that while the Dallaire Institute's predictive model forecasts globally, the Institute has not yet followed up to gain contextual information from experts in the area to move its early warning predictive model forward in the region. The purpose of this working session was to bring security sector actors, members of civil society and government representatives together to discuss how the Dallaire Institute's early warning indicators and its early action pathways tool can be tailored to countries within the Latin America.

This model helps institutions to assess the complexity of a given situation, with rigorous analysis of all indicators, actors, and possible outcomes, even those outcomes we do not want. The information collected through the tool must be disciplined and accurate. It requires a thorough appreciation and knowledge regional socio-economic challenges and cultural contexts,

EARLY WARNING & EARLY ACTION



Pathway from Early Warning to Early Action using the DI Predictive Model. Marianela Fuertes, Research Advisor DI.

as well as, to close collaboration with national and local experts to consider the appropriate methodology to develop efficient and viable action pathways.

The predictive model can use the existing data collected to identify key indicators that increase (or decrease) the potentiality of recruitment and use of children. This method not only provides essential information about context, but it is also a valuable tool that can help policymakers make informed decisions on how best to prevent the recruitment and use of children and design potential interventions that better protect children in armed violence.

The Dallaire Institute invited the audience to consider an innovative approach to prevent the recruitment and use of children in violence in Latin America and explore creative solutions. A fundamental step to collecting data is identifying the institutions, organizations, communities, and groups who know and have influence over the area, mapping the region to identify which stakeholders we should target, based on their knowledge, influence etc., is critical to the model. Identifying these stakeholders then allows the Dallaire Institute to begin building relationships with these key partners to begin developing action pathways to prevent grave violations, like recruitment and use, against children.

Key Questions and Perspectives

The following points emerged from the working session:

1. **The data collected for the model**

has an impact on the information on potential recruiters of children. The model only analyses the violation of recruiting and using children and does not account for the other grave violations. This is a limitation since often multiple grave violations can often occur simultaneously.

- **Some of the six grave violations are the entry point for recruitment**, or they are part of the initiation or training process used by the armed group to gain control over the children. There is a probability that the presence of one grave violation against children could increase the probability of a secondary violation. However, at this stage, the Dallaire Institute has kept the model simple, focusing on whether: “there is evidence to support a claim that a specific group, in a specific country, in a specific year has recruited and used children.” Moreover, there are often considerable difficulties and costs associated with developing or accessing reliable data on such situations.

- **The complexity of forced migration requires multifaceted solutions based on accurate data.**

This means that improving partnership and alliances is essential to developing prevention efforts. Accurate data collection depends, in part on:

- i. connecting with the private sector (financial and social media software companies) who have permanent

access to demographics issues that affect families, what methods people are using to communicate, providing information about potential disruptive factors in particular regions; and

- ii. applying artificial intelligence to manage the high volume of information that can then assist researchers to increase how efficiently they analyse data and produce diagnostics of timely pathways for action.

- **Collecting information about the recruitment and use of children in armed violence from the security sector actors** is a complex process that requires building relationships with the security sector. Building trust starts with the opportunity to talk directly with troops that have come back from deployments. The Dallaire Institute has learned that we must first bring awareness to the issues and educate the security sector on the issues of children prior to any ability to ask questions that reflect the potential interactions that the security sector may have had with children in armed violence. Without this foundational knowledge, we will not receive many testimonies due to lack of understanding and lack of trust.

- **The non-state armed actor as a unit** of analysis raised questions about what characteristics are used to identify a group as a non-state armed group. There was a discussion about the importance of working with a much broader and more flexible definition of what an armed group is, including non-state armed groups related to

non-political oriented violence was considered. These groups impact the recruitment and use of children in violence in regions where there are extensive criminal activities, and the actions of those groups significantly destabilize the state and society.

- **The model will adapt based on the information that is collected.**

For example, there is evidence that shows that when state forces are recruiting and using children, this significantly increases the use of children by non-state armed groups.

