

A silhouette of a woman with long hair, seen from the side, holding a smartphone. She is standing outdoors in a park-like setting with trees and a clear sky in the background. The lighting suggests it might be late afternoon or early morning.

Ending Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Lessons learned and promising practices in low- and middle-income countries

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Foreword

I'm pleased to present this report, which takes stock of UNICEF's work to address online child sexual exploitation and abuse in 29 countries around the world.

As set out in our Child Protection Strategy 2021-2030, we are stepping up our efforts to support governments, the technology industry, civil society, and other stakeholders to address new child protection challenges posed by the digital environment.

The rapid expansion of digital technology has transformed children and young people's lives in all corners of the world. As affirmed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in General Comment No. 25 released this year, digital technologies present tremendous potential to realize children's rights. This has become even more apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic and corresponding lockdown measures, during which digital technology was a lifeline for many children to continue to learn, play, and socialize.

At the same time, we know that perpetrators are using digital technologies to access and harm children. Year on year, there are increases in reports of online child sexual abuse content. As digital technology becomes more ubiquitous, it is increasingly connected with cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation. For example, perpetrators use technology to contact and groom children, to coerce children to create sexual images and videos, and/or to record their sexual abuse of children. In tackling cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse, we must consider actual or potential digital implications and in considering children's safety online, we must consider potential risks of online child sexual exploitation and abuse.



“Year on year, there are increases in reports of online child sexual abuse content. As digital technology becomes more ubiquitous, it is increasingly connected with cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation.”

An increasing number of nations have acknowledged this reality and taken important steps to protect children in the digital age. Many countries have been motivated through their membership of the WeProtect Global Alliance, initially established in 2014. In implementing coordinated and comprehensive action, countries have also been guided by WeProtect's Model National Response framework.

We thank the End Violence Fund for the financial support to document UNICEF's experience in this work through partnership with governments, industry, and civil society in over two-dozen countries. We are also pleased that this research will feed into an upcoming report to be published by the WeProtect Global Alliance about how the Model National Response is supporting national efforts to end online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Our dedicated and joint efforts have resulted in significant progress and learning. This report illustrates advances in, for instance, the availability of multisectoral governance mechanisms and stronger legislation to criminalize online child sexual exploitation and abuse. We are seeing

important efforts to systematically strengthen the availability and skills of critical professional cadres in social services, law enforcement, judiciary, and prosecution.

While acknowledging these advancements, in many low- and middle-income countries, significant systemic issues remain that leave children at higher risk of online sexual exploitation and abuse and less likely to receive appropriate support and assistance if they experience abuse. This report makes the case for increased investment in **regular and quality** data to inform national policies, strategies and programmes, strengthened **support services and responses**, improved **knowledge and skills** on child sexual abuse prevention among parents, communities and children, and **meaningful engagement** of children and young people in building systems and driving accountability.

The ever-present nature of the digital environment, critical challenges faced by child protection systems worldwide, and the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, make this more urgent than ever before. UNICEF is committed to accelerating this work with our partners, with a focus on preventing the abuse in the first place, so that every child can live a life free from sexual exploitation and abuse.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Williams'.

Cornelius Williams
Director of Child Protection
UNICEF

Acknowledgements

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UNICEF gratefully acknowledges the financial support provided for this study by the End Violence Fund.

Acronyms

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| ASEAN | Association of South East Asian Nations |
| CSEA | Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse |
| CSO | Civil Society Organisation |
| CRC | Convention on the Rights of the Child |
| CSR | Corporate Social Responsibility |
| EAPRO | East Asia and Pacific Regional Office |
| GBV | Gender-based Violence |
| ICT | Information Communication Technology |
| ICSE database | International Child Sexual Exploitation database |
| INTERPOL | International Criminal Police Organization |
| ISP | Internet service provider |
| LMICs | Low and middle-income countries |
| NGO | Non-governmental organisation |
| MNR | Model National Response |
| NCMEC | National Center for Missing and Exploited Children |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| UNODC | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |

Definitions

| TERM (SOURCE) | DEFINITION |
|---|--|
| Adolescent <i>World Health Organisation</i> | Children and young people in the transitional phase between childhood and adulthood, those aged 10–19 years. |
| Association of South East Asian Nations | ASEAN is a regional grouping that promotes economic, political and security cooperation among its 10 members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. |
| Child <i>Article 1, Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), United Nations 1989</i> | Any human being under the age of 18 years, unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. |
| Child protection | UNICEF uses the term ‘child protection’ to refer to prevention and response to violence, exploitation and abuse of children in all contexts. |
| Child sexual abuse material <i>Committee on the Rights of the Child, Guidelines regarding the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, CRC/C/156, 10 September 2019, para 60</i> | Child sexual abuse material is covered under article 2 of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography as ‘child pornography’, and is defined as any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes (art. 2 (c)). The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommends that States’ parties, in line with recent developments, avoid the term ‘child pornography’ to the extent possible and use other terms such as the ‘use of children in pornographic performances and materials’, ‘child sexual abuse material’ and ‘child sexual exploitation material’. |

| TERM (SOURCE) | DEFINITION |
|---|---|
| Child sexual exploitation and abuse <i>Article 18, Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention)</i> <i>ECPAT. Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. Adopted by the Interagency Working Group in Luxembourg, 28 January 2016</i> <i>See also: Committee on the Rights of the Child, Guidelines regarding the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, CRC/C/156, 10 September 2019</i> | Child sexual abuse includes: (a) Engaging in sexual activities with a child who, according to the relevant provisions of national law, has not reached the legal age for sexual activities (this does not apply to consensual sexual activities between minors), and (b) engaging in sexual activities with a child where use is made of coercion, force or threats; or abuse is made of a recognized position of trust, authority or influence over the child, including within the family; or abuse is made of a particularly vulnerable situation of the child, notably because of a mental or physical disability or a situation of dependence. Child sexual abuse becomes sexual exploitation when a second party benefits monetarily, through sexual activity involving a child. It includes harmful acts such as sexual solicitation and sexual exploitation of a child or adolescent in prostitution and, in the Council of Europe Convention, covers situations in which a child or other person is given or promised money or other form of remuneration, payment or consideration in return for the child engaging in sexual activity, even if the payment/ remuneration is not made. Although the terms are sometimes used interchangeably, what distinguishes the concept of child sexual exploitation from child sexual abuse is the underlying notion of exchange. |

| TERM (SOURCE) | DEFINITION |
|---|---|
| <p>Child trafficking <i>Article 3, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol), United Nations (2000)</i></p> | <p>The recruitment and/or transport, transfer, harbouring and receipt of a child by others with the intent of exploiting the child through various means, for example, but not limited to, prostitution, begging and child labour.</p> |
| <p>Livestreaming child sexual exploitation and abuse</p> | <p>Transmitting child sexual abuse and exploitation in real-time over the internet. This occurs on online chat rooms, social media platforms, and communication apps with video chat features. Viewers of livestreaming child sexual abuse can be passive (pay to watch) or active by communicating with the child, the sexual abuser and/or facilitator of the child sexual abuse, and requesting specific physical acts. Another form of livestreaming can involve coercing a child to produce and transmit sexual material in real-time.</p> |
| <p>Online child exploitation and abuse (also referred to in this report as technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse) <i>ECPAT. Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. Adopted by the Interagency Working Group in Luxembourg, 28 January 2016</i> <i>See also: Committee on the Rights of the Child, Guidelines regarding the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, CRC/C/156, 10 September 2019</i></p> | <p>There is no internationally agreed definition of online child sexual exploitation and abuse. For the purposes of this document, the term is used interchangeably with 'technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse' to refer to child sexual exploitation and abuse that is partly or entirely facilitated by technology, that is the internet or other wireless communications.</p> <p>For example, child sexual abuse takes on an online dimension when, for instance, acts of sexual abuse are photographed or video-/audiorecorded and then uploaded and made available online, whether for personal use or for sharing with others. Each repeated viewing and/or sharing of such recorded material constitutes a new violation of the rights of the child.</p> |

| TERM (SOURCE) | DEFINITION |
|---|---|
| <p>Online solicitation (or grooming) of a child for sexual purposes <i>Article 23, Lanzarote Convention</i></p> | <p>Intentional proposal, through information and communication technologies, of an adult to meet a child who has not reached the legal age for sexual activities, for the purpose of engaging in sexual activities or the production of child sexual abuse materials.</p> |
| <p>Technology industry <i>ITU. Guidelines for industry on Child Online Protection, 2020</i></p> | <p>The ICT or technology sector covers a broad range of companies including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) ISPs, including through fixed landline broadband services or cellular data services of mobile network operators: while this typically reflects services offered over a more long-term basis to subscribed customers, it could also be extended to businesses that provide free or paid public WI-FI hotspots. (b) Social network /messaging platforms and online gaming platforms. (c) Hardware and software manufacturers, such as providers of handheld devices including mobile phones, gaming consoles, voice assistance-based home devices, Internet of Things and smart Internet connected toys for children. (d) Companies providing digital media (content creators, providing access to or hosting content). (e) Companies providing streaming services, including live streams. (f) Companies offering digital file storage services, cloud-based service providers. |

Executive Summary

Globally, 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 13 boys have been sexually exploited or abused before reaching the age of 18.¹ Some recent research suggests that online interaction is now so ubiquitous that it is likely to feature in some form in almost all cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Increased internet penetration and advances in technology have allowed offenders to engage in child sexual exploitation and abuse in an unprecedented environment of secrecy and relative anonymity across the globe. While the full scope and extent of the threat of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse remains unknown, global statistics show alarming increases in reported cases to national hotlines and clearing houses in recent years.

A new sense of urgency: The COVID-19 pandemic, which brought with it increased emotional vulnerabilities, economic hardship and surges in unsupervised time online among children and adolescents² is likely to have magnified vulnerabilities to child exploitation and abuse, particularly online. Widespread disruptions in child protection services across the world have left vulnerable children without access to adequate protection, further contributing to a new sense of urgency to address online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

The WeProtect Initiative. To tackle online child sexual abuse and exploitation globally, the UK government, with support from other national governments, leading technological companies, INTERPOL, UN agencies and civil society organizations, established the WeProtect initiative in 2014. The initiative developed the WeProtect Global Alliance Model National Response (MNR), which provides a comprehensive blueprint for effectively tackling child sexual exploitation and abuse at the national level (See Appendix 1).

Figure 1: WeProtect Model National Response



Rationale and methodology

UNICEF has been working with its partners to address child sexual exploitation and abuse, including technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, through a comprehensive systems approach. This work intensified from 2015 through the implementation of a Global Programme to build capacity of governments, civil society and the private sector to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation. The first phase of the Global Programme, funded by the UK government, was implemented in 17 countries across 4 regions,³ and was expanded in its second phase starting in 2018 with support from the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children.

Over five years into the roll-out of the UNICEF Global Programme, this report takes stock of the current level of implementation of the MNR across selected countries, and identifies promising practices and lessons learned. The report

primarily relies on survey responses from 29 UNICEF country offices⁴ in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in all regions, as well as four field visits and a desk review of relevant literature and documents. Given the methods used and the breadth of the report, it does not aim to evaluate or provide a comprehensive review of the implementation of the MNR. Rather, it intends to provide a headline overview of the current situation across target countries to draw out promising practices and lessons learned to inform future policy and practice. The survey responses will also feed into a forthcoming global report by the WeProtect Global Alliance on how the MNR is supporting national efforts to end online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Key findings

Overall, significant progress has been made in terms of tackling online child sexual exploitation and abuse across many low- and middle-income countries in a relatively short period of time. Advances have particularly centred around strengthened policy and governance frameworks; improved capacity of law enforcement, the judiciary and prosecution services to handle such cases; the greater availability of hotlines and helplines for reporting, support and referral; and the increasing roll-out of education and awareness raising programmes on online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse. Despite this, significant challenges remain across all six domains of the MNR (see *Figure 2*).

Domain 1: Policy and governance



The majority (69 per cent) of surveyed countries have some form of national governance structure to deal with online child sexual abuse and exploitation. Just over half (59 per cent) have a relevant national policy or strategy and most (79 per cent) have nationally representative research on child sexual exploitation and abuse, sometimes including online dimensions. Significant gaps remain in legislative frameworks in the majority (90 per cent) of countries. Despite the

existence of some capabilities, there remain challenges in effective functioning of the governance mechanisms, limited systematic data collection and limited use of generated evidence to inform policy and practice, as well as constrained enforcement of legislation.

Domain 2: Criminal justice



All of the surveyed countries have law enforcement capability with an explicit remit to respond to offline and online child sexual exploitation and abuse. More than half of countries (72 per cent) that have such capability report it to lie with a unit responsible for cybercrimes, at times in collaboration with units specialized in investigating crimes against children or women. In these cases, effective collaboration between the different units appears to be a challenge and linkages with child protection and victim services remains unclear. Although judiciary and prosecution services in most countries (75 per cent and 79 per cent, respectively) have some knowledge and skills to enable positive outcomes for victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse, only one country reports comprehensive knowledge among both prosecutors



and judiciary. Offender management processes is one of the least developed capabilities and more than half of all countries surveyed (57 per cent) have no offender management process in place. Approximately half of all respondent countries (48 per cent) have access to INTERPOL's International Child Sexual Exploitation database.

Domain 3: Victim



To provide integrated end-to-end support to victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse, the majority of countries surveyed (69 per cent) have a case management plan, a protocol, or applicable legislation that outlines relevant procedures. However, effective implementation of plans and procedures is a critical challenge in many countries. Availability of a trained child protection workforce appears to be significantly constrained, with only one of the countries surveyed reporting to have a comprehensively trained social service workforce in sufficient numbers to meet demand. Only one country reports having in place comprehensive remedies for victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse. The vast majority of countries (93 per cent) currently offer a child helpline. Although helplines tend to be free of charge and accessible 24/7, survey findings suggest that many face human and financial resource constraints, as well as challenges to provide effective linkages to referral systems.

Domain 4: Societal



Almost 90 per cent (26 countries) of all countries surveyed have a functioning reporting hotline or reporting portal for the public to report illegal online content including child sexual abuse material. However, there are challenges to use and uptake of hotlines, for example because of limited awareness of their existence, lack of faith in the reporting system or fear of victim-blaming. More than two-

thirds of all countries surveyed (72 per cent) have a national education programme to raise awareness of online and offline child sexual exploitation and approximately two-thirds of countries surveyed (64 per cent) report that children and young people are, or have been, encouraged and enabled to participate in development of child sexual exploitation and abuse-related policy and practice. The most critical challenges in this domain relate to weak offender support systems, as the majority of countries surveyed (74 per cent) do not have any specific support system for offenders, and none of the countries surveyed report having any kind of support system for people with a sexual interest in children to prevent them from harming children.

Domain 5: Industry



The majority of countries surveyed (93 per cent) have take-down procedures in place for child sexual abuse material, although these procedures are not always regulated by law or enforced. Reasons for limited enforcement relate mostly to limited technical and human resource capacity to enforce such procedures and overall limited awareness among the technology industry and law enforcement of the procedures.

Domain 6: Communication and media



Almost half of all surveyed countries (48 per cent) report strong government support for ethical, informed and balanced media reporting of child sexual exploitation and abuse including through guidance, training, regulations and monitoring; and 68 per cent of countries have discussed, or are using, universally agreed terminology relating to child sexual exploitation and abuse. There remains work to do to translate, contextualize and use the Terminology Guidelines for the protection of children from child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Systemic challenges and the way forward

Despite significant progress in addressing technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, challenges remain across all six domains of the MNR. Underlying these shortcomings are systemic challenges, which are particularly pronounced in LMICs. These include:

- Gaps in legislative frameworks and generally limited law enforcement capacity
- Overall weak child protection systems
- Significantly understaffed social welfare workforce, lacking professional recognition
- Limited awareness of, and sense of urgency to address, online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse among all professional cadres.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the limited, and highly volatile, capacity of social welfare and child protection systems across the world, particularly in resource-constrained contexts. Fragmented, under-resourced and understaffed systems that were already stretched before the pandemic, are struggling to cope with increased and urgent demands for support, leaving countless vulnerable children without appropriate protection.

Systemic weaknesses in LMICs are compounded by high staff turnover across many cadres, and a widespread project-based approach to tackling child sexual exploitation and abuse. Both risk leading to limited sustainability of interventions. As there is limited evidence on child sexual exploitation and abuse, in particular the online dimension, the issue continues to be de-prioritized.

Based on the findings of this report, the following overall key actions are recommended to improve systematically the prevention and response to online child sexual exploitation and abuse in LMICs:

- **Move towards a comprehensive and integrated approach to tackling child sexual exploitation and abuse:** Technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse cannot be addressed effectively in isolation by focusing on the digital dimensions alone. Effective action to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse requires consideration of underlying vulnerabilities and risk factors to child sexual exploitation and abuse. At the same time, there is a need to be cognisant that technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse has its own dynamics and, therefore, requires specific interventions to complement broader work to address child sexual exploitation and abuse and violence against children.
- **Move from project-based support to system-strengthening through statutory bodies:** Although project-based, fixed-term, interventions can deliver quick and tangible results across all domains, there is a risk that such interventions have limited long-term impact and sustainability. Instead, interventions focused on strengthening, and working through, statutory bodies or aiming to formally integrate education or training programmes into national curricula at schools, as well as in pre- and in-service training for law enforcement, judiciary and the social service workforce have considerably more potential impact in the medium to long term.
- **Invest in evidence-based policymaking and advocacy:** A systems approach that invests in building of national systems for data generation and management that provides a reliable and comprehensive evidence base on online and offline child sexual exploitation is critical to develop comprehensive and contextualized

policies and frameworks necessary to effectively tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse.

→ **Strengthen multisectoral, national collaboration:** Successfully tackling technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse requires cooperation between a multitude of different actors and sectors including Ministries of Communication, Health, Education, Justice, Social Welfare, various units in law enforcement, the technology industry, the social service workforce and community sector. To facilitate this, there is a need for different stakeholders involved in addressing technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse to engage in structured dialogue to ‘learn each other’s language’, create trust, and foster mutual understanding. Experience has shown the great potential for UNICEF, as a trusted partner with a strong international mandate on children’s rights and a long-standing in-country presence, to bring together various stakeholders and facilitate cooperation and trust for action.

→ **Facilitate cross-border, regional and international collaboration:** Cross-border, regional and international collaboration across a number of MNR domains is of great importance in addressing technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, especially because of the cross-border nature of the issue. In South-east Asia for example, with the support of UNICEF and ECPAT, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has developed a regional declaration and action plan for the protection of children from all forms of online exploitation and abuse. Regional cooperation can also support filling knowledge gaps as the example of a regional multi-stakeholder Think Tank in East Asia and the Pacific has demonstrated.