2. **The applicability of the predictive model in Latin America** was discussed with concerns about how the model can reflect the diversity of the region and how the model could address the levels of poverty and social exclusion that children suffer from in the region.

- **IDRC research as it relates to migration has important commonalities** with the circumstances and risks that are identified as predictive factors that increase children's vulnerability to recruitment and use. The increase in domestic and community violence, especially against women, also has implications for children because it impacts their fragile environments.

- **The migration studies conducted in areas** with the highest numbers of displaced populations show that despite the growing presence of multilateral organizations and the creation of new institutions, we are lacking information collected on the characteristics, composition, and motives of displaced populations. We

know that an increase in violence, a high rate of homicides, gender violence and increased levels of poverty, that have only been compounded by effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, have contributed to forced migration.

- **This was an opportunity to introduce the predictive model** from three different perspectives:

- i. research based on quantitative data;

- ii. reflections from experienced peacekeepers; and

- iii. curriculum development to train personnel for peacekeeping operations.

- **Capacity building to increase knowledge and understanding of the indicators** that precede the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict and violence. According to the opinion of Federico Burone, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the predictive model is an innovative approach to develop a focused strategy for prevention according to the needs in, and circumstance of, the area. He stressed that to build the risk factors and the pathways tool, the model requires strong, accurate qualitative data.

- **Building relationships with the security sector**, opening spaces to have conversations with them about their significant role in protecting children, with an understanding that failing to protect children produces distressing psychological impacts for uniformed personnel and thus

compromises mission effectiveness. The Dallaire Institute believes that effectively preventing the recruitment and use of children requires a whole-of-society approach. While the Dallaire Institute works to strengthen the capacity of security sector actors to prevent the recruitment and use of children, it also facilitates collaboration between the security sector and local communities to co-develop prevention strategies that integrate children's and community perspectives.

- **Understanding the definition of recruitment and use of children and the complexity of children's circumstances.** It is imperative that the personnel trained on how to prevent the recruitment and use of children have a good understanding of what incidents constitute recruitment and use. Often, security sector personnel lack sufficient understanding of what recruitment and use means and so, as a result, they are not able to identify incidents of children being recruited and used.
- **The potential for peacekeepers to engage** with actors in armed conflict and violence to prevent recruitment and use is an important consideration in the model to develop the action pathways tool. It is important to be clear on who should be contacted and what action should be taken to prevent recruitment and use of children in contexts where engaging with some groups may be a sensitive issue (e.g., in the eyes of some governments, engaging with certain groups can be seen as a way of giving them legitimacy. It is therefore better to rely on the expertise of the civil

society organizations who know the area and have experience engaging with non-state actors operating in the region).

- **The predictive model has not yet been used** in the Dallaire Institute training curriculum, but it has led to advocacy efforts to create programming potential and partnerships. The next phase will aim to build partnerships to apply the model in real time context and supporting those partners to apply these tools. At the same time, it should be noted that, in January 2020, the first version of the Dallaire Institute's predictive model predicted a high probability of recruitment and use in Cabo Delgado, in northern Mozambique. Once evidence of recruitment and use was confirmed, the Dallaire Institute entered a tripartite partnership in Mozambique between the Ministry of Defence in Mozambique and UNICEF which led to the Institute's programming in Mozambique.
- **The UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO) is working to identify early warning indicators and potential triggers** of grave violations against children to develop a guide especially tailored to uniformed personnel. The guide will provide tools and elements that can be used to develop early warning indicators of grave violations against children. But this guide does not replace the knowledge needed about the context, the region, and circumstances surrounding the protection of children. "We have learned by experience that child protection is an aspect that allows peacekeepers to engage with an armed group asking

to separate children, represent a topic with less resistance, and potentiality to create space that eventually leads to a negotiation and peace process, of course dependent of the context and the mandate.” – Serena Tiberia, UN DPO Child Protection

Early Warning Working Group Session Responses

1. What are your reflections on the Dallaire Institute's early warning and early action tools? Are they applicable in the context of Latin America?