→ **Strengthen children’s overall digital skills, including online safety:** Guided exposure to the internet that includes online safety is critical to

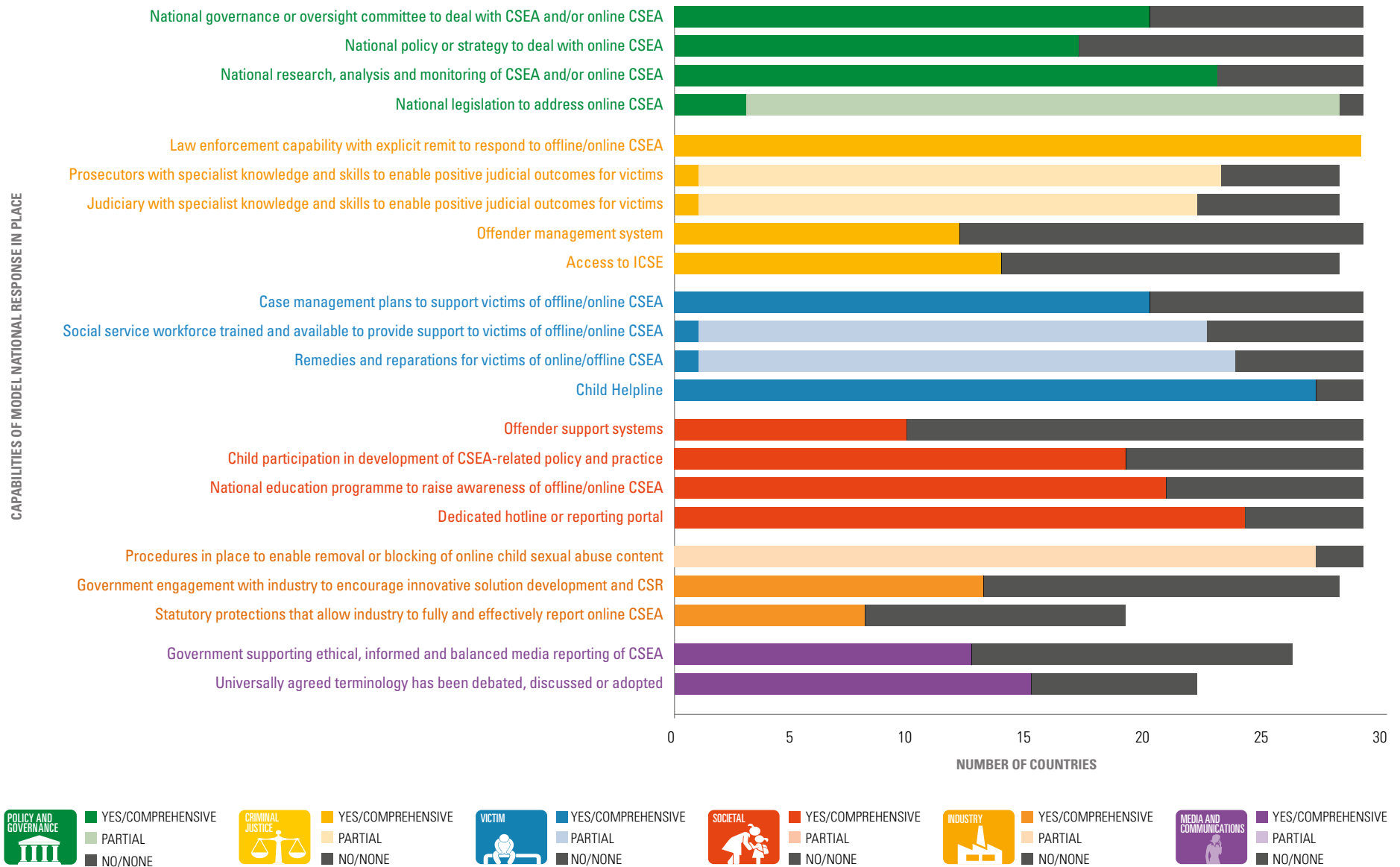


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enable children to navigate the internet safely. As technology is becoming increasingly intertwined with all aspects of children’s lives, it is critical to integrate digital safety into already established education programmes that address offline harms, such as bullying or sexual abuse.

→ **Promote child participation and children’s agency:** Children’s agency in solution development to children’s online safety challenges is critical. Efforts must be stepped up to systemically involve children and youth in the development of tools, software or other interventions to enhance their online safety. Child participation must also extend to ensuring children’s views are considered in all matters that affect them including administrative and judicial proceedings and child protection case management.

Figure 2: Overview of the current implementation status of the Model National Response in 29 LMICs



Introduction

Globally, 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 13 boys have been sexually exploited or abused before reaching the age of 18.⁵ Although rates vary across countries, child sexual exploitation or abuse is prevalent across the globe.⁶ As one of the most heinous forms of violence against children, child sexual exploitation and abuse encompasses a variety of sexual behaviours directed against children.

Child sexual abuse and exploitation has a devastating impact on children's physical and mental health.⁷ Harm caused includes anxiety, depression, psychological trauma and self-harm; drug and alcohol abuse; offending behaviour, missing school and lower educational attainment; and negative impact on children's physical health, such as high likelihood of contracting HIV and problems in childbirth.⁸ Consequences are far-reaching, extending through adulthood, including issues with intimacy, affecting relationships with family members, partners and children, and socioeconomic impacts, such as homelessness and unemployment.⁹

Rapid developments in information communication technology (ICT) and increased internet penetration the world over, are providing increased situational opportunities for technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. For instance, encrypted services and the development of the darknet, have allowed offenders to engage in child sexual exploitation and abuse in an environment of secrecy and relative anonymity, making abuse more difficult to detect and providing a context that enables 'disinhibition' – the perceived minimization of harm to the victim and normalization of the abusive behaviours. Advances in ICT have also allowed for new modes of child abuse to emerge, such as the live streaming of sexual assault

Forms of child sexual abuse and exploitation

The terms 'sexual violence against children' or 'child sexual abuse and exploitation' include diverse acts of abuse, in different settings and relationships.

This can include situations where a child is:

- Sexually abused by a relative or carer at home
- Raped by an intimate partner
- Made to, or left with no option but to, sell sex in exchange for food, cash or favours
- Sexually assaulted on the way to, or at, school by an adult, a gang or a peer living in the community
- Sexually abused by an adult in a position of trust or authority such as a pastor, police officer, care worker or sports coach
- Groomed or sexually exploited online

- Trafficked within or across borders for the purpose of sexual exploitation
- Raped by a combatant or peacekeeper in the context of war, displacement, or disaster.

UNICEF, Action to end child sexual abuse and exploitation: A review of evidence, 2020, p. 10.

Sexual abuse and exploitation may also have an online dimension if, for example, acts of sexual abuse are photographed or video-/audio-recorded and then uploaded and made available online, whether for personal use or for sharing with others. Each repeated viewing and/or sharing of such recorded material constitutes a new violation of the rights of the child.

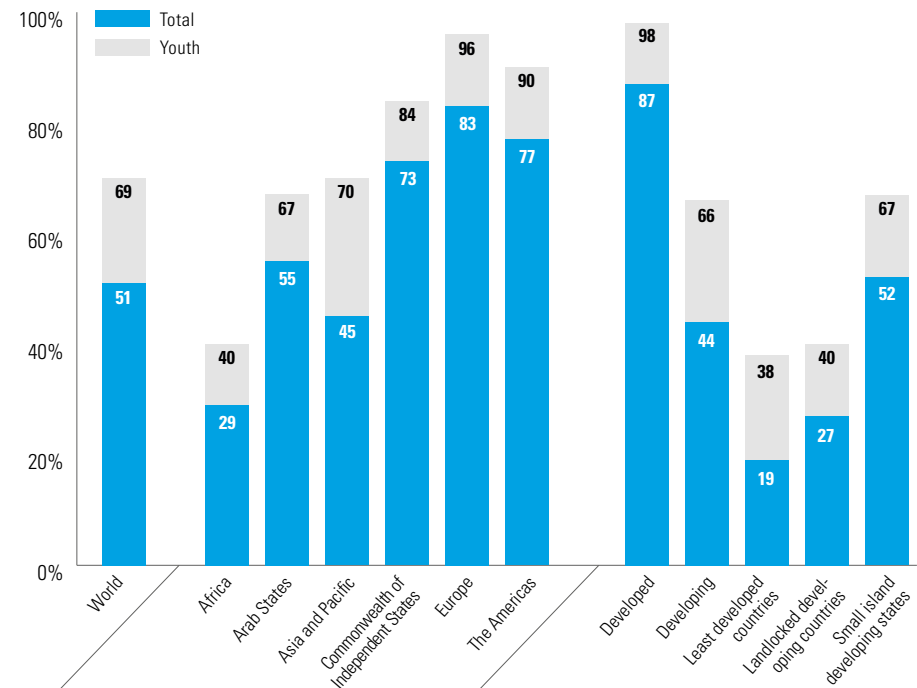
End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT), Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. Adopted by the Interagency Working Group in Luxembourg, 28 January 2016, p. 22.

or sexual extortion of children, or the photographing or recording, and subsequent uploading, of acts of exploitation or abuse. This has led to an escalation in the scale, complexity and danger of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse.¹⁰

Widespread digitalization among children and young people (see *Figure 3*)¹¹ across the world – while providing unprecedented positive opportunities – has also put children and young people at increased risk of facing harassment, exploitation or abuse online. For some time, research on the extent of online child sexual abuse and exploitation related mostly to high-income countries.¹² However, research from low and middle-income countries is increasing.¹³ Some insights can be drawn from reported numbers of child sexual abuse material in distribution such as those reported to the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). In 2020, the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children received 21,7 million reports of suspected online child sexual exploitation and abuse, which represents an increase of 28 per cent from 2019, which follows an even more drastic increase of 700 per cent in the number of industry referrals of online child sexual abuse between 2013 and 2017.¹⁴ Importantly, these figures reflect reported child sexual abuse materials in circulation and not the full scope and extent of the threat.¹⁵

Even though technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse poses critical new challenges, it is not necessarily a distinct form of child sexual abuse and exploitation. Indeed, recent evidence suggests that, “online interaction is now so ubiquitous that it is likely to feature in some form in almost all cases of [child sexual abuse].”¹⁶ In addition, some research shows that those children most vulnerable to violence online share common vulnerability factors to those vulnerable offline.¹⁷ As such, strategies to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse need to be seen in a broad perspective, taking a systems-level approach that is firmly rooted in building strong child protection and justice systems. At the same time, there is a need to tackle specific challenges posed by the distinct nature of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. This includes building of new partnerships and alliances with non-traditional partners from industry and government ministries dealing in communication and technology.

Figure 3: Percentage of individuals using the internet, 2019*



* ITU estimate. Source: ITU. Note: Youth means 15-24 year old individuals using the Internet as a percentage of the total population aged 15 to 24 years.

Global responses to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse

Rapidly changing digital technology, increasing access to the internet across the world and the associated increased risks for children to fall victim to online child sexual exploitation and abuse, led to establishment of the WeProtect initiative in 2014. WeProtect was created by the Government of the UK, with support from other national governments, leading technological companies, INTERPOL, UN agencies and civil society organizations, to tackle online child sexual abuse and exploitation globally. In 2016, the Alliance merged two initiatives, the European

Commission and US Department of Justice's Global Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Online. In 2020, the WeProtect Global Alliance re-launched as an independent organization. The WeProtect Global Alliance currently includes 98 countries, 53 companies, 9 international organizations, and 61 civil society organizations.¹⁸

At the second WeProtect summit in Abu Dhabi in 2015, governments and organizations agreed to develop and implement a coordinated national response to online child sexual exploitation and abuse, guided by the 'WeProtect Global Alliance Model National Response' (MNR). The MNR is based on many years of work by experts and practitioners and builds on the existing international framework for action to prevent and tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse.¹⁹ It calls for close collaboration between national criminal justice systems (including law enforcement agencies), front-line social services and the education sector, along with the private sector. The MNR elaborates on the capabilities that a country needs to have in place to address online child sexual abuse and exploitation, including preventing child sexual abuse and exploitation, and safeguarding the victims/survivors of this abuse. These capabilities fall under six key domains: policy and governance, criminal justice, victim, societal, industry, and media and communications (See Appendix 1).

UNICEF's work to address violence against children, including technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse

Ending violence against children and adolescents, in all settings and in all its forms, is part of UNICEF's core mandate. Guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other international and regional human rights treaties, UNICEF takes a comprehensive systems approach to addressing violence against children, including technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. Working with partners across the world, UNICEF supports national coordination of multisectoral services, strengthening of national child protection systems and services, and

scaling-up violence prevention programmes such as parenting supporting community programmes, school prevention programmes and social norms change strategies.²⁰

In 2014, UNICEF joined the WeProtect Global Alliance, and in 2015/2016 UNICEF implemented its first ever Global Programme to build capacity of governments, civil society and the private sector to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation with the financial support of the UK Government under the WeProtect initiative. The first phase of the Global Programme was implemented in 17 countries across four regions,²¹ and was expanded in its second phase starting in 2018 with financial support from the End Violence Fund. UNICEF has increasingly addressed the child protection risks associated with the digital environment through research, policy advocacy, strategic partnerships, development of policy and programme guidance for UNICEF and partners, as well as implementation of programmes addressing technology-facilitated child abuse and exploitation at country, regional and global levels.

Objectives and structure of the report

Objectives

This report aims to provide an overview of national responses to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse across low- and middle-income countries from Latin America, Africa, Asia and Eastern and Central Europe.²² Table 1 provides a list of countries including whether the country is a member of the WeProtect Global Alliance and whether it is a Pathfinding country²³ indicative of national commitments to end all forms of violence against children including forms facilitated by technology. Cognizant of the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is still ongoing at the time of writing, the report also provides a brief overview of adaptations and innovations to tackle online child sexual exploitation and abuse in the face of the pandemic.

Importantly, the report does not aim to provide an in-depth assessment or critique of individual countries' progress. Instead, it offers a broad overview of implementation of the MNR across countries and regions and aims to draw out success stories and general lessons learned. To complement the breadth of the general overview, four in-depth case studies are provided of UNICEF-supported modelling countries under the Global Programme, which offer a more contextualized analysis.

Structure

The report is structured around the elements of the MNR. It first provides an overview of the overall MNR and subsequently dives into each capability, providing more detail on what the MNR calls for regarding a specific capability and setting this against the current implementation in the 29 countries. Promising initiatives are highlighted throughout. The broad overview is supplemented by four country case studies from Albania, the Dominican Republic, Namibia and the Philippines and a brief overview of specific interventions to tackle online child sexual exploitation and abuse in the face of COVID-19. The report concludes with overall trends and challenges, as well as summarizing lessons learned and providing suggestions on the way forward.

Methodology and limitations

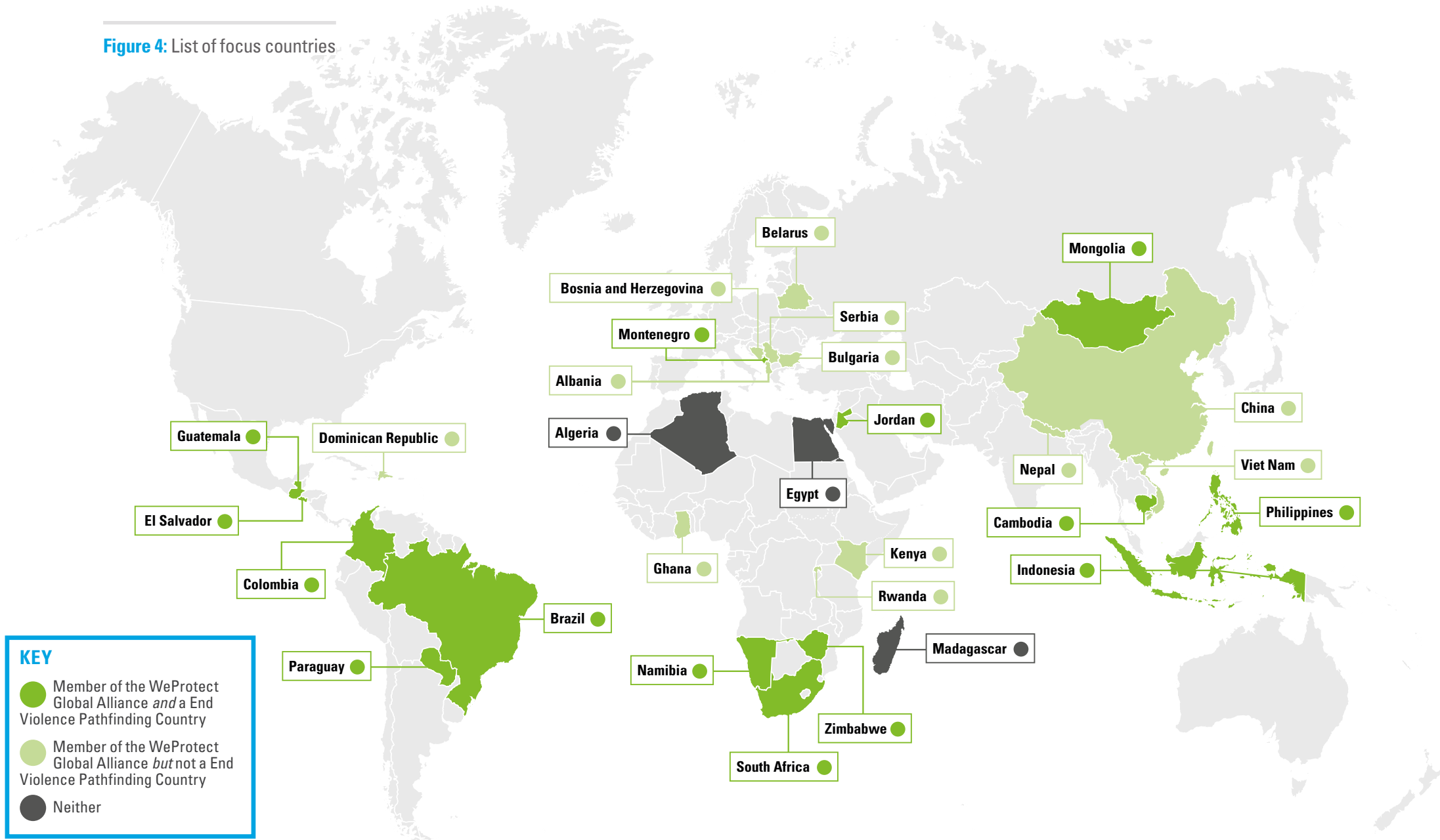
Data to produce this report were primarily gathered through a desk review of findings from a semi-structured online questionnaire administered to selected UNICEF country offices around the world. Responses were received from 29 countries from across Latin America, Africa, Asia and Eastern and Central Europe during the first half of 2021 (see *Table 1 above*).²⁴ This was complemented by a desk review of available secondary literature and findings from field visits to selected UNICEF-supported modelling countries under the Global Programme in the second half of 2019.



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Given the breadth of the report and the methods employed, the report does not aim to be an evaluation or comprehensive review. Instead, the report is intended to provide a headline overview of the current situation across the target countries and draw out good practices and lessons learned to stimulate national, regional and global dialogue and to inform future programming and research. The survey responses will also feed into a forthcoming global report by the WeProtect Global Alliance on how the MNR is supporting national efforts to end online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Figure 4: List of focus countries



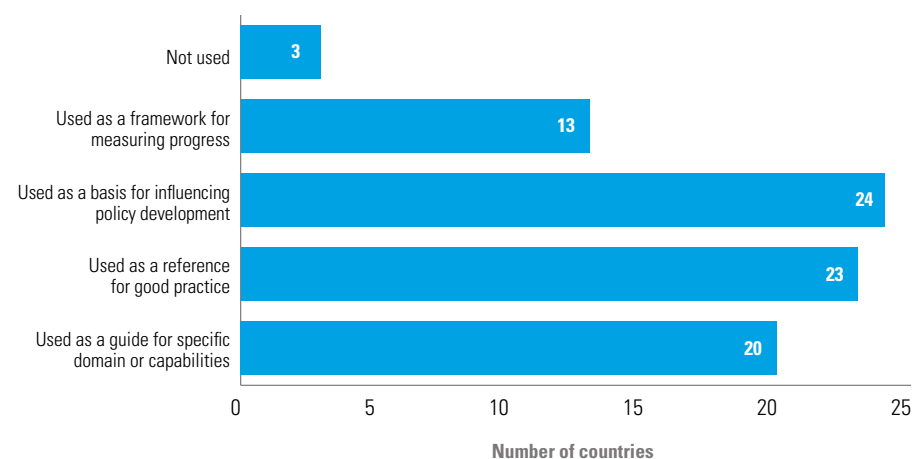
Overview of national responses to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse

2.1 Overview of the Model National Response

The MNR is structured around six domains, all of which include several capabilities that a country needs to effectively address technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse (see *Figure 1 and Appendix 1*).

The MNR has proven to be a helpful tool across LMICs, providing a framework grounded in a systems approach to child protection and avoiding artificial distinctions between online and offline spheres. Out of the 29 countries surveyed, 26 (90 per cent) have used the MNR as a reference for good practice, as a basis for influencing policy development, as a guide for interventions in specific domains or capabilities, or as a framework to measure progress (see *Figure 5*). Even countries that are not members of the WeProtect Global Alliance, such as Madagascar, have used the MNR as a reference for good practices.

Figure 5: Snapshot of usage of the MNR





2.2 DOMAIN 1: POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

CAPABILITY 1: LEADERSHIP

What the WeProtect Model National Response recommends

The MNR recommends a multi-stakeholder, national, cross-sectoral body to be responsible for mobilizing and coordinating the national response to child sexual exploitation and abuse. In particular, the body should be led by government and comprise senior-level representation from relevant government departments (such as the Ministries of Interior, Justice, Education, Health, Telecommunications, and Social Welfare); law enforcement, judiciary, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the ICT industry and other relevant industry sectors (such as tourism); faith-based organizations, and other specialized agencies working on child sexual exploitation and abuse and violence against children.

Current status

Most surveyed countries (20 countries, 69 per cent) have some form of operational national governance or oversight committee that deals with child sexual exploitation and abuse and/or technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. Similarly, just over half (17 countries, 59 per cent) have either a national policy or strategy that deals with technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, or have technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse explicitly integrated into an overall child protection or violence against children policy. In the majority of cases, countries that do not report having a national governance or oversight committee also do not appear to have a national policy or strategy on child sexual exploitation and abuse and/or online child sexual exploitation and abuse.



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Promising initiatives

Models adopted for governance mechanisms of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse vary considerably across countries. Some countries, such as the Dominican Republic and Madagascar, have set up bodies specifically dedicated to online child sexual exploitation and abuse, while others have put in place structures that focus on 'child pornography', including online child sexual exploitation and abuse (Philippines); or bodies that have a specific mandate around cybersecurity and online safety, including technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse (see, for example, Namibia and Ghana). The COVID-19 pandemic, and its contribution to increased reports of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, have led some countries, such as Cambodia, to develop national frameworks and structures to step up action against technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Promising initiatives in focus

Dominican Republic: Under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and with technical support from UNICEF, a multi-stakeholder Working Group was set up in 2018 to implement the national response to online child sexual exploitation and abuse. The Working Group is led by the Ministry of External Relations and brings together other relevant government ministries, the Vice-President's Office, as well as national and international civil society organisations (CSOs). The Working Group was institutionalized in 2019, making it part of the child protection government structure, as it has been linked with the national strategy on violence against children. Currently, national efforts are led by the National Cybersecurity Centre, which is implementing a comprehensive strategy, including on online protection of children.

Ghana: The Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation has the mandate and oversight responsibility on national cybersecurity-related

issues. To execute this mandate, the Ministry, in collaboration with the National Cyber Security Inter-Ministerial Advisory Council, set up the National Cyber Security Centre to coordinate national cybersecurity issues in the Government. With support from UNICEF, a Child Online Protection Unit has been set up within the National Cyber Security Centre to oversee effective responses to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. The Child Online Protection Unit is working closely with other Ministries, including the Ministry for Gender, Children and Social Protection, the Ministry of Education and the Ghana Police Service.

Madagascar: A multisectoral Online Protection Sub-Committee that is responsible for coordinating action to tackle online child sexual exploitation and abuse has been set up within the National Child Protection Committee.

Mongolia: Mongolia has an inter-ministerial multisectoral Working Group to tackle online

child sexual exploitation and abuse. The Working Group is led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and other partners including the Ministry of Education and Science, Communication and Information Technology Agency; the Communication and Regulatory Committee; the Agency for Family, Child and Youth Development; UNICEF Mongolia; the National Police; and media organizations. The Working Group has an annual plan to tackle cybercrimes against children, including online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Philippines: An Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography exists, which is responsible to coordinate, monitor and oversee the implementation of the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009. The Council produces an annual report on actions taken to implement the Anti-Child-Pornography Act and the National Response Plan to Address Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse 2016–2022, which was developed with the support of UNICEF.

Gaps, challenges and way forward

Although considerable progress has been made in putting in place governance mechanisms and policy frameworks to address child sexual exploitation and abuse in all its forms, almost half of the countries surveyed (13 countries, 45 per cent) do not have any policies or strategies in place to tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse and just over one-third (10 countries, 34 per cent) do not have a governance mechanism in place to coordinate the national response to child sexual exploitation and abuse. For those countries that have set up governance mechanisms and adopted policies or strategies on child sexual exploitation and abuse, including technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, critical challenges remain, including:

Limited evidence on functioning of governance bodies and limited private sector participation

Setting up mechanisms and developing policies does not equate to their effective functioning or implementation, and there is little evidence on how dynamic and productive multisectoral governance mechanisms set up to tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse have been to date. Survey responses suggest that some governance structures struggle to effectively coordinate responses to child sexual exploitation and abuse as they lack human and financial resources and political clout, as well as representation of key stakeholders, such as private sector partners from the ICT and tourism/travel sectors.

Limited awareness of the extent of child sexual exploitation and abuse and limited political will, resulting in delays in policy adoption

Despite campaigns and other efforts, there remains limited awareness of the magnitude and devastating impact of child sexual exploitation and abuse, including technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, among key stakeholders across countries. This is resulting in a low sense of urgency and limited political will to put in place concerted efforts to tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse, manifested as significant delays in, for example, the adoption of policies and strategies on child sexual exploitation and abuse and the apparently weak status of some governance mechanisms.

Creation or deepening of the artificial divide between online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse

Some survey responses suggest that the setting up of specific governance mechanisms around online child sexual exploitation and abuse and the development of specific policies on the same, has led to deepening of an already existing artificial divide between online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Way forward

- Monitor the effectiveness of multisectoral governance mechanisms set up to coordinate the national response to online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse and use lessons learned to inform the setting up of governance mechanisms in countries that have not yet established a coordination structure
- Support active participation of a wide variety of stakeholders in the governance mechanism, including from the private sector
- Promote a comprehensive and integrated approach to child sexual exploitation and abuse, stressing the fundamental linkages between online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse, while also drawing out specific strategies required to tackle online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

CAPABILITY 2: RESEARCH, ANALYSIS AND MONITORING

What the WeProtect Model National Response recommends

The MNR recommends a national situation analysis that assesses the nature and state of a country's current child sexual exploitation and abuse threat; analyses vulnerabilities, risks and responses; and provides measurements and indicators to assess progress. It is intended that such an assessment will inform country-level responses, including policymaking.

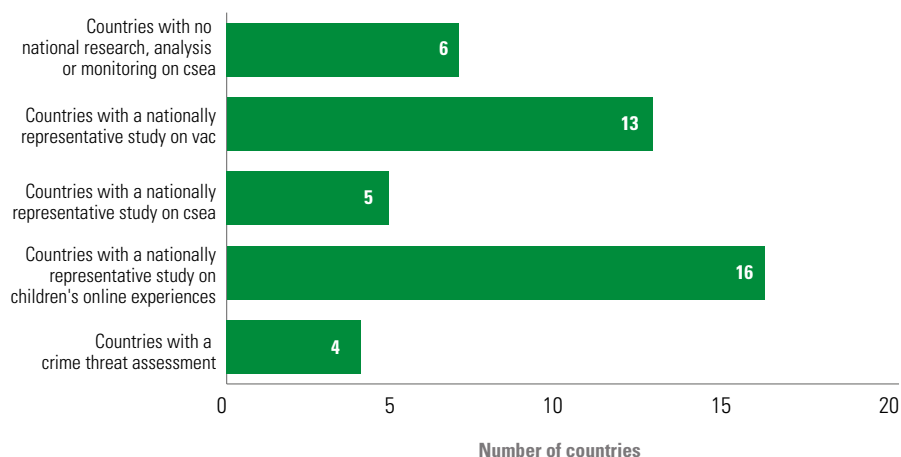
Current status

The majority of surveyed countries (23 countries, 79 per cent) have undertaken some form of national research, analysis and monitoring of child sexual exploitation and abuse including online child sexual exploitation and abuse in the last five years. Of the countries with research available, most (16 countries, 55 per cent) have conducted a study on children's online experiences; thirteen have conducted a study on violence against children, including online child sexual exploitation and abuse, and five have carried out specific studies on child sexual exploitation and abuse which include online dimensions.

Promising initiatives

Successful efforts to improve evidence generation have ranged from conducting national representative research studies using the Global Kids Online methodology (for example, Albania, Brazil, Bulgaria, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Montenegro, the Philippines, Serbia and South Africa) to more institutionalized approaches where research efforts were explicitly integrated into National Response Plans and were subsequently rolled out. For instance, in the Philippines, three research studies covering different aspects of violence against children and children's online experience, including online child sexual exploitation and abuse, were included in the national response plan. The studies were rolled out and subsequently used by the Government of the Philippines in the development of the National

Figure 6: Snapshot of countries with available research on CSEA, including online CSEA



Response Plan to address Online Child Exploitation and Abuse of Children. In South Africa, following the completion of the National Kids Online Study, the South African Law Commission developed a discussion paper aiming to identify gaps in the existing legal framework to protect children from technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse.

In addition, the Disrupting Harm project, funded by the End Violence Fund and implemented by ECPAT, INTERPOL and UNICEF, has generated evidence in 13 countries²⁵ on children's experiences of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, and how national protection systems are responding. As part of Disrupting Harm, UNICEF conducted nationally representative surveys with children and their families to explore the occurrence of different forms of technology-facilitated sexual exploitation and abuse, where and how it happens, who the common perpetrators are, and how children report and respond to it. The research was specifically designed to yield in-depth data about the national situation of children and clarify which parts of the protection system need strengthening. It provides all stakeholders with concrete and actionable recommendations.

Promising initiatives in focus

Albania, Dominican Republic, Ghana: Evidence generated on technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse has been used to stimulate the development of and/or inform policies, such as the Child Online Protection Framework in 2019 and the Cybersecurity Act 2020 in Ghana⁵⁹, and the national Cybersecurity Strategies in Albania⁶⁰ and the Dominican Republic. These strategies provide focused and well-defined actions to address the gaps and challenges that stem from the evidence generated.

Jordan: A comprehensive violence against children school online survey system for children has been developed and has recently

become operational. The survey system is hosted by the Ministry of Education and aims to monitor students' perceptions of verbal, physical, sexual violence, bullying and school vandalism incidents in schools, homes, communities and online.

South Africa: Because of COVID-19-related restrictions on face-to-face data collection, the use of computer-aided technological modalities was institutionalized during the data collection phase for the national study on children's experiences of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. This led to greater digital platform utilization and broader participation of children.

Gaps, challenges and way forward

Although 79 per cent of countries surveyed (23 countries) report having some form of nationally representative data on violence against children, children's online experiences, or online or offline child sexual exploitation and abuse, challenges remain, including:

Limited systematic and institutionalized data collection

There appear to be few efforts for systematic, regular and comprehensive data collection on online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse to inform policy and practice. This includes not only through national prevalence surveys but also data collected through routine administrative data systems. There are also various

challenges in conducting national prevalence surveys on child sexual abuse because of cost, time and ethical complexities. Together, these challenges are a significant barrier to evidenced-based policymaking and programming, and critically hinder the effective measurement of progress. Lack of regular data further hampers efforts at effective awareness-raising and advocacy, which, in turn, is likely to result in the issue of child sexual exploitation and abuse receiving limited political attention and financial resources.

Limited use of evidence in policymaking

Even where there are available data, the extent to which this evidence is systematically used to inform policies and strategies to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as the actual level of capacity of policymakers and technical professionals engaged in policymaking to utilize evidence for decision-making and policy development, remains unclear.

Way forward

- Strengthen efforts to institutionalize regular, national-level, data on online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse, for instance, through the inclusion of relevant indicators in established national surveys and monitoring systems
- Support capacity-building efforts for policymakers and technical professionals to use evidence for decision-making and policy development.

CAPABILITY 3: LEGISLATION

What the WeProtect Model National Response recommends

The MNR recommends comprehensive and effective domestic legislation to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse including forms that are facilitated via technology. Legislation should consider a country's international legal obligations, can draw on model international standards and should recognize that crimes involving child sexual exploitation and abuse can cross geographic borders.

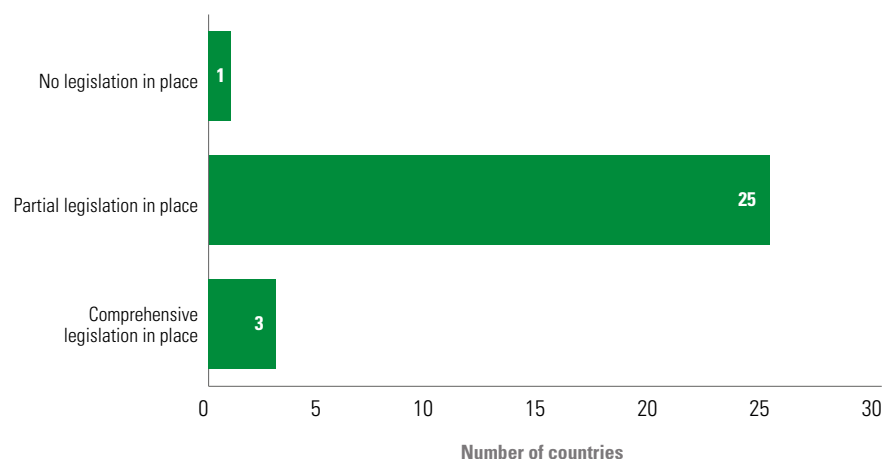
Current status

Almost all the surveyed countries (28 countries, 97 per cent) have adopted legislation that criminalizes some aspects of online child sexual exploitation and abuse and most are party to key international conventions (*see Annex 2*). Out of these, three countries (Brazil, Ghana and South Africa) report having comprehensive legislation in place that criminalizes all aspects of online child sexual exploitation and abuse including grooming, and explicit requirements for ISPs to report suspected child abuse materials to a mandated agency, while all others report some legislation gaps (see section 'Gaps, challenges and way forward' below).

Promising initiatives

Promising initiatives to develop comprehensive legislation to address online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse include cooperation through regional bodies, such as ASEAN, to provide guidance and impetus to develop comprehensive legislation; engagement of the private sector in legislative reform, as was done in the Philippines; and the inclusion of explicit legal obligations for ISPs in, for example, Ghana. Another successful initiative was seen in Zimbabwe, which recently included child-specific provisions in its Cybercrime Bill, thereby aligning the Bill with international standards.

Figure 7: National legislation to address online CSEA



Gaps, challenges and way forward

Although there have been important developments in law reform, significant gaps remain across most surveyed countries. Specifically, significant gaps in domestic legislation remain, centering around unclear definitions of key terms that are not in line with CRC or other international standards. These gaps include:

- Insufficient legal provisions regarding reporting and take-down procedures of child sexual abuse material for the online service providers
- Insufficient criminalization of possession and distribution of child sexual abuse material
- Insufficient criminalization of grooming of children for sexual abuse and exploitation, including through ICT, cyberstalking and sexual extortion
- Insufficient criminalization of live-streaming of child sexual exploitation or abuse.

Way forward

- Work through regional bodies and through South-South exchange to create momentum for legislative reform: Similar to ongoing efforts through ASEAN, regional bodies can put efforts to combat child sexual exploitation and abuse, including online child sexual exploitation and abuse, firmly on their agenda. This can help to gather political momentum and provide guidance and impetus for legislative reform for member countries.
- Involve the private sector in legislation reform: As a key stakeholder in efforts to tackle online child sexual exploitation and abuse, the private sector, in particular the technology industry, should be involved in discussions around legislative reform, as was done in the Philippines (see above). This can facilitate the drafting of effective legislation while simultaneously raising awareness and creating buy-in of the private sector to step up efforts to address online child sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Promote adoption of comprehensive legislation to ensure that (1) the law criminalizes acts that constitute child sexual exploitation and abuse, with the additional recognition of those acts that are committed online; (2) other relevant regulations and procedures are reformed to be fit for purpose to enable effective investigation and prosecution of the crimes; (3) limitation periods for sexual offences against children are removed; (4) the right of children to be heard is promoted in relevant judicial and administrative proceedings; and (5) comprehensive and effective reporting and take-down procedures are included for the technology sector.

Promising initiatives in focus

ASEAN: ASEAN, led by the Government of Thailand, and supported by ECPAT and UNICEF, has developed a Declaration on the Protection of Children from All Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN, which was adopted in 2019. The Declaration includes a pillar on developing national legal frameworks. A detailed Regional Plan of Action to operationalize the Declaration has recently been adopted to provide further guidance and impetus for action by ASEAN Member States to introduce comprehensive legislation. Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Declaration on the Protection of Children from all Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN and Chairman's Statement of the 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits.⁶¹

Ghana: The Cybersecurity Act 2020 (Act 1038), which was developed with support from UNICEF, has been passed. The Act

includes provisions for protection of children online by criminalizing online sexual conduct involving children. Indecent images and photographs of children, grooming of children for sexual abuse, cyberstalking and sexual extortion are all prohibited by the law. The Act further imposes some obligation on Telecommunication Service Providers to protect children within the digital space.

Philippines: As part of the 2019 SaferkidsPH, and with support from UNICEF, the private sector, including Facebook, Google, PLDT/Smart, Promontory and Globe were consulted to identify bottlenecks and propose amendments to relevant child protection policies and laws. This input contributed to the development of a bill amending laws on online child sexual exploitation and abuse, which has subsequently been adopted by the Senate.

South Africa: South Africa has a comprehensive legislative framework that criminalizes child sexual exploitation and abuse and makes provisions for the detection and prosecution of online child abuse and exploitation. Notably, the Sexual Offences and Related Matters Amendment Act 32 of 2007 includes provisions addressing sexual offences against children, including exposure or display of child sexual abuse material and sexual grooming of children (including via the internet and other information and communication technologies). The Films and Publication Act (1996) as amended, defines and prohibits various activities related to the production, distribution and possession of 'child pornography'. The Act also includes obligations for ISPs. South Africa is one of the few countries that regulates ISPs, requiring them to take measures to prevent access to 'child pornography'.⁶²



2.3

DOMAIN 2:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CAPABILITY 4: DEDICATED LAW ENFORCEMENT

What the WeProtect Model National Response recommends

The MNR recommends dedicated law enforcement capability with an explicit remit to lead, support and coordinate investigations into child sexual exploitation and abuse. Law enforcement officials ought to have adequate knowledge, skills, systems, tools and resources, and child protection professionals should be involved in the criminal justice process to ensure victim-focus.

Current status

All of the surveyed countries report having some form of law enforcement capability with an explicit remit to respond to offline and online child sexual exploitation and abuse. In more than half of the countries (21 countries, 72 per cent) reporting such capability, it is found within a unit responsible for cybercrimes, at times in collaboration with units specialized in investigating crimes against children or women or human trafficking. Very few countries report having a specialist unit for investigating technology-facilitated crimes against children.

In addition, the survey enquired about forensic capability including access to specialized tools or databases for the investigation of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation. The survey found that the vast majority of countries surveyed (25 countries, 86 per cent) report having access to some type of specialized tools or database to carry out investigations of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, such as the ICSE database²⁶ or NCMEC Cyber Tipline reports. Specifically, 11 countries (38 per cent) report having digital forensic capability, and nine (31 per cent) have connections to receive NCMEC CyberTipline reports.

Promising initiatives

To improve child-focused investigations, UNICEF has supported development of protocols and manuals. Some of these have been integrated into police training curricula (for example, in the Dominican Republic and Zimbabwe).

In dealing with online child sexual offences, most countries have digital forensic capability as part of broader cybercrime units. A few have established dedicated units to deal with online child sexual exploitation and abuse (for example, the Philippines and Ghana). In those instances, the specialized unit works in close collaboration with foreign law enforcement to process intelligence, conduct physical surveillance and safeguard children. UNICEF has also provided support to countries to strengthen digital forensic capability, such as through on-the-job training by international experts (for example, Albania, see further below) and the provision of tools and software to investigate online child abuse and exploitation. For instance, in South Africa, Mongolia and Belarus, support has been provided to procure specialised equipment and software and to train law enforcement officials on its use.

Gaps and challenges

Although all surveyed countries report some kind of law enforcement unit that is responsible for investigating technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, the following challenges can be noted:

Few dedicated law enforcement units with an explicit remit on child sexual exploitation and abuse that have child-friendly and gender-sensitive capacities

Partly because of resource constraints, only two of the 29 countries surveyed have set up dedicated units responsible for investigation of child sexual exploitation and abuse, including technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. Yet, even in these cases, the extent to which these units have adequate child-friendly and gender-sensitive capacities remains unclear.

Units responsible for child sexual exploitation and abuse tend to have limited human and financial resources and high staff turnover and ad hoc training initiatives

Qualitative information provided by the survey suggests that across the board, units responsible for crimes against children, including child sexual exploitation and abuse, tend to be understaffed and under-resourced, with

high staff turnover. The latter may be, to some extent, linked to the limited availability of psychosocial support for law enforcement officials working on child sexual exploitation and abuse. This is compounded by a tendency to roll out ad hoc training initiatives on child sexual exploitation and abuse and related issues, instead of institutionalized training and mentoring of staff on an ongoing basis.