- **The audience acknowledged the importance of a predictive model** to prevent recruitment and use of children in armed violence, but concern was expressed as to whether the model includes the right indicators to capture the region's realities. Participants frequently mentioned that in the region the main source of recruitment and use of children in violence is economic hardship. Many children live in poverty and face multiple barriers that prevent them from accessing social services and protection. In that kind of environment where children lack minimum conditions for survival, criminal organizations take advantage by offering alternative ways to “survive.” Narcotraffic organizations will offer money and lure disadvantaged youth with the promise of a luxurious life. Youths are not falling through the cracks of the system; the system simply does not exist for them and their families.

- **The model should distinguish between concepts of armed conflict and armed violence**

to allow for a better definition of prevention and action. For instance, Colombia has an armed conflict, but other countries are embroiled in situations of armed violence, and that distinction should inform the model.

- **To use the predictive model in Latin America** some participants mentioned that it would be necessary to conduct several trainings to present the model and allow practitioners, experts, and institutions to collaborate to adjust it for the region and, in the process, learn how it can be applied.

- **The predictive model requires important partnerships at the grassroots level** to identify the groups, actors and leaders who would be able to impact the outcome, to prevent recruitment and use of children in armed violence. These relationships take time to build and the circumstances in the areas can change very quickly.

- **The groups that recruit and use children in armed violence have different strategies** for girls and boys, but they also reproduce and use the gender dynamics and roles at the community level to attract and retain children.

2. What indicators of children's engagement in armed violence are critical to consider in the context of Latin America?

- **The number one factor** that participants mentioned was poverty and the lack of public resources.
- **Crime** – the lack of basic physical security in conjunction with the lack of law enforcement. This indicator can be connected to forced migration in parts of the region.
- **School dropout rates** – lack of support to keep children in schools and provide quality education, which includes education on cultural values, conflict resolution and skills for participation and decision making.
- **Communication in the community** should help to identify unknown people showing up in the villages and neighborhoods.
- **Social activities** or events are often organized by gangs or illegal groups to lure children into these gangs/illegal groups.
- **Punitive measures should not be the primary approach** to address youth problems and family dysfunction. The ways in which the criminal justice system responds to youth is an important indicator about the vulnerability of youth. In addition, the criminal justice system can provide insight into the solutions created by authorities to treat youth and the efficacy of these solutions to prevent recidivism and conflict escalation.

- **Lack of support for important processes of the socialization of youth** like cultural activities, sports and use of public spaces that are held by gang or illegal groups.

3. What are your recommendations and lessons learned for moving early warning into early action from a regional perspective?

- **Recognize that the recruitment and use of children is a violation perpetrated in armed conflict and armed violence by gangs, illegal groups and armed groups** and it affects the social fabric of communities in the whole region.
- **There is an urgent need to prioritize the protection of children, by all governments and UN peacekeeping missions so that armed groups and gangs do not exploit this lack of prioritization.** Awareness is critical on this matter so that the issues affecting children, including false assumptions regarding children's involvement in armed group and gangs, can be more adequately addressed and thereby make communities more secure.
- **Governments should commit to developing long-term and multilevel approaches** to prevent recruitment and use of children in violence, in part through adopting a prevention-oriented approach to security.

- **Public campaigns should be organized** to raise awareness of the importance of preventing the recruitment and use of children in armed violence so that it is a concern for all members of the community.
- **Promote and develop research** to increase knowledge about the risk factors that increase the likelihood of the recruitment and use of children in the region.
- **Include practitioners from different sectors to develop multiple, interdisciplinary pathways** for action by promoting collaboration between institutions and programs.
- **Build trust between the security sector and civil society** by providing a platform for security sector actors and members of civil society to talk about prevention, share information and perspectives on the vulnerability of children in the region.
- **Map organizations, institutions, and communities** to identify which actors the Dallaire Institute should work with to develop viable response pathways to prevent the recruitment and use of children.

Photo: Participants of the Early Warning Working Session at the 2022 K4P Symposium in Montevideo, Uruguay.



IMPLEMENTING VANCOUVER PRINCIPLE #11: ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA

Vancouver Principle #11 focuses on the importance of meaningfully including women in peacekeeping to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed violence and addressing gendered dynamics in peacekeeping and child protection, stating “to recognize the essential contribution of women to peacekeeping operational effectiveness, and the distinct and critical roles of both men and women in the protection of children and the prevention of the recruitment and use of child soldiers.”

The panel on the contribution of women to peacekeeping included policymakers, researchers and experts who provided an overview of the status, relevance, and impact of women’s participation in peacekeeping missions.



The process goes beyond numbers of women participants, it has the potential to make a fundamental impact to improve capacity and efficiencies for everybody but needs important leadership to face gender dynamics that inform all relationships.

Gender & Security Forces

Key Points

- **Gender equality and child protection are two central aspects to the successful implementation of the Vancouver Principles** and to developing a children, peace, and security agenda. Women’s participation in peacekeeping missions and in efforts to protect children has contributed to operational effectiveness. But gender perspectives in security and prevention is a different dimension that brings a new lens to the analysis of gender dynamics not only within the security forces but also in the societies where peacekeepers are going to be deployed. Building capacity to distinguish how gender is used to define roles in the context of peacekeeping operations helps increase the knowledge and the efficiency of the security forces.
- **Uruguay has been implementing the Elsie Initiative⁵** showing an impressive commitment to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping operations. Through this implementation they have been able to identify the barriers that prevent uniformed women from participating in UN peacekeeping missions. Moreover, through the Elsie Initiative, there is an increase in knowledge and awareness

⁵ The Elsie Initiative is led by Global Affairs Canada and focuses specifically on uniformed women serving in police and military roles. The Initiative also seeks to move beyond a discussion of numbers by working to increase the meaningful participation of women. This means ensuring that substantially more women are represented across ranks and functions—in non-traditional roles and positions of authority; in assignments that correspond to their experience and training; and in an environment that offers parity of deployment conditions and a professional culture conducive to their participation.

about the gender dynamics in the region and the barriers that preclude women from participating in peacekeeping operations.

- **The Dallaire Institute has been conducting research to develop a more in depth and nuanced understanding of gender dynamics in peacekeeping,** beyond essentialist assumptions about women peacekeepers being needed to interact with children solely due to their gender. Initial findings from the Dallaire Institute's research suggests that that it is vital to have both men and women in peacekeeping operations in the form of engagement platoons. This provides the best variety for the community more broadly and for the children more specifically.
- **Effective communication with children is an important consideration that has a gendered lens.** These techniques can be trained and learned with experience and those are skills that can be encouraged in peacekeeping training and more generally in military training.
- **In the engagements between peacekeepers and civilians,** having both men and women present can create better conditions to build trust.

- **Gender influences the operation and deployment of peacekeeping missions.**

A gender lens also allows the peacekeeper to reflect on how they are thinking about gender within the military and within the country to which they are deployed. The recruitment and use of children in armed violence is impacted by gender but, unfortunately, there are many gender stereotypes that obscure our understanding of how recruitment happens, which children are used for which purposes etc. There is a perception that boys are involved in combat and girls are victims of sexual violence, but boys can be victims of sexual violence and girls can be combatants, and usually not exclusively one or the other. Being aware of those stereotypes help us understand the context better and look for the actual risk factors that can increase the likelihood of recruitment and use.