Promising initiatives in focus

Albania: The Ministry of Interior in Albania, supported by UNICEF, hosted a group of international technical experts to job-shadow law enforcement officials to gain an in-depth understanding of the challenges, bottlenecks and opportunities to improve investigation of suspected cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Subsequently, the Ministry convened a workshop with representatives of the Albanian State Police, the Prosecution Office, the Judiciary, the National Authority for Electronic and Postal Communication, international partners, the technology industry as well as international technical experts to assess existing practices in investigating technology-facilitated crimes against children. The workshop provided an opportunity for different stakeholders, who were not usually in communication with each other, to work together, thereby facilitating cross-sector understanding and cooperation.

Dominican Republic: The Special Prosecutor against Crime and High Technology Crimes is responsible for investigating and prosecuting

crimes related to online child sexual exploitation and abuse. The Special Prosecutor was established in 2015 within the General Prosecutor's Office. UNICEF and the UK government supported the Special Prosecutor with donations of equipment, the Child Protection System software to monitor traffic of child sexual abuse images, as well as capacity-building. During the first six months of its operation, more than 21,000 exchanges of child sexual abuse material from or to the country were investigated. From 2015 to May 2019, 2,154 Internet Protocol (IP) addresses were investigated, with 59 cases brought to justice and 30 people convicted.

Ghana: The Ghana Police Service, with support from UNICEF, launched a child protection digital forensic laboratory under the Cybercrime unit of the Criminal Investigations Department at the police headquarters. The lab and the unit are dedicated to investigating cyber-offences including technology-facilitated child abuse and exploitation. The unit works in collaboration with the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit of the Ghana

Police Service to deal with technology-facilitated abuse against children and young people. Several professional development programmes have been organized to train police officers on cybercrimes including online child exploitation. The lab is connected directly with the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children to receive referrals and has recently connected to the ICSE database.

Philippines: In 2019, the Philippine Internet Center for Computer Crimes Against Children was set up. The centre is composed of law enforcement agencies and foreign law enforcement collaborating to work on specific cases of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. The work includes processing intelligence, conducting physical surveillance and safeguarding children. In addition, there are specialized units in the Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice Office of Cybercrime that specifically focus on technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Unclear mandates and/or weak and unregulated coordination of cybercrime units with units focused on crimes against children and/or trafficking

Several countries report a lack of clarity on where the chief mandate for the investigation of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse lies.

Limited awareness of the seriousness of child sexual exploitation and abuse compared with other cybercrimes

Awareness of the magnitude and urgency of child sexual exploitation and abuse, including of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, remains generally limited, including among law enforcement officials. Where the chief responsibility for the investigation of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse lies with cybercrime units, there is the risk for other issues, such as money laundering and fraud, to crowd out child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Way forward

- Support development of clear mandates and standard operating procedures for investigation of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, outlining in detail the roles and responsibilities of all units and actors involved. Ensure that the procedures allow for clear linkages to child protection and allied systems for supporting child victims and include ongoing training on child sexual exploitation and abuse-related issues and avoid internal silos within law enforcement agencies
- Support the institutionalization of systematic training of all law enforcement officials working on investigating child sexual exploitation and abuse, including through the inclusion of mandatory modules on child sexual exploitation and abuse and child-friendly and gender-sensitive approaches in pre-service and in-service training curricula
- Advocate for increased human and financial resource allocations to units working to investigate child sexual exploitation and abuse, including forms facilitated by technology.

CAPABILITY 5: JUDICIARY AND PROSECUTORS

What the WeProtect Model National Response recommends

The MNR recommends that prosecutors and the judiciary have specialist knowledge and skills to enable positive outcomes for victims. This would include strong awareness and understanding of child sexual exploitation and abuse, the potential vulnerability of victims/witnesses, and methodologies/profiles of offenders and awareness of how to protect victims/witnesses from any negative impacts of the judicial process.

Current status

Of all surveyed countries, 21 countries (75 per cent) and 22 countries (79 per cent), respectively, report that judiciary and prosecutors have some knowledge and skills to enable positive outcomes for victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse, including technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. Five countries reported no or limited awareness of prosecutors, and six countries no or limited awareness of the judiciary on how to effectively deal with cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse in a victim-focused manner.

Promising initiatives

To strengthen the child-friendly and victim-focus of the justice processes and build the capacity of the judiciary and prosecutors, some countries have rolled out multisectoral training programmes with support from UNICEF (for example, Cambodia, Serbia, South Africa and Nepal) and some countries have worked to institutionalize such training for the judiciary and the prosecution, such as the Philippines, Belarus, Namibia and the Dominican Republic. In addition, some countries have developed guidelines and protocols on investigation and prosecution of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse and victim assistance, which are being integrated into the training of new prosecutors (for example, the Dominican Republic and Cambodia).

Figure 8: Level of specialized knowledge and skills on CSEA among judiciary

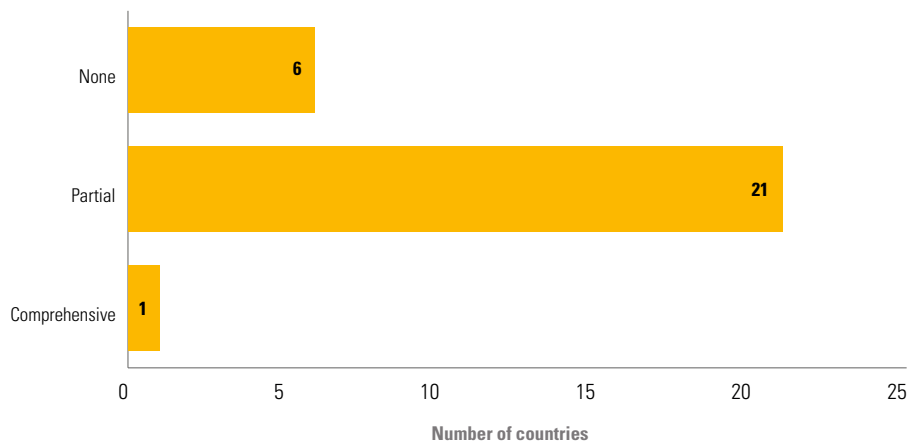
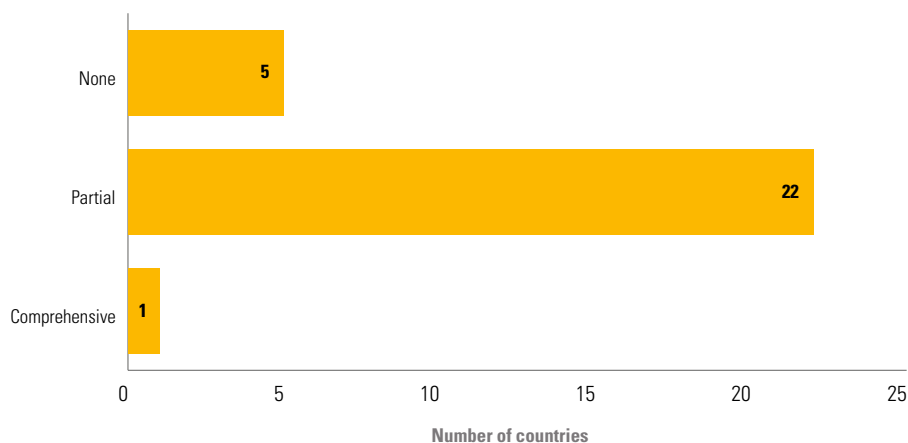


Figure 9: Level of specialist knowledge and skills on CSEA among prosecution services



Gaps, challenges and way forward

Even though most prosecution services and the judiciary in the countries surveyed are perceived to have some knowledge and skills on child sexual exploitation and abuse, and the delivery of child-friendly and victim-centred services, the following challenges remain:

Significant knowledge and skills gaps on child sexual exploitation and abuse among judiciary and prosecution because of ad hoc training approaches

The survey found significant knowledge and skills gaps on child sexual exploitation and abuse among judiciary and prosecution services across all regions. The approach to training is widely ad hoc without sufficient institutionalization, which could be combatted, for instance, by inclusion of a mandatory module on child sexual exploitation and abuse and child victims/witness in pre-service training or professional development courses.

Limited familiarity with crimes with an online dimension and digital evidence by prosecutors and the judiciary

Some countries surveyed note few prosecutions and convictions in relation to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. Survey findings indicate that this is partly a result of limited familiarity of prosecutors and judiciary with crimes with an online dimension, as well as limited experience of dealing with digital evidence.

Strong reliance on child witness testimonies that risks re-victimizing children

Prosecution of child sexual exploitation and abuse-related cases risks re-victimizing children if this is heavily reliant on child victims and witness testimony in court, and participation in criminal proceedings. This can result in non-reporting of cases or withdrawal of complaints and retraction of statements.

Gaps in the legal frameworks around online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse

Lack of comprehensive legislation on child sexual exploitation and abuse that is in line with international standards, hinders the ability to establish and roll-out victim-focused criminal justice processes adequate to investigate cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse. (See section on Capability 3 above for more detail.)

Way forward

- Promote a systematic and ongoing approach to training of the prosecution service and the judiciary on child sexual exploitation and abuse including specialist content on technology-facilitated abuse as well as digital evidence opportunities and challenges.
- Support development of child-sensitive protocols that are victim-centred and roll out Child Witness training programmes (see below Case Study for Namibia).

Promising initiatives in focus

Dominican Republic: Two multisectoral protocols on investigation and prosecution of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation, and abuse crimes and victim assistance were developed and integrated into the Public Ministry's Training School training programme for new prosecutors.

Namibia: Multisectoral training for judiciary, prosecutors and social workers on handling cases of child witnesses and victims of violent crimes, including crimes of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, was rolled out country-wide. During 2017/2018 almost 400 professionals dealing with children were trained

in how to interview children, social workers were trained to do a child impact report and how to support child victims living with trauma. The training was so well-received that an abbreviated version was included in UNODC-funded training on gender-based violence (GBV) and Trafficking in Persons and in the police training manual on Violence Against Children.

South Africa: The Sexual Offences and Community Affairs Unit of the National Prosecuting Authority has dedicated courts to deal with sexual offences, domestic violence and child justice, with trained personnel to deal with child sexual exploitation and abuse.

CAPABILITY 6: OFFENDER MANAGEMENT PROCESS

What the WeProtect Model National Response recommends

The MNR recommends a multi-agency offender management system to manage and rehabilitate child sex offenders to prevent re-offending.

Current status

More than a quarter of all countries surveyed (9 countries, 31 per cent) offer rehabilitation and education programmes for offenders convicted of child exploitation or abuse in custody or prison, a total of five countries (17 per cent) offer post-release community-based offender rehabilitation programme and seven countries (25 per cent) have a national sex offender registry.

Gaps, challenges and way forward

Weak capacity on offender management and limited efforts to address this

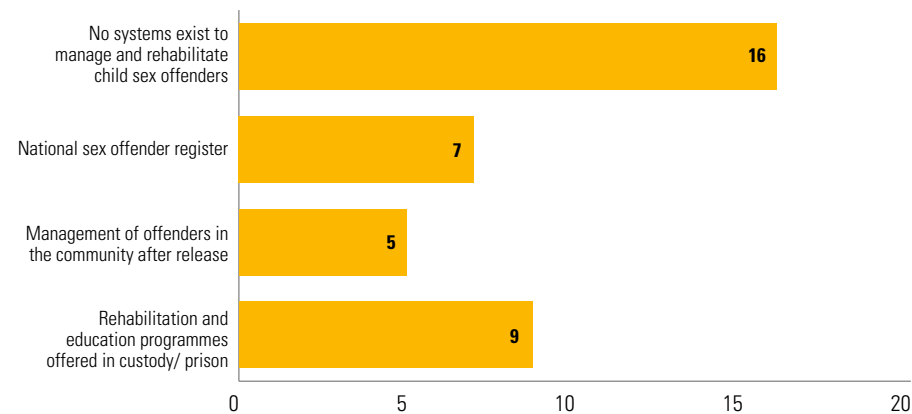
Capacities relating to offender management remain fairly weak across all countries surveyed, with almost half (16 countries, 55 per cent) having no system in place and only five countries offering post-release community-based offender rehabilitation programmes. Further, the survey found little evidence of ongoing initiatives in this regard and limited data on the risk of re-offending of convicted abusers, or on effective offender management initiatives in low- and middle-income countries.

Way forward

- Support development of national regulations for sex offender management systems

- Support evidence generation on the risk of re-offending and the actual and potential impact of successful offender management processes to inform national initiatives. This should include monitoring and documenting the effectiveness and impact of already existing offender management programmes and could be compiled at international level to further global advocacy on such efforts.

Figure 10: Systems to manage and rehabilitate child sex offenders²⁷



CAPABILITY 7: ACCESS TO IMAGE DATABASES

What the WeProtect Model National Response recommends

The MNR recommends that law enforcement uses INTERPOL’s International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database and, where appropriate, puts in place a national child sexual abuse image database.

Current status

Fourteen of the surveyed countries (48 per cent) report having access to INTERPOL’s ICSE database. Of all countries surveyed, only four reported the existence of a national child abuse database for law enforcement.²⁸

Gaps, challenges and way forward

Although almost half of all surveyed countries have access to the ICSE database, effective use of the database remains a challenge. As such, this capability is closely linked with Capability 4 on law enforcement, as the connection to ICSE requires a dedicated team to work on identified cases. Supported by findings from other research studies, the survey highlights the following specific challenges:

Limited capacity to use specialized tools

Despite access to the ICSE database, there appears to be limited capacity among law enforcement officials to effectively use it.²⁹

Bureaucratic obstacles that hinder effective use of tools

Bureaucratic challenges at country level also appear as a hindrance to victim identification through the ICSE database. These include difficulties in maintaining fluid coordination between, and timely responses from, the relevant police units and ministries to obtain judicial decisions approving victim identification investigations, or in motivating all relevant police agencies to systematically share seized images/videos for submission to the ICSE database.³⁰

Way forward

- Support systematic training of law enforcement officials working on the use of the ICSE database and other related tools
- Advocate for sufficient human and financial resource allocations to enable the sustained use of relevant tools and databases.



2.4 DOMAIN 3: VICTIM

CAPABILITY 8: END-TO-END SUPPORT

What the WeProtect Model National Response recommends

The MNR recommends planned and integrated end-to-end support for victims through the investigation, legal proceedings and beyond, including an appropriate response by the health sector and effective cooperation between law enforcement and social services (government and non-government).

Current status

Most countries surveyed (20 countries, 69 per cent) report having a case management plan, a protocol or applicable legislation that outlines procedures to ensure end-to-end victim support for victims of online or offline child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Promising initiatives

A number of countries, such as Ghana and the Philippines have put in place case management protocols and inter-sectoral standard operating procedures for child protection and family welfare, including on case management of child victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation. These protocols and procedures aim to strengthen the collaboration and referral of child protection-related cases among different agencies and service providers. The adaption of the *Barnahus* and 'one-stop centre' models are promising. Jordan, for instance, has adopted an integrated service model. In South Africa, standard operating procedures cover case management of child victims of abuse and exploitation and the



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government of South Africa has established 65 Thukela Care Centres that provide professional medical care, counselling and access to investigators and prosecutors to victims of sexual violence and several NGO and private organizations provide specialized support services to victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. In Zimbabwe, efforts have included the development of training manuals for social workers integrating technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse into the national case management system.

Gaps, challenges and way forward

Limited implementation of case management plans and procedures

Despite the efforts listed above, a number of countries note that effective implementation of plans and procedures is a critical challenge, often leaving victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse without adequate support. To address this, some countries have rolled out comprehensive multisectoral training programmes, such as the Gender-based Violence Protection Units and Child Witness Training programme in Namibia, in which police investigators, prosecutors, magistrates and social workers (child protection workforce) are working and being trained together to ensure end-to-end support for victims.

Ad hoc and insufficiently integrated approaches to case management

A number of countries note a lack of a multidisciplinary and systems-based approach to case management, risking the creation of ad hoc and/or parallel structures that operate in silos.

The complexity of youth-produced imagery

An emerging area of concern is dealing with 'self-generated' or 'youth-produced' imagery. Research suggests the particular importance of comprehensively integrated case management in cases of youth-produced imagery. For instance, a recent study by ECPAT emphasizes the importance of developing guidelines and capacity-building for key players beyond law enforcement, such as teachers, parents and social workers, who may come across victims of youth-produced sexual materials.³¹

Way forward

- Roll out multisectoral training programmes on effective case management of online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse, in which law enforcement, the judiciary and prosecution service, the social workforce and other relevant stakeholders are trained together
- Promote inclusion of key stakeholders, such as teachers, parents and social workers, in case management processes
- Promote a systems-based approach to case management that builds on, and strengthens, existing procedures with specific capacities relating to handling any online dimension of child sexual abuse and exploitation
- Promote establishment of integrated multidisciplinary support services in line with the Barnahus model of service³²
- Develop evidence-based guidance on dealing with cases of youth-produced sexual imagery.

Promising initiatives in focus

Albania: Mobile child protection units have been introduced, which can travel to most remote communities where accessibility to services is poor.

Ghana: The Inter-Sectoral Standard Operating Procedures for Child and Family Welfare developed by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in 2018, serves as a reference for providing required services to children. Standards for management of online abuse and exploitation of children across sectors have been provided for in the standard operating procedures to ensure that child sexual exploitation and abuse-related issues are adequately addressed or referred to relevant actors.

Jordan: Jordan has adopted an integrated and comprehensive services model, which consists of collaboration with different competent ministries such as the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Development to ensure immediate, comprehensive service provision for victims in one place at the same time. The Ministry of Social Development services provides ongoing support to victims at all stages of prosecution as well as to Ministry of Health psychiatric and forensic medicine services. Post-care services

are accessible for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse through the Family Protection Department with Ministry of Social Development behaviour monitor support.

Madagascar: Madagascar has set up child protection networks throughout the country. These networks are made up of all the actors concerned with child protection, which coordinate interventions and care for child victims of violence, including child sexual exploitation and abuse online.

Montenegro: The Institute for Social and Child Protection, with support from UNICEF, developed standard operating procedures on cross-sectoral cooperation for cases of child victims of violence and exploitation and rolled out training programmes for social welfare, health and law enforcement professionals, including respective CSOs in the country. In addition, the Ministry of Health, with support from the World Health Organization and UNICEF, developed Guidelines for health service providers on 'Acting with a View to Protecting Children and Adolescents from Violence, Abuse and Neglect' and rolled out training programmes on the same.

Philippines: Through its partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, UNICEF Philippines, as lead of the SaferKidsPH consortium, is undertaking a study entitled 'Intervention Strategies on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Children Victims of Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation'. The study maps and documents the main intervention models and treatment approaches (including individual and family counselling; removal of the child or offender/s from the home; provision of temporary and durable child protection solutions) for child victims of online child sexual exploitation and abuse and their families.

South Africa: The Ministry of Social Development has developed an Online Child Protection Toolkit for front-line workers including police, justice, educators, social service professionals, the religious sector, caregivers and children to increase knowledge and skills to deal with technology-facilitated child exploitation and abuse. The toolkit has also been adapted to a virtually learning platform course and has been accredited by the South African Council of Social Service Professionals for continued professional development.

CAPABILITY 9: CHILD PROTECTION WORKFORCE

What the WeProtect Model National Response recommends

The MNR recommends a skilled, specialized statutory social service workforce that is trained, coordinated and available to provide support to victims and survivors of child sexual exploitation and abuse to support children during a law enforcement investigation; and for formal working procedures for child sexual exploitation and abuse to exist between all relevant stakeholders.³³

Current status

The majority of countries surveyed (21 countries, 75 per cent) report having a partially trained and available social service workforce to support children. Six countries report major limitations in their social service workforce, being unable to provide adequate support to children. Only one of the surveyed countries (South Africa) reports having a comprehensively trained social service workforce that is available in sufficient numbers.

Promising initiatives

The professional cadre of social workers is still only emerging across many low- and middle-income countries.³⁴ To support this process, many countries have taken a systems approach and worked more broadly to strengthen the social service workforce such as in Cambodia and Viet Nam. In addition, efforts have been made to either support specialized training in preventing and responding to online child sexual abuse for social workers, as was done, for instance, in the Philippines and South Africa; or to integrate social workers into multisectoral training programmes, as was done in Namibia. The latter was found to further improve cooperation between different workforces involved in a child-focused law enforcement investigation, supporting better end-to-end support for victims.

Gaps, challenges and way forward

Limited numbers of social service workforce and limited support for the workforce

A number of countries noted the challenge that training and capacity-building of the social service workforce had been provided by various government ministries, NGOs and other partners, without clear coordination mechanisms, risking inconsistent messaging and duplication, among others.

Promising initiatives in focus

Albania: UNICEF partnered with Terre des Homme to strengthen the capacities of the child protection workforce and review the existing in-service training curricula for social/child protection workers delivered in the Social Faculty of Tirana University. The curricula, which have been revised as per the newly established legal framework, will incorporate a new standalone training module, to provide in-depth thematic knowledge on technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. UNICEF successfully advocated with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to accredit the curriculum as part of the Albania School of Public Administration continuous learning package for civil servants, to ensure the sustainability of this initiative.

Cambodia: The National Institute for Social Affairs, with support from UNICEF, developed a standardized social service workforce training strategy, and social service workers in all 25 provinces and 203 districts are being provided with the training on social work, supervision and case management for offline and online child sexual exploitation and abuse victims. Coaching and supervision support are being provided to these social service workers at the provincial and district levels through specialized NGOs or experts for case reviews and regular coaching. In addition, Cambodia, with support from UNICEF, has worked to formalize the role of the social service workforce as part of the organizational framework for child protection.

Limited awareness of online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse among the social service workforce

Some countries highlighted that social workers are less likely to recognize cases of sexual abuse, especially technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, as serious problems, often leading to inappropriate responses. For example, in Bulgaria, 21 per cent of social workers were reported to view child sexual exploitation and abuse in general as an insignificant problem.³⁵ Technology-facilitated abuse was also seen as less problematic overall.³⁶

Way forward

- Advocate for increased financial investment to strengthen the social service workforce
- Support development of a professionalization strategy for the social service workforce, including well-coordinated and ongoing training and capacity-building, as well as certification and career progression
- Include the social service workforce in multisectoral training initiatives to increase their understanding and capacity to prevent and provide support to children who have experienced child sexual exploitation and abuse including forms facilitated by technology. The social service workforce may also have an important role to play in providing psychological support for other workforces in countries dealing with the issue (including law enforcement and the IT sector).

Figure 11: Social service workforce that is trained and available to support victims of CSEA

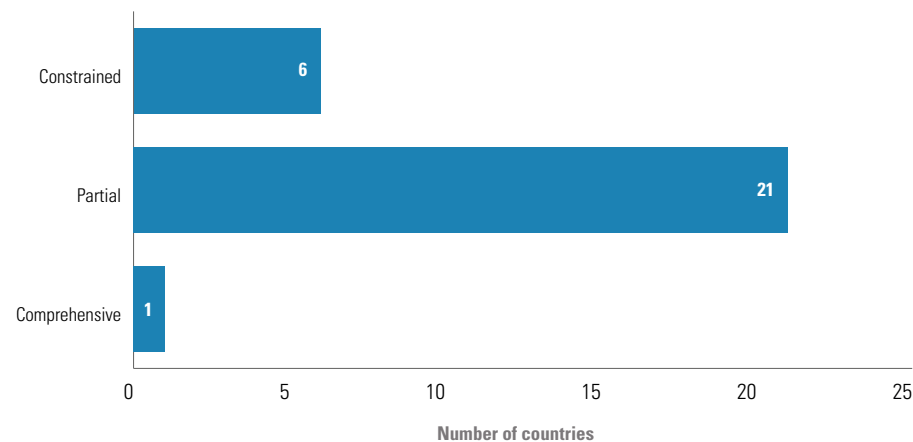
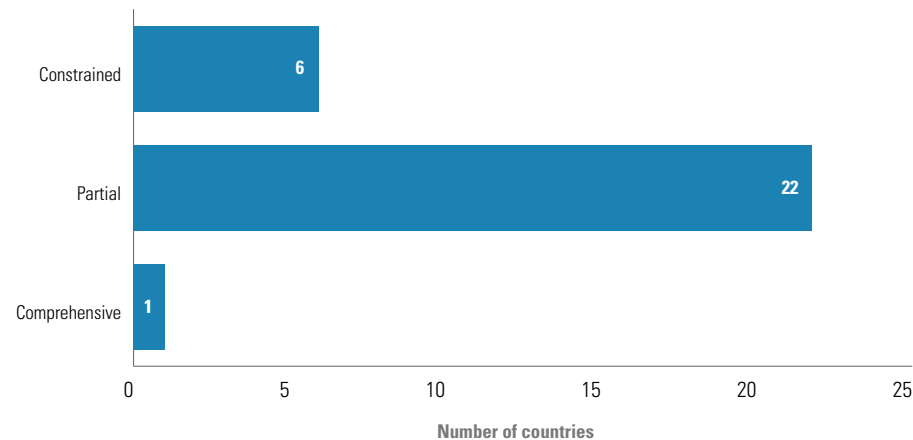


Figure 12: Remedies and reparations for victims of CSEA



CAPABILITY 10: COMPENSATION, REMEDIES AND COMPLAINTS ARRANGEMENTS

What the WeProtect Model National Response recommends

The MNR recommends provision of services to aid the recovery of victims including medical and psychological support, social care, legal services, housing, and education or training. In addition, it is recommended that procedures are in place to ensure victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse have the best possible opportunity to access the services available, such as through the provision of child-friendly information.

Current status

Only one of the countries surveyed (Indonesia) reports having in place comprehensive remedies and reparation services for victims of online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse. Notably, in Indonesia, services are available for both victims of online and offline child sexual abuse and there is an increasing number of integrated social welfare services to affected children and their families.

The majority of countries surveyed (22 countries, 76 per cent) report having some, partially adequate, remedies and reparations available. More than a quarter of all countries (6 countries, 21 per cent) surveyed report having no, or constrained, remedies or reparation arrangements for victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse in place.

Promising initiatives

Although not many specific interventions appear to be under way to address the lack of remedies or reparations for victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse, one promising example is the approval of

compensation guidelines for victim-survivors in the Philippines in 2018. In addition, the Philippines currently provides free access to legal services, including child-friendly information about children's rights, the procedure for filing complaints, claims for compensation and other legal remedies.

Gaps, challenges and way forward

Approximately one-quarter of countries report having no remedies and reparations in place for victims of online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse. This appears to be a critical gap, especially as the consequences of child sexual exploitation and abuse can be far-reaching, extending to all spheres of life, and extending into adulthood with possible intergenerational impacts.³⁷ Even in countries that have some form of remedy or compensation system in place on paper, implementation may be lagging behind, and awareness of the system by victims and their families, and how to access it, may be limited.

Way forward

- In line with a victim-centred approach, step up efforts to support child-friendly remedies and reparations for victims of online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse, with a view to ensuring justice for children and aiding their holistic recovery, including to:
- Support the effective implementation of existing remedy and compensation systems, including through awareness-raising for victims and their families on the existence of the services and how to access them
 - Invest in legal rights awareness for children
 - Facilitate the expansion of free legal aid for children and build national cadres of specialized lawyers and paralegal services.

CAPABILITY 11: CHILD HELPLINE

What the WeProtect Model National Response recommends

The MNR recommends an anonymous, confidential, free of charge and around-the-clock-accessible support and intervention service for children and young people. This could either be run by CSOs or government, but should work in close partnership with key referral services to provide a single point of contact with key child protection bodies and law enforcement.

Current status and promising initiatives

All but two of the countries surveyed currently offer a child helpline. Helplines tend to be free of charge and accessible 24/7. Although some helplines provide comprehensive services, including psychosocial support and counselling, emergency responses and referrals, such as in Viet Nam and Thailand, challenges remain regarding the allocation of sufficient human, technical and financial resources for these helplines. In addition, some child helplines do not appear to be very well publicized, risking leaving child-victims without actual access.³⁸

Interventions to strengthen child helplines have ranged from provision of technical support for initial set up of the helpline (Albania), to provision of specialized training for helpline staff (Albania, Uganda), to provision of technical support to expand an existing helpline database, for instance to capture calls and specific information about technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse (Namibia) or receive text and ChatBox reporting (Serbia).

Gaps, challenges and way forward

Despite the vast majority of surveyed countries having child helplines, few data are available on the extent to which these helplines are actually used, and how effective they are at providing timely and comprehensive support

Promising initiatives in focus

Albania: In 2009 a national child helpline ALO116111 was established with support from UNICEF. The helpline is toll-free, accessible to everyone, has national coverage and is functional 24 hours a day, seven days a week. ALO11611 can be used for victim reporting and support, as well as referral services for ongoing assistance, thus serving the function of both helpline and reporting hotline. The helpline appears to be widely publicized. Under the 2015/16 Global Programme, helpline staff were specifically trained to meet necessary reporting and follow-up requirements.

Mongolia: With funding from the End Violence Against Children Fund, Mongolia has upgraded the 108 Child helpline to offer Facebook chats and SMS text messaging, in addition to phone calls. This allows for provision of a more inclusive service. The staff of the 108 Child helpline will be trained under this upgrade, with the support of UNICEF Mongolia.

Philippines: Bantay Bata 163 offers a national emergency hotline and has offices in major cities which allow immediate responses

to emergency calls. It provides comprehensive services, including community and family support services, alternative care, and community and school outreach programmes. Bantay Bata 163 uses media including documentary films, social media and testimonials from children to raise awareness.

Serbia: The National Child Helpline, with support from UNICEF, introduced an innovative service: Chat Counselling for children. The service includes chat options through ChatBox and ViberBot, including the development of an interactive child-friendly website, providing important information and resources to children and adults. The mechanism is designed to be safe, child-sensitive, confidential and accessible, thus enabling children to easily report incidents and have quick access and referral to child protection services, including in-depth psycho-social counselling helping them to overcome trauma and benefit from effective remedies and adequate support. This is accompanied by in-depth capacity-building of chat counsellors and other service providers throughout the country.

to victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Survey responses suggest some specific challenges in this regard including:

Limited trained human and financial resources for helplines

Survey responses suggest that helplines are often understaffed, with particularly limited access to trained personnel, and lack the financial resources to operate effectively.

Limited linkage with referral systems

Findings further suggest that helplines are, at times, insufficiently linked to referral systems, making it very challenging for them to provide effective help to victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Limited use of helplines

Survey responses indicate limited use of helplines, which is likely to be linked to the challenges listed above, as well as a suggested preference for young people for online portals over helplines.

Way forward

- ➔ Support research into the effectiveness and use of child helplines, especially in the context of cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation
- ➔ Advocate for inclusion of resourced helpline services as a critical component of national child protection systems
- ➔ Alongside efforts to strengthen the entire referral system, support efforts to strengthen the linkages of helplines to referral services
- ➔ Support helplines to expand the array of communication channels and methods they offer their users to ensure that they are in line with, and respond to, communication trends preferred by children and youth while ensuring robust privacy and data protection safeguards.



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2.5 DOMAIN 4:
SOCIETAL

CAPABILITY 12:
CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE HOTLINE

What the WeProtect Model National Response recommends

The MNR recommends a dedicated hotline or reporting portal, which can receive reports of online child sexual abuse and exploitation from the public and industry, that is linked to law enforcement and child protection systems.

Current status

Almost 90 per cent (26 countries) of all countries surveyed report having a functioning reporting hotline or reporting portal for the public to report online child sexual abuse material. Some of these have been set up in an effort to implement the MNR. In addition, technical and financial support has been provided to strengthen hotlines through, for instance, support to develop software solutions for effective and easy reporting.

Gaps, challenges and way forward

Although the vast majority of countries surveyed have a functioning hotline or online portal in place to report suspected cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse, recent evidence suggests that usage is limited. Surveys with children and young people consistently indicate a substantial gap between the rates of child self-reported sexual victimization and reports made to authorities.³⁹ Reasons for low reporting cited in the survey include limited awareness about the existence of the hotline, limited appreciation of the seriousness of online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse among victims and

duty-bearers, lack of faith in the effectiveness of the reporting system⁴⁰ and a general reluctance to report issues of child sexual exploitation and abuse because of victim-blaming that appears to be widespread in some countries.

In addition, the extent to which reporting hotlines are embedded within formal referral mechanisms and are enabled to cooperate with law enforcement varies across countries, which can reduce the effectiveness of these portals. Sometimes, hotlines can even fall into a 'grey zone' in terms of handling child sexual abuse material without the proper legal authority to do so.

Way forward

- Strengthen or re-design respective hotlines and portals based on national assessments to unpack context-specific reasons for limited usage, and ensure that any findings are taken into consideration for design of future hotlines and portals.

Promising initiatives in focus

Guatemala: The Secretary against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons, with support from UNICEF, developed the website <www.MeConectoSinClavos.net.gt>, an app with the same content of the website and a chatbot, as well as a virtual help and counselling mechanism called 'Tu amig@ SVET' to deal with cases of sexual violence, exploitation and human trafficking. Reported cases are referred to the General

Prosecutor Office for criminal investigation and the Secretary of Social Welfare for provision of psychosocial care services.

Multi-country: Many countries with functioning reporting hotlines (17 countries, 59 per cent) have set up hotlines or reporting portals via the global hotline networks INHOPE⁴¹ and/or the Internet Watch Foundation⁴² including with support from UNICEF.⁴³

CAPABILITY 13: EDUCATION PROGRAMME

What the WeProtect Model National Response recommends

The MNR recommends an education programme for children and young people, parents and carers, teachers and practitioners to raise awareness of online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Current status

More than two thirds of all countries surveyed (21 countries, 72 per cent) report having a national education programme in place to raise awareness of online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse. Some of these have national coverage whereas others are considered 'national' given the government leadership of the programme. Most of these programmes (11 countries) have a broad audience, targeting children and young people, educators, parents and/or the social service workforce, while some target only children and parents/guardians, only children and educators, or only children.

Promising initiatives

Recent efforts to roll out or strengthen existing 'education programmes' and promote societal awareness of the risks of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse include a variety of different approaches. For instance, Albania, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, and the Philippines have taken a curriculum-based approach to mainstreaming online safety (not exclusively online child sexual exploitation and abuse) in school curricula, including development of digital literacy packages as well as specific training programmes for educators to equip them with the knowledge and skills to roll out these programmes effectively. Importantly, in many countries, such as the Philippines, these approaches explicitly reach beyond the immediate school environment, to parents, caregivers and relevant professionals. Other countries, such as South

Africa and Jordan, have developed targeted awareness-raising resources for parents, young people and children, and front-line workers. In addition to curriculum-based approaches, many countries have rolled out school-focused or broader-focused awareness campaigns on children's online safety, such as Albania, Cambodia, the Dominican Republic, Jordan, Namibia, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

In some countries, such as Ghana, online safety has also been mainstreamed into a broader campaign on child abuse (Ghanaians Against Child Abuse), and child sexual exploitation and abuse was included into a broader campaign around digital safety (Safer Digital Ghana Campaign). Other approaches for raising awareness of online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse include the development of private-sector partnerships (for example in Colombia and the Philippines), the setting up of online hubs for discussion and information-sharing (Dominican Republic, Philippines) and the roll-out of peer-to-peer information strategies (Dominican Republic).

Gaps, challenges and way forward

Limited formal, national education programmes

Although most surveyed countries have some form of ad hoc awareness-raising programmes on child sexual exploitation and abuse in place, only about half (16 countries, 55 per cent) report having formal, national education programmes. Some of these programmes are limited in scope to only children and educators, often overlooking parents/guardians or the social service workforce, all of whom are critical in identifying and tackling child sexual exploitation and abuse. This is a significant challenge, especially as lack of awareness of child sexual exploitation and abuse has been cited as a significant contributing cause to low reporting and prosecution of child sexual exploitation and abuse-related offences. Fear of victim-blaming and widespread misconceptions around child sexual exploitation and abuse are contributing to reluctance of children and young people to report abuse.

Evidence suggests that this is particularly so for boys, who tend to be more reluctant to report abuse for fear of having their sexual orientation questioned.⁴⁴ In addition, evidence suggests a critical linkage between child sexual abuse and structural drivers, such as gender inequalities and social norms around masculinity, sexuality and male sexual entitlement, all of which are critical issues to be addressed in national education programmes.

For children who are using technology, the importance of national education programmes to help children stay safe online has been further heightened through the COVID-19 pandemic. Widespread shifts to online learning and containment measures have increased children's exposure to the online environment and evidence suggests that more younger children than ever before have been introduced to digital platforms.⁴⁵

Promising initiatives in focus

Cambodia/East Asia and Pacific region: UNICEF's East Asia and Pacific Regional Office convened a Think Tank in early 2020 comprising industry actors, including Facebook, Microsoft, Telenor Group, academic experts, thematic and evaluation experts, UN agencies and NGOs. The Think Tank is working to address the challenge that there is a limited evidence base on what works in terms of online education initiatives to promote online child protection through the development of an Evaluation Framework to measure the impact of online education initiatives. With support from the Regional Office, UNICEF Cambodia tested the Evaluation Framework in early 2021 and is now planning to develop new assets, guided by these findings, to protect children online.

Colombia: The 'School of Influencers' is a youth-led initiative set up by the Milicom Youth Network, with support from UNICEF, to support adolescents aged 10–19 to develop and put into practice key twenty-first-century skills and knowledge that is essential for their safe, secure and creative use of the internet, with an emphasis on active participation, reflection and applied learning. Specifically, the initiative addresses how to engage responsibly online, what abuse can look like online, how to identify abuse online, why reporting is important, how to report abuse online and how children and adolescents can help their peers report or ask for help. The 'School of Influencers' is led by adolescents and young people as their voices contribute to building together a safer and better digital environment for all children and adolescents.

Mongolia: Mongolia has put in place an online reporting portal <www.eekids.mn> that also serves as a knowledge hub to raise awareness on online

sexual exploitation and abuse of children and youth, parents, educators and industry. Users can easily access the portal and get practical advice on how to ensure a safer internet environment. The site also includes news updates on activities relating to tackling online child sexual exploitation and abuse, cyberbullying and grooming undertaken by the National Police and other relevant bodies.

Philippines: Cybersafe <<https://www.cybersafe.asia>> is part of a comprehensive Safe Schools Training Package, which includes modules on child rights and child sexual abuse prevention in general and provides specific focus on technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. Lesson plans and teaching materials are tailored either by school level or grade. Each grade's theme focuses on developing skills or staying safe, matched with the child's general development. Cybersafe includes supplementary peer-to-peer activities to disseminate key messages (Cyber Wellness Programme), online resource portals (Cyber Wellness and CyberSafe) and workshops with parents (Cyber Wellness Programme).

South Africa: The 'Web Rangers' <<https://webrangers.co.za/web-rangers-sa-2020/>> is a digital literacy programme designed to allow young people to gain critical skills and knowledge around online safety. Partners include Media Monitoring Africa, Facebook, Google SA, Film and Publication Board, MTN Group, the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies and Diana Schwartz Attorneys. In addition, the initiative 'Safer Internet South Africa' promotes digital literacy in collaboration with the Film and Publication Board in South Africa.

Limited evidence base on the effectiveness of education programmes to promote online child protection

There is limited evidence on the effectiveness, and drivers of success, of education programmes to promote online child protection. Indeed, few evaluations measure the impact of such programmes beyond acquisition of knowledge.

Way forward

- Support the development of institutionalized and comprehensive national education programmes on online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse that, among others, address underlying harmful gender norms, and specifically target all relevant stakeholders, including children and young people, parents and guardians, educators and the social service workforce
- Support the integration of online safety into existing education programmes on digital skills and/or programmes addressing 'offline' issues such as bullying and healthy relationships
- Prioritize efforts to measure the impact of and evaluate education initiatives aimed at addressing online child sexual exploitation and abuse.



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CAPABILITY 14: CHILD PARTICIPATION

What the WeProtect Model National Response recommends

The MNR recommends that children and young people are encouraged to give their ideas and influence the development of child sexual exploitation and abuse-related policies and practices.

Current status

Over two-thirds of countries surveyed (18 countries, 64 per cent) report that children and young people are, or have been, encouraged and enabled to give their ideas and influence the development of policies, laws and interventions on child sexual exploitation and abuse. This has been through formal government mechanisms, through CSOs or through specific support facilitated by UNICEF. For instance, Rwanda has structured children committees, forums and annual national summits that enable them to contribute and influence the child protection agenda as well as other relevant national priorities. In Cambodia, UNICEF has supported the Child Rights Coalition (CRC-Cambodia) to engage the Adolescent and Youth Reference Group in advocacy, policy dialogues and programme development on the issues affecting their daily lives, such as violence and online safety. UNICEF Brazil supports channels for adolescents to participate in discussions on policy issues. Safernet, the helpline and hotline for violence online, also has channels for mobilization of adolescents. In addition, UNICEF has facilitated child participation through, for instance, its U-Report platform. In Indonesia, U-Report has been used to inform the National Strategy to Prevent Violence in Childhood. Peer-to-peer initiatives, which are child-led, have been rolled out, for instance in Albania.