- **Understanding the gender perspective, as part of the training for peacekeeping personnel,** helps to improve the design and deployment of mixed engagement teams. These personnel how to identify risk factors with a gender perspective that allows them to initiate preventative actions.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND FURTHER REFLECTIONS

- **Education and advocacy need to occur at key levels of government in Latin America. This is important** to increase understanding about the Vancouver Principles and the importance of their implementation within and across the region. This approach can inform the security sector doctrine in Latin America and at the same time can create possibilities to increase integration and efficiency of the security sector to build a peace and security agenda based on principles of prevention, protection of civilians, gender equality, and anti-discrimination.

- **Breaking cycles of violence**— security sector approaches that are “iron fist” and focus on hard measures to crack down on crime can be counterproductive when approaching complex social environments. To increase awareness about the dynamics of the relationship between uniformed personnel and the public, it is important to understand that after security forces leave, those areas remain under the same structural social factors with institutional vulnerabilities that were present prior to the interventions of security forces. Those circumstances can therefore increase distrust in the security forces. How can nations break cycles of violence that undermine the security sector’s credibility and does not bring opportunities to address the demographic and socioeconomic challenges behind those crises? How can Latin American countries adopt new perspectives to address structural risks, that vary by nation, to build sustainable

peace? There is a tendency in societies with high levels of violence to extend coercive military measures, but this strategy has proven to damage human rights protection, weakens civil societies, and does not improve public safety.⁶

- **Building awareness and support for a Children, Peace, and Security Agenda** by effectively communicating the success of VP endorsement and implementation. This is also an opportunity to build new sets of values and encourage trust between the security forces and the public. The Dallaire Institute’s Center of Excellence in Latin America will continue to provide key stakeholders from civil society and the security sector with the opportunities to find new sets of tools and approaches that are grounded in the essence of the Vancouver Principles to prevent recruitment and use of children in armed violence.

- **Latin American security sector personnel and their interactions with children:**

- i. Training focused on developing the skills to relate to children; and
- ii. The essential recognition that uniformed personnel are profoundly affected by their encounters with children in armed conflict or violence. The Dallaire Institute needs to enhance knowledge and understanding about the characteristics of interactions between security forces and children

⁶ Diamint, Rut. "A new militarism in Latin America." *Journal of Democracy* 26, no. 4 (2015): 155-168.

in the region and the psychological effects of those interactions. Research in partnership with key Latin American research centers is needed to further build on this research.

- **The introduction and enhancement of the predictive model** requires designing a multi-level strategy: A. Government advocacy – with public service institutions that have experience in data collection on issues related to human rights, crime prevention and children protection. B. Develop new, or strengthen existing, partnerships with experts in the field of human rights and child protection in the region. Develop knowledge and increase understanding on the prevention of recruitment and use in situations of forced migration. Develop research and relationships with

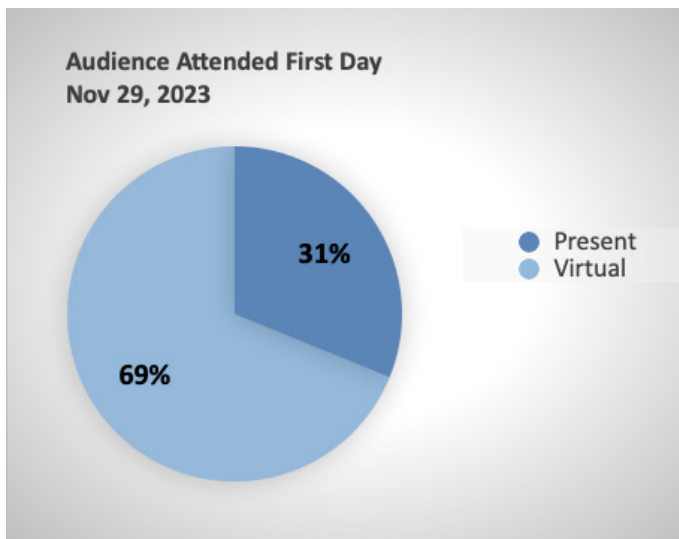
women’s organizations that have been working with the security sector in the region to understand the nuances of how gender equality is developing within the security sector institutions in Latin American countries and to identify key stakeholders that can help implement broader gender equality in the region.