Gaps, challenges and way forward

Limited comprehensive and institutionalized processes for child and youth participation

Although the majority of countries report including children and young people's voices in development of national responses to online and offline

Promising initiatives in focus

Albania: UNICEF, in collaboration with the National Authority for Electronic Certification and Cybersecurity, and with the support of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, established the 'Peer Educators for Online Safety' Initiative in 12 regions. A manual for peer educators was developed, which targets 13–14 year-olds and uses child-friendly language and interactive, audio-visual tools to enhance children's knowledge and skills around the issues of cyberbullying, online grooming, sharing private information and self-generated sexual content, etc. Plans are underway for the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth to adopt the tools and methodology as an institutionalised extra-curricular programme across schools in Albania.

Brazil: UNICEF Brazil has supported channels for adolescents to participate in discussions on policy issues, for instance via the centres for adolescent citizenship (Núcleos de Cidadania de Adolescentes). Safernet, the helpline and hotline for online violence, also has channels for mobilization of adolescents. In addition, UNICEF has facilitated child participation through its U-Report platform and in the design of a new, child-friendly version of an online complaint channel (app) on violence against children. The application, which contains information on how to identify different types of violence against children, including online violence, was created by a group of adolescents selected from different parts of the country.

Zimbabwe: In consultations leading up to Zimbabwe's first Child Online Protection Policy (2021), a total of 475 children were consulted through in-depth qualitative activities on their use and experiences of digital technology, and on the opportunities and benefits it presented, as well as the risks and dangers that they faced online on a daily basis. In addition, 6,743 U-Reporters were polled on their views and experiences. These views and experiences form the basis of the policy position and approach detailed within this policy.

Colombia: 'The School of Influencers' empowers adolescents in Colombia to develop and put into practice transferable life skills and knowledge (around cyberbullying, education, sexting, privacy, safety, social capital) that are essential for their safe and creative use of the internet, with an emphasis on active participation, reflection and innovation. Close to 8,000 adolescents were trained as community leaders in 14 Colombian municipalities through workshops led by adolescents and young people and based on the Adolescent Kit for the Safe and Productive Use of Internet. Over 2,000 people have enrolled in 'Misión #CiberConscientes',⁴⁶ which is an eLearning platform that includes modules on child rights in the digital age, cybersecurity, online risks and creative usage of modern technology.

child sexual exploitation and abuse, there appear to be only few examples of government-led, institutionalized processes for child participation across matters that affect them, including administrative and judicial proceedings and child protection case management. In a number of countries, child participation seems to be externally driven by NGOs and UN agencies, limiting the potential for long-term impact. Externally driven processes for child participation further pose the heightened risk that children's voices may not be taken up by policymakers and those designing interventions to tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse.

As children and young people are the key intended users of services and interventions designed to address child sexual exploitation, it is critical that

their views are sought and considered. Failure to do so risks compromising the effectiveness of the systems and interventions.

Way forward

- Support transparent, inclusive and institutionalized mechanisms for the participation of children and young people in policies and interventions relating to online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse
- Support reforms to recognize children's legal standing and their right to be heard in relevant judicial and administrative proceedings.

CAPABILITY 15: OFFENDER⁴⁷ SUPPORT SYSTEM

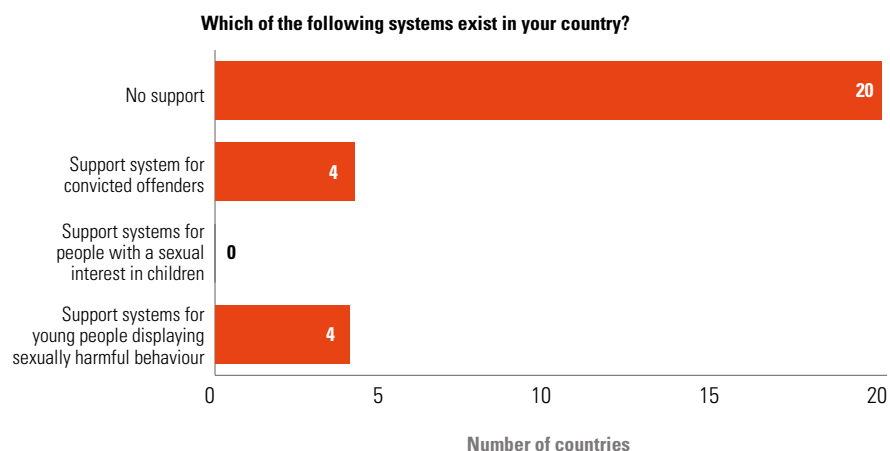
What the WeProtect Model National Response recommends

The MNR recommends a support system for convicted child sex offenders as part of their rehabilitation to prevent re-offending, for people with sexual interest in children, for young people displaying sexually harmful behaviour, as well as for friends and family of the offender.

Current status

Four countries (15 per cent) report having specific support in place to help adolescents or young people who display sexually harmful behaviour, and four countries (15 per cent) report having a support system for convicted offenders. The majority of countries surveyed (20 countries, 74 per cent) report not having any such support systems. No country surveyed appears to have a support system for people with a sexual interest in children to prevent them from harming children.

Figure 13: Types of offender support systems



Promising initiatives

South Africa has put in place a targeted programme to support young people who demonstrate harmful sexual behaviour. The 'Support Programme for Abuse Reactive Children' aims to divert children aged 6–18 years with sexually harmful behaviour and those who have committed sexual offences, from the criminal justice system into a therapeutic programme. Evaluation findings strongly suggest that the programme has led to a significant increase in participants' self-confidence, prosocial behaviour and positive gender-related attitudes.⁴⁸ In Colombia, a specialized NGO Crremos en Ti, has targeted programmes working with adolescents found guilty of sex offenses.

Gaps, challenges and way forward

As initiatives to strengthen this capability are still in their infancy in the surveyed countries, no consolidated challenges or lessons learned can be drawn from the experiences. However, the following are some suggestions on the way forward.

Way forward

- Support evidence generation on the successes and challenges of ongoing support systems for offenders, people with sexual interest in children, and for young people displaying sexually harmful behaviour. This should include monitoring and documenting of the effectiveness and impact of already existing support programmes and could be compiled at international level to further global learning and advocacy on such efforts.
- In line with UNICEF's Reimagine Justice for Children agenda, end the detention of children in conflict with the law through legal reforms (including of the minimum age of criminal responsibility), through the provision of child protection services (including, e.g., alternative care), the use of non-custodial measures and therapeutic approaches, the elimination of inhumane and degrading treatment and conditions, and through the strengthening of post-release reintegration support throughout all juvenile justice systems.



2.6 DOMAIN 5: INDUSTRY

CAPABILITIES 16 AND 17: TAKE-DOWN PROCEDURES AND REPORTING

What the WeProtect Model National Response recommends

The MNR recommends putting in place procedures for timely decommissioning/removal of online child abuse content and recommends that industry put in place processes and allocate resources to enable timely identification and reporting to authorities of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Current status

Most of the countries surveyed (27 countries, 93 per cent) report having some kind of take-down procedure in place, although these are not always regulated or enforced, but no country reports fully comprehensive and timely⁴⁹ take-down procedures. Approximately half of all countries surveyed (42 per cent) have statutory protections in place that allow industry to report online child sexual exploitation and abuse fully and effectively.

Promising initiatives

Efforts to support the putting in place, and enforcement, of adequate take-down procedures centre mostly around the provision of technical support to develop legislation that explicitly mandates the technology industry to report child abuse materials to law enforcement when they become aware of it on their networks. UNICEF has facilitated the development of Memoranda of Understanding, Codes of Conduct or working groups with the technology industry, which provide frameworks for collaboration to integrate child rights and business principles, including mitigating risks and taking protective measures to prevent technology-facilitated

child sexual exploitation and abuse. Examples include the Memorandum of Understanding between UNICEF, GSMA, Ateneo Human Rights Centre and Globe Telecom in the Philippines and the Memorandum of Understanding between UNICEF and Safaricom in Kenya. In addition, some countries, such as the Philippines, have provided training to internet café operators to raise their awareness of child rights, child abuse and their role in child protection, and build their capacity.

Gaps, challenges and way forward

Limited awareness among the technology industry and law enforcement on take-down procedures

Survey responses suggest that in countries where there is a legal framework regulating reporting and take-down procedures of online child abuse material, there is limited awareness among the technology industry and law enforcement, hindering effective implementation.



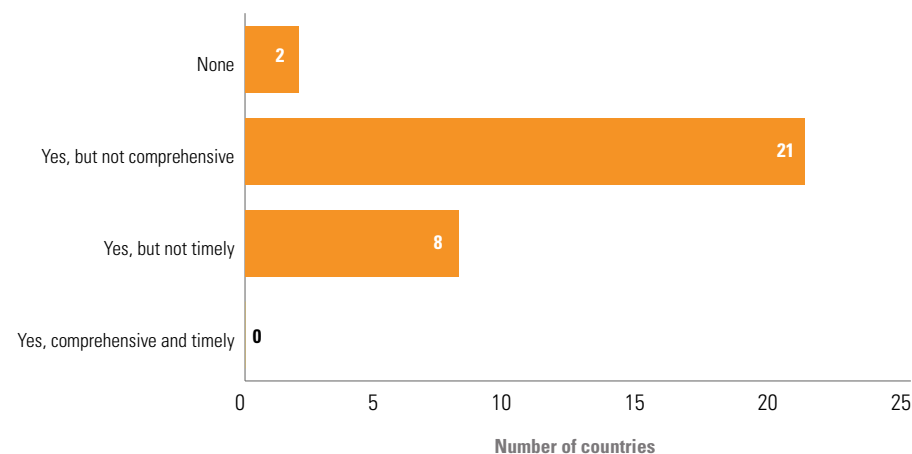
Limited law enforcement technical and human resource capacity to enforce take-down procedures

In addition to limited awareness, many countries have limited technical and human resource capacity to enforce take-down procedures, further hindering implementation.

Right to privacy and obligations to detect and report

A critical challenge regarding reporting and take-down procedures relates to the need to navigate the right to privacy of customers and any obligations of the technology industry to detect, report and remove child abuse materials. Unclear legal procedures significantly hinder the effective tackling of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Figure 14: Procedures to enable removal or blocking of online child sexual abuse content



Way forward

- Support development/revision of comprehensive frameworks elaborating clear and timely reporting and take-down procedures of online child abuse content by the technology industry and support putting in place of an accountability structure for the technology industry, including working with national authorities in charge of telecommunication regulations
- Provide training and awareness-raising on existing reporting and take-down procedures for industry and law enforcement.

Promising initiatives in focus

Dominican Republic: A collaboration agreement was signed between the Dominican Institute of Telecommunications and four ISPs (Claro, Altice, Viva and Wind Telecom), as a result of UNICEF advocacy. Through the Collaboration Agreement, parties have expressed mutual interest in establishing a cooperation framework to identify and implement joint actions to contribute to the online protection of children and adolescents, to prevent them from being victims of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation, harassment,

exposure to inappropriate content, and to prevent the contact with sexual predators and incursion in any activity through which their reputation and physical and emotional integrity may be harmed as a consequence of the publication or disclosure of sensitive personal information.

South Africa: South Africa has a dedicated regulatory authority, the Film and Publication Board, which is mandated to tackle issues of technology-facilitated child exploitation and abuse, including take-down and reporting of child sexual abuse material.

CAPABILITIES 18 AND 19: INNOVATIVE SOLUTION DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

What the WeProtect Model National Response recommends

The MNR encourages industry to develop innovative technological solutions to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, and recommends that companies ensure child safety issues are paramount in development and delivery of products and services. To this effect, appropriate corporate policies, procedures and processes should be in place.

Current situation

About half of all surveyed countries (13 countries, 46 per cent) report that their government actively encourages industry to develop innovative solutions and to put in place adequate corporate social responsibility measures.

Promising initiatives

UNICEF has used its convening power to bring together government and industry to jointly develop solutions around online safety and tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, such as in Albania, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador. In Cambodia, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication to promote private sector engagement to tackle online child exploitation and abuse. The Guidance for Mobile Operators and Online Content Providers to Keep Children Safe Online during the COVID 19 Pandemic and Recovery was endorsed by the Minister and has been disseminated to 40 ICT companies in the country as well as to the public.

At global level, UNICEF's Child Rights and Business team has created numerous tools and guidance for industry on child online protection, with the aim of building companies' awareness and understanding of their roles and responsibilities in tackling technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. Highlights include a 2021 update of the Child Rights Impact Self-Assessment Tool for Mobile Operators,⁵⁰ which includes baseline expectations and further actions on this issue, accompanied by implementation training for companies. UNICEF and GSMA also released a Notice and Takedown Guide⁵¹ for companies in 2016. In other industry-specific tools, the Recommendations for the Online Gaming Industry on Assessing Impact on Children,⁵² released in 2020, highlight key considerations around protection from grooming and sexual abuse relevant to online games. The Child Online Safety Assessment Tool⁵³ is one example of guidance aimed at the sector as whole. Because business operations themselves (e.g. use of company devices by employees) can also be linked with technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, the issue of child online protection is addressed in the Child Safeguarding Toolkit for Business,⁵⁴ published in 2018.

Promising initiatives in focus

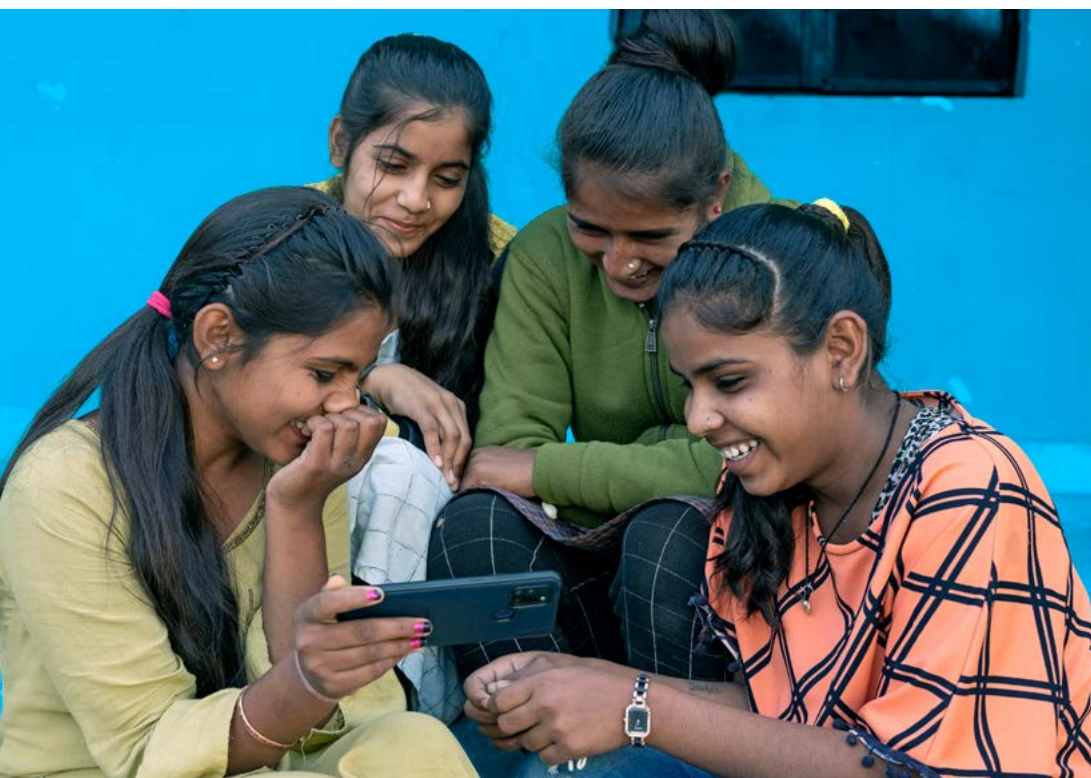
Albania: The 'Child and Family Friendly Wi-Fi Initiative' was launched in Albania in April 2019, with support of UNICEF and the UK-based organization Friendly WiFi and in collaboration with AlbTelecom. The Friendly WiFi concept is an innovative, UK-based certification service delivering a safer internet

experience to its users through filtering WiFi stream from illegal content including child sexual abuse materials. Albania is the first country in the Western Balkan region to introduce the initiative, which aims to protect children from accessing harmful content online while being online in public spaces.

Gaps, challenges and way forward

Limited awareness of industry on child sexual exploitation and abuse

As online child sexual exploitation and abuse is a relatively new area for many low- and middle-income countries surveyed, there is limited awareness among industry stakeholders of the magnitude and severity of the issue. As a result, industry appears to be mostly reactive to regulation, and there are few industry-driven initiatives to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse.



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Limited knowledge among the technology industry on best practices and toolkits on child sexual exploitation and abuse

The technology industry may have limited knowledge on best practices and available toolkits that can guide them in designing effective measures to tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Limited cross-sectoral collaboration between stakeholders

Collaboration between government, industry and development partners working to tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse is complex and relatively new in many countries. There is a need for the different parties involved to 'learn each other's language' and create a mutually beneficial dialogue.

Way forward

- Support training and awareness-raising of industry partners, especially the technology industry, on the magnitude and severity of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, and their role within it, including introducing industry to available toolkits and best practices that can guide their efforts to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse
- Create space for dialogue between industry, government and other stakeholders on child sexual exploitation and abuse with a view to creating a common agenda and a clear division of responsibilities to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse.



2.7

DOMAIN 6:

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

CAPABILITIES 20 AND 21: ETHICAL AND INFORMED MEDIA REPORTING AND UNIVERSAL TERMINOLOGY

What the WeProtect Model National Response recommends

The MNR recommends that measures are in place to ensure ethical, informed and balanced media reporting that respects privacy and confidentiality and puts the best interests of the victim as the priority consideration. In addition, the MNR suggests the adoption of universally agreed terminology relating to child sexual exploitation and abuse to enable information and ideas to be clearly communicated.

Current status

Almost half of all surveyed countries (13 countries, 48 per cent) report ongoing government effort to support ethical, informed and balanced media reporting of child sexual exploitation and abuse including through guidance, training, regulations and monitoring. Moreover, 68 per cent of countries who responded to this question report having discussed or are using universally agreed terminology relating to child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Promising initiatives

Interventions to promote ethical and informed media reporting include the development codes of conduct for the media (for example, Cambodia, Indonesia and Myanmar), which expressly require the media to protect the identities of children that are victims of sexual abuse and exploitation.⁵⁵

Promising initiatives in focus

Bulgaria: The Association of European Journalists-Bulgaria, together with key experts in public communication, law, psychology, journalism and online safety, and with the support of UNICEF, created a Guidebook for Ethical Reporting on Children's Rights and Children's Issues in the Media⁵⁷ and training programmes for journalists were rolled out. The Guidebook was also integrated into the curriculum of leading Bulgarian universities, resulting in ethical reporting of children in media being taught as pre-service training to journalism students. Based on the success of

the Guidebook, UNICEF Bulgaria decided to expand the ethical reporting standards beyond traditional media, and supported the production of a guidebook for adolescents on how to create their own content online.⁵⁸ Subsequently, peer-to-peer training sessions on digital skills and a national school competition on the right to an opinion were held.

Madagascar and Mongolia, with support from UNICEF, have translated the Luxembourg Guidelines into local languages to make them more accessible to all relevant stakeholders.

In addition, as part of efforts to ensure effective communication and sensitization on child sexual exploitation and abuse issues, some countries have asked media representatives to become members of Online Child Protection Committees and, in this capacity, to actively contribute to the development of national communication strategies, as was done in Ghana. Training and workshops to raise awareness on the Luxembourg Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse⁵⁶ have also been held (for example, Colombia, Namibia, Kenya and Ghana).

Gaps, challenges and way forward

Almost two-thirds of surveyed countries (17 countries, 63 per cent) appear not to have dedicated efforts to support ethical, informed and balanced media reporting on child sexual exploitation and abuse and one-third have not debated or adopted universally agreed terminology. The following particular challenges have been noted by the survey in this regard:

Translation of the guidelines into certain languages is problematic

Some countries have noted that translation of the Luxembourg Guidelines into national and local languages is problematic and, as a result, this has not been undertaken.

Limited dissemination of translated guidelines

A number of countries have noted that, although the Luxembourg Guidelines have been translated into local languages, they have not yet been widely disseminated.

Way forward

- Support translation of the Luxembourg Guidelines into all languages
- Support wide dissemination of the Luxembourg Guidelines.



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PART THREE

Case studies

This section provides a more detailed overview of recent actions to address technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse in four selected countries: **Albania**, **Dominican Republic**, **Namibia** and the **Philippines**. The case studies outline the respective country's

implementation across all six domains of the MNR, describe good practices that have significantly advanced efforts against technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and present lessons learned.

3.1 Albania: Innovation and convening power

Background

Albania's efforts to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse pre-date the WeProtect Global Alliance. As a member of the Global Alliance on Child Sexual Abuse Online, Albania started to implement a series of activities to address technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse from 2012 onwards. Albania joined the WeProtect Global Alliance in 2014. Efforts to address technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse were stepped up with the receipt of funds under the 2015/2016 Global Programme, funded by the UK government and further intensified in 2017 when UNICEF Albania received additional funding from the End Violence Fund. Building on UNICEF's convening power, formal commitment of key sectoral and government stakeholders was solicited early in the process through signing of a joint Memorandum of Understanding with all line ministries in 2016, in which key areas for urgent action were identified.

Over the years, Albania has developed a comprehensive, system-based approach to tackling technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse that is evidence-based, innovative and founded upon strong multisectoral collaboration, brokered by UNICEF.

Key interventions

Innovation: Child-Friendly WiFi initiative

The Child- and Family-Friendly WiFi Initiative was launched in April 2019 with the support of UNICEF and the UK-based organization Friendly WiFi, and in collaboration with AlbTelecom. The Friendly WiFi concept is an innovative, UK-based certification service delivering a safer internet experience to its users through filtering WiFi stream from illegal content including child sexual abuse material. Albania is the first country in the

Albania Model National Response

DOMAIN 1:

- National Council for the Rights and Protection of the Child under the coordination of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection
- National Cybersecurity Strategy 2020–2025, which includes a dedicated chapter for children's protection in the digital environment
- Nationally representative surveys of children's online experiences available

DOMAIN 2:

- Cybercrime Unit operational, but with limited child protection expertise
- Some digital forensic capability

DOMAIN 3:

- Case management plans in place but implementation could be improved

- Trained social service workforce available but demand outweighs supply
- Child helpline is operational

DOMAIN 4:

- Hotline is operational
- Child-led pilot educational programme being rolled out in selected public schools

DOMAIN 5:

- Procedures to enable removal and blocking of child sexual exploitation and abuse content exist, but could be strengthened

DOMAIN 6:

- Currently, there are no specific guidelines on media reporting on child sexual exploitation and abuse

Western Balkan region to introduce this initiative, which aims to protect children from accessing harmful content online while being online in public spaces. In 2020, the Friendly WiFi concept was expanded from the capital Tirana to 53 additional access points in eight public spaces and managed to block around 516,000 requests to access blacklisted websites.

Convening power to foster multisectoral collaboration

A series of dedicated workshops, open lectures and the development of standard operating procedures for the Scientific Police Institute, supported by UNICEF, has created critical space for a more open and trusted dialogue on child sexual exploitation and abuse between and within law enforcement, prosecution and the judiciary. This openness helped the police to join-the-dots internally and improve, for instance, cooperation between the unit investigating gender-based violence and protection of minors and the unit investigating computer crimes.

Convening power to foster private sector engagement

Albania's three biggest ISPs, AlbTelecom, Tring, ABCOM, with support from UNICEF, are actively engaged in the fight against technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. The ISPs rolled out dedicated communication tools and solutions to show their commitment to making their services safe for children and adolescents in Albania. For instance, during the recent COVID-19 national lockdown, Tring introduced 'Safe Internet Service' for their family packages and AlbTelecom expanded the Friendly WiFi network in public libraries.

Systems-approach: Child protection workforce strengthening

UNICEF partnered with Terre des Homme to strengthen the capacities of the child protection workforce and review the existing in-service training curricula for social/child protection workers, delivered in the Social Faculty of Tirana University. The curriculum, which has been revised as per the newly established legal framework, incorporates a new standalone training module, which provides in-depth thematic knowledge on technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. UNICEF successfully advocated with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to accredit the curriculum as part of the Albania School of Public Administration continuous learning package for civil servants, thereby ensuring the sustainability of this initiative.

Child participation

A total of 12,286 school children (6,250 girls and 6,036 boys) were engaged in the 'Peer-to-peer programme for Online Safety' initiative during the academic year 2018/2019. The programme was designed, and rolled out, together with 312 peer educators (Young Counsellors for Child Online Safety) who were trained and supported to act as change-makers. Crafted together with children and implemented by peers themselves, school children benefited from the peer-to-peer programme on online safety, in 46 schools in seven regions of Albania (Kukes, Dibra, Lezha, Fier, Berat, Elbasan, Tirana).

Lessons learned

- Evidence-based, timely and highly targeted advocacy on child sexual exploitation and abuse has proven critical and resulted in the National Plan of Statistics to integrate an indicator on child safety
- Investing time to build partnerships with non-traditional partners, such as the private sector, the policy and law enforcement, has proven to be highly effective in paving the way for effective collaboration between these different stakeholders
- Investing in institutionalized learning, such as curriculum development, is an effective way to sustainably build the knowledge base of key stakeholders on online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse
- The success of the peer-to-peer programme suggests that children and young people greatly welcome dialogue and information-sharing with peers, especially regarding issues relating to the digital environment and their online social lives.

3.2 Dominican Republic: Strengthening governance

Background

The Dominican Republic's efforts to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse pre-date the WeProtect Global Alliance. In 2011, the first plan of action on prevention of violence against children addressed child sexual abuse and exploitation and trafficking in children, including online. In 2017, the Dominican Republic received funds under the UNICEF Global Programme to build capacity to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation. The Dominican Republic joined the WeProtect Global Alliance in 2018.

Key interventions

Strengthening the national institutional framework: The National Response Board

In 2018, a multi-stakeholder body, the National Response Board Against Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, was created. The National Response Board brings together the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, General Attorney Office, the Supreme Court, Dominican Institute of Telecommunication, National Council of Children and Adolescents, the Children NGO coalition, UNICEF and Plan International. The Board, which forms part of the National Roadmap for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Children and Adolescents, is firmly guided by the MNR.

Strengthening the national institutional framework: The Special Prosecutor's Office against High Technology Crime

To strengthen prosecution and assistance to victims, the Office of the Attorney General and the Children and Adolescents National Council, with support from UNICEF, developed and validated two integrated protocols

Dominican Republic Model National Response

DOMAIN 1:

- National Response Board Against Online Child Sexual Exploitation and abuse in place
- 2015–2020 Road Map on Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Children; MoU on the inter-institutional response to online child sexual exploitation an abuse
- Nationally representative surveys of children's online experiences available
- National legislation in place to address online child sexual exploitation and abuse, but not fully comprehensive

DOMAIN 2:

- The Special Prosecutor against Crime and High Technology Crimes, part of the Attorney General, is in charge of investigating and prosecuting crimes related to online child sexual exploitation and abuse
- Partial specialist knowledge among the judiciary and prosecutors
- Connection to receive NCMEC CyberTipline reports

DOMAIN 3:

- Trained social service workforce available but not sufficient to meet the demand
- No remedies or reparation for victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse are available
- Child helpline is operational

DOMAIN 4:

- Hotline is under development
- National education programme to raise awareness of offline/online child sexual exploitation and abuse in place

DOMAIN 5:

- Agreement signed by the government and all the country ISPs to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse
- Training with ISP staff on their role to protect children's rights online

DOMAIN 6:

- Currently, there are no specific guidelines on media reporting on child sexual exploitation and abuse

for investigations and victim assistance. These instruments were approved by a Resolution of the Superior Council of the Public Ministry and are included in the National School of the Public Ministry regular curricula.

UNICEF Dominican Republic has been working continuously since 2015 to strengthen the Special Prosecutor's Office against High Technology Crime. UNICEF has supported training sessions for forensic analysts and prosecutors, has donated equipment and software licences to carry out investigations and has provided technical support for the implementation of the Victim Assistance Protocol and the Investigation Protocol, which were also developed with support from UNICEF.

The Education Training Platform

Jointly with the Ministry of Education, CSO Fundación Paniamor and Plan International, two educational platforms have been launched: E-pana <<https://educrecursos.minerd.gob.do/epana/>>, an interactive platform for adolescents that provides tools to identify, prevent or report a situation of rights violation or online violence; and E-mentores <<https://educrecursos.minerd.gob.do/ementores/>>, which is a dynamic virtual space for family that provides audiovisual resources and guidelines. The platform for families offers resources on how to practice positive technological parenting, while the adolescents' platform offers interactive resources on self-care and detecting online sexual violence.

Private sector engagement

A collaboration agreement was signed between the Dominican Institute of Telecommunications and four ISPs (Claro, Altice, Viva and Wind Telecom), with support from UNICEF. Through the agreement, parties have expressed mutual interest in establishing a cooperation framework to identify and implement joint actions to contribute to the online protection of children and adolescents.



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Lessons learned

- Adopting a systems approach that broadly strengthens child protection institutions is critical, especially in light of the need to maintain their working capacity in the case of emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic
- Because of high staff turnover across many critical cadres involved in addressing child sexual exploitation and abuse, it is important to focus on strengthening institutions and building frameworks that ensure sustainability
- Online resources for parents and adolescents should be designed in a highly attractive and user-friendly way to facilitate uptake.

3.3 Namibia: A multisectoral approach

Background

Namibia received funding to address technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse under the UNICEF 2015/2016 Global Programme and subsequently joined WeProtect Global Alliance. In 2017, UNICEF Namibia received additional funding from the End Violence Fund for further support efforts to tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse, and in 2019 from the UK government to roll out existing initiatives.

Key interventions

Multisectoral approach: Governance

In 2016, the Government of Namibia, with support from UNICEF, set up a multisectoral National Task Force on Child Online Protection. The Task Force is convened by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare and is composed of high-level representation from all key ministries, industry, CSOs and development partners. In addition, 'non-traditional' partners, such as the Ministry of Safety and Security, the Ministry of Justice, the Communications Regulation Authority of Namibia and the Namibian University of Science and Technology are active members of the Task Force.

The Task Force meets on a quarterly basis to monitor progress against the MNR, as well as on an ad hoc basis, as necessary. Initiatives of the Task Force include research, professional capacity development, legal and regulatory reform, strengthening of reporting mechanisms, strengthening the response by law enforcement, prosecution and social welfare sectors, building industry engagement and raising awareness of learners, teachers and caregivers.

Namibia Model National Response

DOMAIN 1:

- Multisectoral Task Force on Child Online Protection in place since 2016
- National Statement of Action to Tackle Online Child Sexual Exploitation, signed in 2016 but not yet formally validated
- National Response Plan updated in 2019, in draft form
- Nationally representative Violence Against Children Survey, including online child sexual exploitation and abuse (2020)
- An Exploratory Study into the Nature and Dynamics of Online Grooming in Namibia (2020)
- No specific national legislation in place to address online child sexual exploitation and abuse

DOMAIN 2:

- No specialized law enforcement units in place, other than Gender-Based Violence Protection Units and Cybercrime Unit with the mandate to investigate
- Prosecutors and magistrates considered to have strong knowledge and skills on handling child sexual exploitation and abuse cases

- Insufficient systems in place for management and rehabilitation of child sex offenders

DOMAIN 3:

- Case management plan in place but not fully implemented
- Trained social service workforce available but insufficient
- Child helpline is operational

DOMAIN 4:

- National Helpline and IWF Online Reporting Portal on child sexual abuse material are operational
- National education programme on child sexual exploitation and abuse through the National Safe School Framework
- Training programme for parents and informative video on Parenting in the Digital Age available

DOMAIN 5:

- Procedures to enable removal and blocking of child sexual exploitation and abuse content exist, but could be strengthened

DOMAIN 6:

- Government is supporting ethical, informed and balanced media reporting

Multisectoral and sustainable approach: Training

In close collaboration with line ministries and with support from UNICEF, the Office of the Prosecutor General, rolled out a Training of Trainers programme to strengthen the multisectoral response to sexual offences against children, both online and offline, targeting 45 professionals from around the country. To oversee roll-out, a multi-stakeholder steering committee with master trainers from all ministries was formed under the leadership of the Deputy Prosecutor General. The training addressed child development, impact of trauma and grooming, with a dedicated module on technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. By December 2017, 226 regional magistrates, social workers, prosecutors and police officers had been trained in all regions of the country. Another round of regional training was conducted in 2018. During 2017/2018, almost 400 professionals dealing with children were trained on how to interview children, and social workers were trained on how to do a child impact report and how to support child victims and those living with trauma. The Child Witness Training was received so well that a condensed version was included in a UNODC-funded training programme on GBV, and on trafficking of people, and in the police training manual on Violence against Children. By December 2017, it was reported that evidence was already emerging that this action-oriented training of multiple sectors together is yielding results in terms of more efficient prosecution of child sexual abuse cases because of strengthened collaborative networks on the ground.

To further institutionalize the training, and upon explicit request from magistrates, prosecutors, social workers and police officers, the Office of the Prosecutor General and UNICEF developed the 'Child Witness: A Training Manual'. The manual is victim-focused and aims to increase knowledge and equip those dealing with child victims and witnesses with the necessary skills to obtain evidence, while safeguarding children's rights throughout. As a result of the success of the programme, the

manual was adapted for the education sector into training on Responding to Sexual Violence in Schools, including technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse under the National Safe Schools Framework.

Multisectoral approach: End-to-end support through the Model GBVPU

Specialized GBV Protection Units (GBVPUs) with in-house social workers are responsible for investigating child sexual exploitation and abuse-related cases, and have been established in all 14 regions. To strengthen these units, multisectoral standard operating procedures have been developed for integrated care and protection. In addition, a refurbished model GBVPU has been set up, for instance, in the capital Windhoek, serving the region of Khomas, to provide effective multisectoral end-to-end support and function as inspiration and a centre of learning for other GBVPUs.

Vibrant communication approaches through high-level political commitment

UNICEF supported the National Task Force on Child Online Protection in developing and broadcasting videos and posters on child online protection, which have been distributed through social media and in schools and other public places. The Task Force also work together to make the annual Safer Internet Days a success.

Lessons learned

- Because of the complex nature of online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse, adopting a multisectoral approach to addressing child sexual exploitation and abuse is fundamental and emerging evidence confirms the effectiveness of this approach
- High-level political commitment to address child sexual exploitation and abuse in all its forms is critical to allow for effective action on child sexual exploitation and abuse at all levels, including systems-building as well as societal awareness.

3.4 Philippines: A systems approach and private sector engagement

Background

The Philippines' efforts to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse pre-date the WeProtect Global Alliance. As a member of the Global Alliance on Child Sexual Abuse Online, the country already started to implement a series of activities to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse from 2012 onwards. The Philippines joined the WeProtect Global Alliance in 2014. Efforts to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse were stepped up with receipt of funds from the 2015/2016 UNICEF Global Programme and were further intensified with funds from the Australian government to roll out the SaferKidsPH programme, aimed at enhancing the Philippines' child protection system, including addressing technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Key interventions

Inter-agency governance on child sexual exploitation and abuse

The Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography was set up in 2009 and is responsible for coordinating, monitoring and overseeing the implementation of the Anti-Child Pornography Act and the National Response Plan to Address Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The Council produces an annual progress report.

Philippines Model National Response

DOMAIN 1:

- Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography and Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking in place
- National Response Plan to Address Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse 2016–2022
- Nationally representative surveys of children's online experiences available
- National legislation in place to address online child sexual exploitation and abuse but not fully comprehensive

DOMAIN 2:

- Philippine Internet Center for Computer Crimes Against Children, set up in 2019
- Partial specialist knowledge among prosecutors
- Comprehensive knowledge among the judiciary
- Rehabilitation and education programmes for child sex offenders are offered in custody
- Connection to receive NCMEC CyberTipline reports, digital forensic capability

DOMAIN 3:

- A case management plan is in place, but there is limited capacity for

implementation

- Trained social service workforce available but insufficient
- Remedies or reparation for victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse are available, but these are not comprehensive
- Child helpline is operational

DOMAIN 4:

- Hotline is operational
- No specific national education programme in place, but efforts to increase awareness of young people and parents are being rolled out
- Support systems for the rehabilitation of child sex offenders are in place, but there is no support system for people with a sexual interest in children to prevent them harming children or young people displaying sexually harmful behaviour

DOMAIN 5:

- Procedures in place to enable removal and blocking of child sexual exploitation and abuse content, but not timely

DOMAIN 6:

- Media guidelines for reporting on children in place⁷⁵

Piloting of child-sensitive court procedures

Two child-sensitive ‘model family courts’ are being piloted. The courts include the use of televideo equipment to ensure that child victims are not re-traumatized through face-to-face encounters with the accused. The televideo facility allows the court to hear the child’s testimony from the chambers or in a remote location.

Multisectoral curriculum development and pool of expert resource persons

The Philippine Judicial Academy, with support from UNICEF, has worked to develop a multidisciplinary curriculum for Family Court judges and personnel, including prosecutors, public defenders and court social workers on technology-facilitated sexual exploitation of children. A pool of multidisciplinary experts was set up to act as resources persons to deliver the training.

Dedicated law enforcement capability

In 2019, the Philippine Internet Centre for Computer Crimes Against Children was set up. The centre is composed of national and international law enforcement agencies, collaborating to work on specific technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse cases. This includes processing intelligence, conducting physical surveillance and safeguarding children. There are also specialized units in the Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice Office of Cybercrime that focus on technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. To strengthen skills and knowledge on child sexual exploitation and abuse, the Philippine Judicial Academy, with support from UNICEF, has developed a multidisciplinary curriculum on online child sexual exploitation and abuse for Family Court judges and personnel.



Development of guidelines for compensation of victim-survivors

Guidelines for the compensation of victim-survivors were developed in close consultation with members of the Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography. The guidelines ensure compensation of child victims of “child pornography” through the effective and efficient release and receipt of compensation awarded either by the domestic or foreign courts. Specifically, the guidelines prescribe procedures for processing and management of compensation for victim-survivors of “child pornography,” which includes, but is not limited to child sexual abuse and exploitation materials and livestreaming. The guidelines were approved in 2018.

Private sector engagement: Advocacy, policy dialogue and fundraising

In 2019, the SaferkidsPH Consortium was established, bringing together businesses, telecommunication companies and other organizations. The consortium aims to create an online environment that is safe and protective for children in the Philippines, through advocacy, consultation and dialogue and fundraising. Recent achievements by SaferkidsPH include the streaming of 'Tiktutorials' on Tiktok, to highlight the dangers of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. In addition, the Globe and Digital Thumbprint Programme, which provides workshops on digital safety to students, teachers and parents, integrated SaferkidsPH learning resources and platforms in their modules. The Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SaferkidsPH to help address technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse through communication with, and participation of its members in efforts on child online protection.

During 2020, SaferkidsPH also consulted the private sector to identify bottlenecks with a view to proposing amendments to relevant child protection policies and laws. Notably, SaferkidsPH engaged Facebook, Google, PLDT/Smart, Promontory and Globe to contribute to a policy document that became a source in the development of a bill amending RA 9775 and other laws on technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. The bill was adopted by the Senate and is currently being deliberated by the House of Representatives.

SaferkidsPH further engaged with the private sector to secure funding for efforts to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse. In 2020, the consortium received significant in-kind support, such as Macquarie offering its Benevity platform, a global donation platform which reaches global employees to fund equipment for the justice sector and communities, and Kidsforkids providing support on equipping and

training the community to prevent and respond to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. Moreover, high net-worth individuals provided support to establish a child-friendly space in a temporary shelter for victims of human trafficking, including victims of online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Lessons learned

- To date, training on child sexual exploitation and abuse has focused on Family Courts and specialized staff of the National Prosecution Service, but has not comprehensively included other stakeholders, such as local government. This was found to limit the effective roll-out of end-to-end support for victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse, and more inclusive training sessions are recommended going forward
- Prosecution of child sexual exploitation and abuse-related cases risks re-victimizing children if it is heavily reliant on child victims and witness testimony in court, and participation in criminal proceedings. This can result in non-reporting of cases or withdrawal of complaints and retraction of statements. To address this, a child-sensitive rescue protocol should be developed and implemented
- Public education about the devastating effects of child sexual exploitation and abuse needs to be stepped up, as societal acceptance of child sexual exploitation and abuse, especially if it does not involve physical touching of children, remains widespread in the Philippines⁶³
- There is limited harmonized understanding of the various forms of technology-facilitated sexual abuse, such as child sexual abuse materials, cyberbullying and online grooming among key stakeholders in the country.⁶⁴ Standard terminologies should be adopted and widely disseminated.