- **Advocacy:** Youth participation is essential and should be combined with bringing in high level government officials. High level advocacy for youth participation in the process of defining peace and security agendas in the region is essential to the future of the region. The Dallaire Institute’s Youth Advisory Committee should include representatives from the Latin American region. This requires mapping the region to gather information on youth initiatives across Latin America.



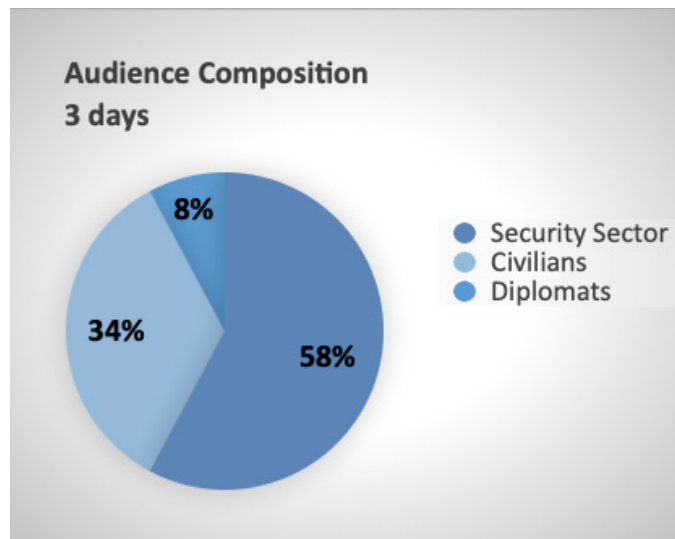
Photo: Dallaire Institute staff with youth speakers from the region at the 2022 K4P Symposium in Montevideo, Uruguay.

ANNEX 1: PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK



The Opening Ceremony Participants:

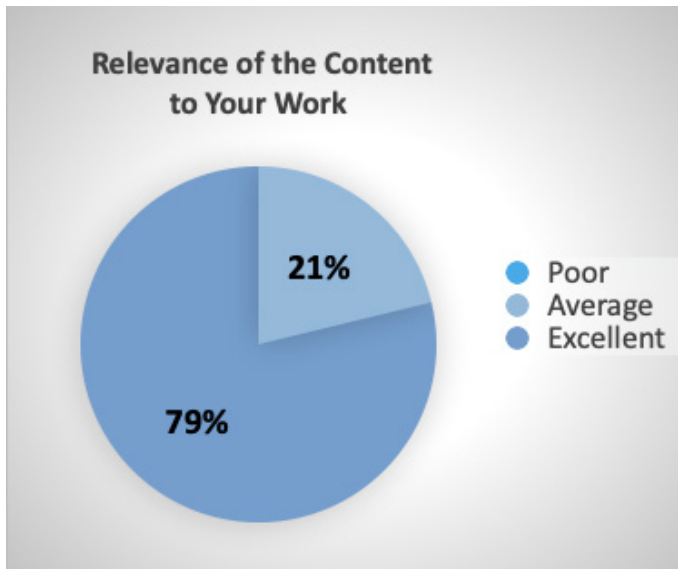
Present – 76
Virtual – 168



Diplomats – Embassies Countries:

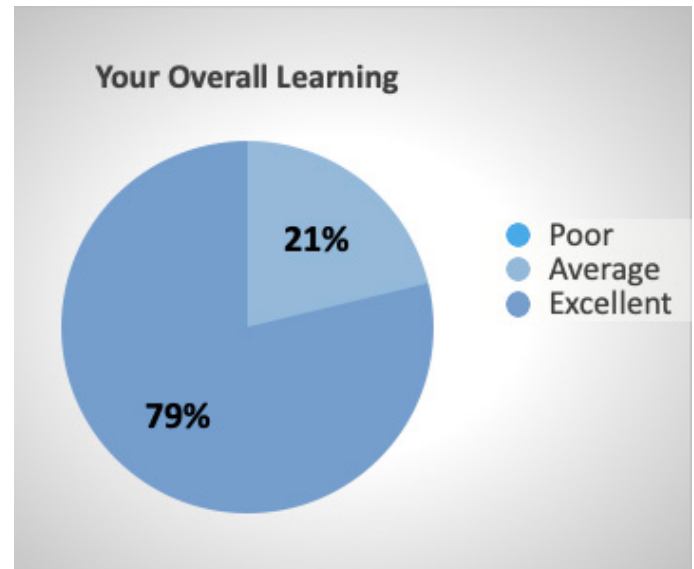
Bolivia, Brazil, Britain, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala Mexico, Peru, United States

ANNEX 2: SYMPOSIUM SURVEY



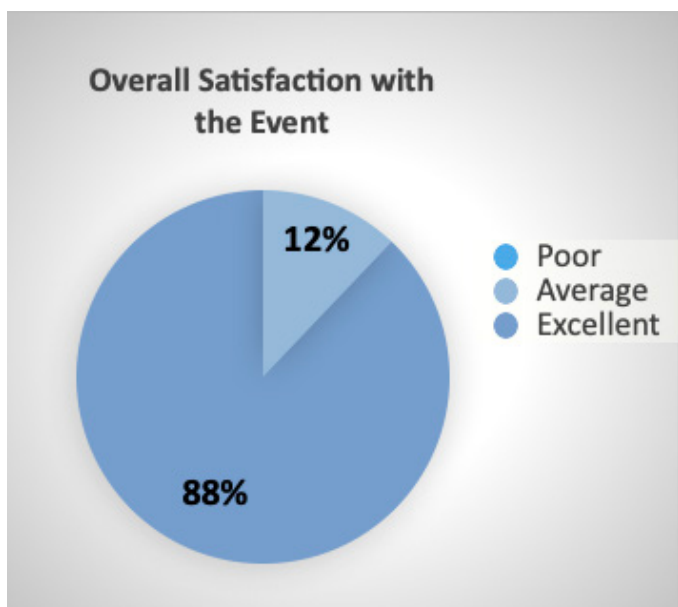
1. Relevance of the content to your work

Poor – 0 | Average – 7 | Excellent – 26



2. Your overall leaning

Poor – 0 | Average – 7 | Excellent – 26



3. Overall satisfaction with the event

Poor – 0 | Average – 4 | Excellent – 29

ANNEX 3: CONFERENCE AGENDA

K4P International Symposium Schedule
Palladium Business Hotel, Montevideo, Uruguay
November 29th – December 1st, 2022

Date	Time (Uruguay)	Theme
	9:00 am – 10:00 am	Registration & Coffee
<i>Tuesday, November 29, 2022,</i>	10:00 am – 11:45 am	<p>K4P Symposium Day One – Opening Ceremony <i>Montevideo, Uruguay</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarks from Under-Secretary Col. Rivera Elgue, Vice Minister of Defence of Uruguay • Opening remarks by Dr. Shelly Whitman, Executive Director of the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security • Remarks from the Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Canada's Minister of International Development (via video) • Remarks from Ambassador Isabelle Valois, Canada's Ambassador to Uruguay • Remarks from Luz Adriana Lopez Medina, involved in Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Colombia <p>Keynote by Virginia Gamba, United Nations Special Representative to the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC)</p>
	11:45-12:00	Group Photo
	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch Break

<p>Wednesday, November 30, 2022,</p>	<p>1:00 pm – 3:00 pm</p>	<p>Panel One: <i>Implementing Vancouver Principles to Prevent the Recruitment and Use of Children by Armed Groups</i></p> <p>Panelists (in speaking order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginia Gamba, United Nations Special Representative to the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC) • LGen dos Santos Cruz, former Force Commander of UN Peacekeeping Mission in Haiti • Ambassador Jacqueline O’Neill, Canada’s Ambassador for Women, Peace, and Security (participating virtually) • Ambassador Martin Vidal, Uruguay’s Ambassador to Canada <p>Moderator: Dr. Shelly Whitman, Executive Director, Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security</p>
	<p>3:00 pm – 3:30 pm</p>	<p>Closing Remarks Day One</p>
	<p>5:00 pm – 8:00 pm</p>	<p>Evening Reception: Hosted by the Embassy of Canada to Uruguay</p>
	<p>8:30 am – 9:10 am</p>	<p>Morning Refreshments and Arrival</p>
	<p>9:10 am – 9:15 am</p>	<p>Opening Remarks for Day Two of K4P Symposium</p>
	<p>9:15 am – 12:15 pm</p>	<p>Working Session: <i>Early Warning and Early Action: Preventing Children’s Recruitment and Use in Armed Violence</i></p> <p>Presentation by Tim Lynam, Data Scientist, Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security</p> <p>Reflections panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frederico Burone, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, International Development Research Centre • General Carlos H. Loitey, former Military Advisor for UN Department of Peace Operations • Serena Tiberia, Child Protection Team Leader, United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (participating virtually) <p>Small group discussions facilitated by Dallaire Institute members.</p>

	12:15 pm – 1:15 pm	Lunch Break
	1:15 pm – 3:15 pm	<p>Panel Two: <i>Contextualizing a Children, Peace, and Security Agenda in Latin America</i></p> <p>Panelists (in speaking order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steven Dudley, Co-Director of Insight Crime (participating virtually) • Luz Adriana Lopez Medina, involved in Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Colombia • Kate Swanson, Canada Research Chair on Children, Peace, and Security • Col. Luis Viñas, UN Verification Mission -Colombia • Luis Ernesto Pedernera Reyna, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child <p>Moderator: Marianela Fuertes, Research and Learning Advisor, Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security</p>
	3:15 pm – 3:30 pm	Day Two Closing Remarks
<i>Thursday, December 1, 2022,</i>	9:00 am – 9:30 am	Morning Refreshments and Arrival
	9:30 am – 10:00 am	Opening Remarks for Day Two of K4P Symposium

10:00 am – 12:00 pm	<p>Panel Three: <i>Gender and Security in Latin America</i></p> <p>Panelists (in speaking order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Col. Rivera Elgue, Vice Minister of Defense • Dustin Jonson, Research Adviser at the Dallaire Institute • Col. (ret) Gonzalo Mila, Uruguay Armed Forces • Major Carina De Los Santos, Uruguay Armed Forces • Marcela Donadio, Executive Director RESDAL - Argentina <p>Moderator: Shelly Whitman, Executive Director Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security</p>
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<p>Lunch Break</p>
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<p>Panel Four: <i>Youth Engagement in Peacebuilding in Latin America</i></p> <p>Panelists (in speaking order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juan Sebastian Campo, Benposta- Colombia • Victor Giorgi, Director General, Inter-American Children's Institute • Elisa Rial, youth from RESDAL • Patricia Gonzalez - Youth for Transformation program of the Mexican Youth Institute <p>Moderator: Kate Swanson, Canada Research Chair on Children, Peace, and Security</p>
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	<p>Coffee Break</p>
3:15 – 4:30 pm	<p>K4P Symposium Closing Ceremony</p>



**Peace is possible,
violence is preventable
and children must be
at the heart of
the solutions.**



Photo Caption: High-level participants at the 2022 K4P Symposium in Montevideo, Uruguay included (front row, left to right) Ambassador Isabelle Valois, Canada's Ambassador to Uruguay; Dr. Shelly Whitman, Executive Director of the Dallaire Institute; Col Rivera Elgue, Vice Minister of Defense of Uruguay; Virginia Gamba, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict; and Martin Alejandro Vidal, former Uruguayan Ambassador to Canada, currently the Director of the Dallaire Institute's Latin American Centre of Excellence.



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