Addressing technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse in the face of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic and the measures taken in response to it have increased the risk of children being exposed to violence, including technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. The widespread message to ‘stay at home’ confined many vulnerable children to the exact environment where they are most at risk.⁶⁵ Simultaneously, services, including violence prevention and response services, have been disrupted in many countries, leaving children with limited support. School closures and lockdown measures have further increased children’s unsupervised screen time, and evidence suggests that more younger children than ever before have been introduced to digital platforms.⁶⁶ Increases in emotional vulnerability and stress resulting from the pandemic and the lockdown measures, may have also contributed to an increase in the activity of offenders.⁶⁷ In addition, poverty and devastating losses of livelihoods linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, are likely to have further increased the vulnerability of poor children and parents to employ harmful coping mechanisms.

Although there are no robust global data on increases in technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse in low- and middle-income countries during the pandemic, available country-level data suggest a significant increase in some forms. Notably, Cambodia reported a 20 per

cent increase in child sexual abuse material reports to their hotline in the first half of 2020, while there was a 63 per cent increase in CyberTipline reports for Ghana between January and September 2020 versus the same period in 2019.⁶⁸ As such, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought a new sense of urgency to the fight against violence against children in general, and technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse in particular, as vulnerabilities have been magnified and available support and redress mechanisms reduced.

Adaptation and innovation

From the onset of the pandemic, UNICEF has worked with its partners to offer support to governments to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 and its respective containment measures on children. This included support to respond to the specific risk of online child sexual exploitation and abuse. At the global level, UNICEF worked with the End Violence Partnership to produce an interagency Technical Note on COVID 19 and its implications for the protection of children online,⁶⁹ which was supplemented by a Resource Pack. In recognition of the technology industry’s responsibility to respect children’s rights (including the right to protection) in light of the numerous impacts and opportunities brought to the fore by the pandemic, UNICEF also produced a brief capturing key messages on 10 core industry impact areas.⁷⁰

At national and regional levels, UNICEF has supported efforts across four main areas: empowering children and supporting parents and caregivers to help children stay safe online; providing a safe online learning experience for students; making online platforms safe and accessible for children; and strengthening national prevention, response and support services. Some of this work commenced before COVID-19 but was adapted and/or intensified during the pandemic. Some examples of this work are illustrated on the following page.

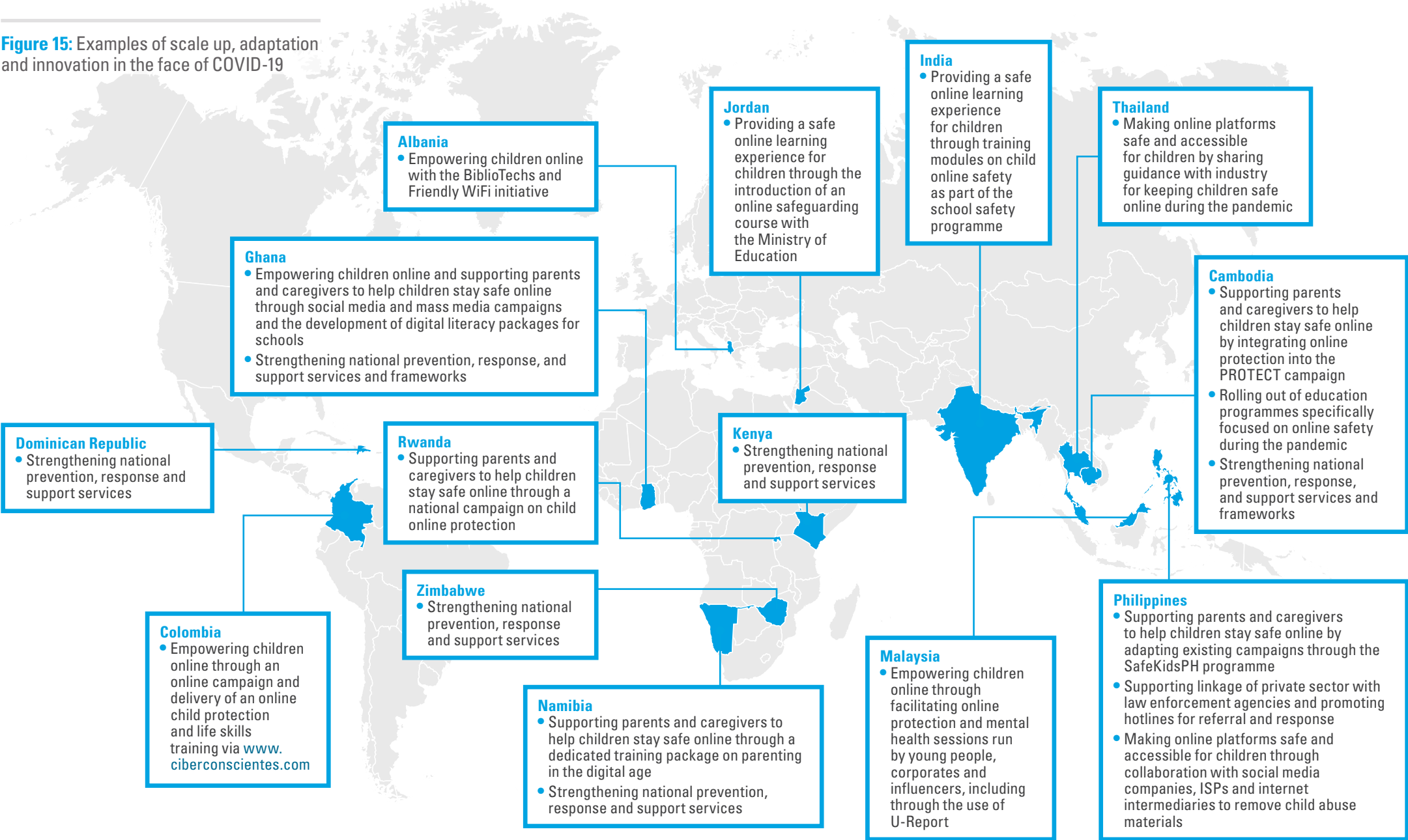
Lessons learned and opportunities: Building back 'better'

Around the world COVID-19 response measures have resulted in an unprecedented number of children of all ages engaging in the digital environment. Lockdown measures, including a widespread shift to online learning and working, has effectively removed the ability to 'opt out' of using digital services.

- **The issue is now at the forefront of debate and action, including a spotlight on industry's responsibilities:** Whether among caregivers, teachers, law enforcement officials or politicians, the global move towards online learning and socializing – coupled with childcare challenges resulting in more unsupervised time for children and adolescents – has brought the issue of online child safety to the forefront of debate and action. The shift also placed a spotlight on industry's responsibilities, as engagement with digital products and services became one of the only channels available to children and communities for accessing entertainment, social interaction, information and more. As much as this situation has brought with it critical challenges that must be addressed as a matter of urgency – and important work is ongoing – the situation has also created new opportunities for advocacy, action and investment to protect children on- and offline.
- **The integral role of parents and caregivers:** COVID-19 and its impact on children's protection has also highlighted the critical role of parents and caregivers to support children's safety. This has brought to the fore the need to invest more in parents' and caregivers' capacity to enable them to support their children to be safe online. The move to online learning has further highlighted the digital divide and the ongoing need to ensure that all children can take advantage of the opportunities brought by digital access and digital skills.

- **The importance of taking a systems approach and investing in child protection systems:** Most crucially, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the limited, and highly volatile, capacity of social welfare systems, including child protection systems, across the world, particularly in resource-constrained contexts. Fragmented, under-resourced and understaffed systems that were under strain before the pandemic, were struggling to cope with increased and urgent demands for support, leaving countless vulnerable children without appropriate protection. As such, the COVID-19 pandemic has further underlined the critical need to take a systems approach to any kind of child protection issues and to invest in a strong, comprehensive and well-integrated social welfare and child protection system. Not all children that are at risk of technology-facilitated abuse are 'users' of technology and therefore, online child sexual exploitation and abuse cannot be tackled taking a narrow lens of 'online safety'.
- **A need to expressly address harmful gender attitudes and norms that drive sexual abuse:** Gender inequalities, harmful gender stereotypes and negative, sexualized, conceptualization of femininity and masculinity have once again been highlighted as critical underlying drivers of child sexual exploitation and abuse in all its different forms. Interventions to tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse must firmly integrate efforts to address these underlying drivers.
- **Harness the innovative potential of children and young people and take into account their views in solution-development:** Last, and most critically, the pandemic has in many ways illustrated the importance of children's agency. Thus, in addition to systems building and capacity-building of caregivers and other stakeholders, efforts must be stepped up to improve children's own capacity in line with their evolving capacities. Children's opinions on solutions developed for them should be systematically solicited and considered. Harnessing the innovative potential of children and youth, including the power of peer-to-peer learning in this context, should take centre stage in future efforts to address technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Figure 15: Examples of scale up, adaptation and innovation in the face of COVID-19



Overall gaps and challenges in progress made against the Model National Response

Important progress on tackling online child sexual exploitation and abuse has been made across many low- and middle-income countries in a relatively short period of time. Most notably, of the 29 countries surveyed, 20 (69 per cent) report having some form of multisectoral governance or oversight committee to deal with technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse and 28 (97 per cent) have adopted legislation on technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. More than two-thirds of countries surveyed (22 countries) have some form of trained social service workforce, and feature case management protocols or plans to offer end-to-end support for victims of online or offline child sexual exploitation and abuse. Judiciary and prosecutors are considered to have some knowledge and skills on technologically-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse in three-quarters of all countries surveyed (21 and 22 countries, respectively) and child helplines and reporting hotlines are available in 93 per cent and 90 per cent of all countries surveyed.

Despite these successes, the responses to the survey suggest that there is still a relatively weak response to child sexual exploitation and abuse, including technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, on the ground. Most critically, only three countries surveyed report having *comprehensive* legislation in place that criminalizes all aspects of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, with the remaining 26 countries reporting insufficient provisions, especially around grooming and explicit requirements for the technology industry to report

suspected child abuse materials to a mandated agency. Moreover, only one country reports a comprehensively trained social service workforce that is sufficient in numbers, and equally, only one country reports having comprehensive remedies or reparations for victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse in place. Effective *implementation* of laws, protocols and frameworks on child protection, including child sexual exploitation and abuse, appears to be a significant challenge across all domains.

Underlying these shortcomings are systematic challenges that are particularly pronounced in LMICs. These include:

- Gaps in legislative frameworks and generally limited law enforcement capacity
- Overall weak child protection systems
- Significantly understaffed social welfare workforce, lacking professional recognition
- Limited awareness and sense of urgency of addressing online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse among all professional cadres.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the limited, and highly volatile, capacity of social welfare systems, including child protection systems, across the world, particularly in resource-constrained contexts.



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Systemic weaknesses in LMICs are compounded by high staff turnover across many cadres, and a widespread project-based approach to tackling child sexual exploitation and abuse. Both risk leading to limited

sustainability of interventions. As there is limited evidence on child sexual exploitation and abuse, in particular the online dimension, the issue continues to be de-prioritized.

Lessons learned and way forward

This section first summarizes some of the key lessons learned and suggestions on the way forward from the analysis above, and subsequently provides some overarching suggestions to guide further programming to tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse in all its forms.



1. DOMAIN 1

1.1 Limited evidence on functioning of governance bodies and limited private sector participation

Although the survey shows that many countries have set up governance mechanisms and have put in place policies to address child sexual exploitation and abuse, including technologically-facilitated exploitation and abuse, setting up mechanisms and developing policies does not equate to their effective functioning or implementation and there appears to be little evidence on how dynamic and productive the multisectoral governance mechanism set up to tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse have been to date. Indeed, available information provided by the survey suggests that governance structures struggle to effectively coordinate responses to child sexual exploitation and abuse, as they lack human and financial resources and political clout, as well as representation of key stakeholders, such as private sector partners from the ICT and tourism/travel sector.

→ **Way forward:** Monitor the effectiveness of multisectoral governance mechanisms set up to coordinate the national response to online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse and use lessons learned to inform interventions to strengthen the mechanisms or set up new mechanisms.

1.2 Risk of creating or deepening the artificial divide between online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse

Some survey responses suggest that the setting up of specific governance mechanisms around technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse and the development of specific policies on the same, has led to deepening of an already existing artificial divide between online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse.

→ **Way forward:** Promote a comprehensive and integrated approach to child sexual exploitation and abuse, stressing the fundamental linkages between online and offline abuse, while also drawing out specific strategies required to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse.

1.3 Limited systematic and institutionalized data collection

There appear to be few efforts for systematic, regular and comprehensive data collection on the magnitude and nature of online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse. Existing data such as CyberTips from NCMEC do not represent the full scale of the problem, as these focus only on reported child sexual exploitation and abuse. This provides a significant barrier to evidenced-based policymaking and programming, and critically hinders the effective measurement of progress. Lack of regular data further hampers efforts to engage in effective awareness-raising and advocacy, which, in turn, is likely to result in the issue of child sexual exploitation and abuse receiving limited political attention and financial resources. Detailed data from children on the prevalence of different forms of online child sexual exploitation and abuse is needed for an evidence-informed response.

→ **Way forward:** Strengthen efforts to institutionalize regular, national-level data collection on online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse, for instance, through inclusion of relevant indicators in nationwide survey and monitoring systems.

1.4 Gaps in legal frameworks

Although most countries surveyed have some form of legal framework to address child sexual exploitation and abuse, significant gaps remain. These include insufficient legal provisions regarding reporting and take-down procedures of child sexual abuse material for the industry; insufficient criminalization of possession and distribution of child sexual abuse material; insufficient criminalization of grooming, cyberstalking and sexual extortion; and laws containing unclear definitions of key terms, that are not in line with the CRC or other international standards, to name but a few.

→ **Way forward:** Work through regional bodies and through South-South exchange to create momentum for legislative reform. Similar to ongoing efforts through ASEAN, regional bodies can put efforts to combat child sexual exploitation and abuse, including online dimensions, firmly on their agenda. This can help to gather political momentum and provide guidance and impetus for legislative reform for member countries



2. DOMAIN 2

2.1 Limited dedicated law enforcement units

Only very few countries have set up dedicated units responsible for the investigation of child sexual exploitation and abuse, including online child sexual exploitation and abuse. Yet, even in these units, the extent to which child protection professionals are systematically involved is unclear.

2.2 Unclear mandates and/or weak coordination amongst various units with responsibility

The survey finds that in a number of cases, there is lack of clarity on where the chief mandate for the investigation of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse lies.

2.3 Limited comprehension of the seriousness of child sexual exploitation and abuse compared with other cybercrimes

Awareness on the magnitude and urgency of child sexual exploitation and abuse, including online dimensions, remains generally limited. In countries where the chief responsibility lies with cybercrime units, other crimes, such as money laundering and fraud, risk crowding out online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Way forward:

→ Support development of clear mandates and standard operating procedures for investigation of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, outlining in detail the roles and responsibilities of all units and actors involved and roll out awareness-raising programmes. Ensure that the procedures mandate the involvement of child protection personnel, include ongoing training and avoid internal silos within law enforcement agencies.

→ Advocate for increased human and financial resource allocations to units working to investigate child sexual exploitation and abuse including forms facilitated by technology.

2.4 Significant knowledge and skill gaps among judiciary and prosecution because of ad hoc training approaches

The survey found significant knowledge and skills gaps on child sexual exploitation and abuse among judiciary and prosecution services across all regions. This is, to some extent, rooted in ad hoc and one-off training approaches that do not sufficiently focus on the institutionalization of training, for instance, through the inclusion of a mandatory module on child sexual exploitation and abuse and child victims/witness in pre-service training or setting up of mentoring programmes.

→ **Way forward:** Promote a systematic and ongoing approach to training of the prosecution service and the judiciary on child sexual exploitation and abuse including specialist content on technology-facilitated abuse as well as digital evidence.

2.5 Strong reliance on child witness testimonies can re-victimize children

Prosecution of child sexual exploitation and abuse-related cases risks re-victimizing children if this is heavily reliant on child victims and witness testimony in court, and participation in criminal proceedings. This can result in non-reporting of cases or withdrawal of complaints and retraction of statements.

→ **Way forward:** Support development of child-sensitive protocols that are victim-centred and roll out Child Witness training programmes (see Case Study for Namibia).



3. DOMAIN 3

3.1 Limited implementation of case management plans and procedures

Although most countries report having case management plans or procedures in place, effective implementation remains a critical challenge. This frequently leaves victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse without adequate support.

→ **Way forward:** Roll out multisectoral training programmes on effective case management of online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse in which law enforcement, the judiciary and prosecution service, the social workforce and other relevant stakeholders, are trained together.

3.2 Complexity of investigating youth-produced imagery

Research suggests the particular importance of comprehensively integrated case management, from victim identification to prosecution and the provision of effective remedies and rehabilitation strategies, in cases of youth-produced imagery.

→ **Way forward:** Develop evidence-based guidance on dealing with cases of youth-produced sexual imagery

3.3 Limited availability of a professional social service workforce and lack of coordination of training and capacity-building of the social service workforce

Only one of the 29 surveyed countries report having a comprehensively trained and professional social service workforce that is sufficient to meet demand. In addition, a number of countries have noted that training and capacity-building of the social service workforce had been provided by various government ministries, NGOs and other partners, without clear coordination mechanisms.

Way forward:

- Advocate for increased financial investment in the social service workforce
- Support development of a professionalization strategy for the social service workforce, including well-coordinated and ongoing training and capacity-building, as well as certification and career progression.

3.4 Limited availability of compensation, remedies and complaints arrangements

Almost one quarter of countries report to have no compensation, remedies or complaints arrangements in place for victims of online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse. This is a critical gap, especially as the consequences of child sexual exploitation and abuse can be far-reaching, extending to all spheres of life, and extending into adulthood with possible intergenerational impacts.⁷¹

- **Way forward:** In line with a victim-centred approach, step up efforts to support child-friendly remedies and reparations for victims of online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse, with a view to ensuring justice for children and aiding their holistic recovery.

3.5 Limited capacity and use of helplines

Survey responses suggest that helplines are often understaffed, with particularly limited access to trained personnel and lack financial resources to operate effectively. Findings further suggest that helplines are, at times, insufficiently linked to referral systems, making it very challenging for them to provide effective help to victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Survey responses also indicate limited use of helplines, which is likely to be linked to the challenges listed above, as well as a suggested preference of young people for online portals over helplines.

Way forward:

- Support research into the effectiveness and use of child helplines, especially in the context of cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation
- Advocate for inclusion of well-resourced and well-integrated helpline services as a critical component of national child protection systems
- Alongside efforts to strengthen the entire referral system, support efforts to strengthen the linkages of helplines to referral services.



4. DOMAIN 4

4.1 Limited usage of hotlines

Although the vast majority of countries surveyed have a functioning hotline or online portal in place to report suspected cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse, recent evidence suggests that usage is limited. Reasons for low reporting include limited awareness about the existence of the hotline, limited appreciation of the seriousness of online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse among victims and duty-bearers, lack of faith in the effectiveness of the reporting system⁷² and a general reluctance to report issues of child sexual exploitation and abuse because of victim-blaming that appears to be widespread in some countries.

- **Way forward:** Strengthen or re-design respective hotlines and portals based on national assessments to unpack context-specific reasons for limited usage, and ensure that any findings are taken into consideration for design of future hotlines and portals.

4.2 Few institutionalized national education programmes

Although most surveyed countries have some form of ad hoc awareness-raising programmes on child sexual exploitation and abuse in place, only about half report having a formal, national education programme. Some programmes are limited in scope to only children and educators, often overlooking parents/guardians or the social service workforce, all of whom are critical in identifying and tackling online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Way forward:

- Support development of institutionalized and comprehensive national education programmes on online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse that, among other things, address underlying harmful gender norms, and specifically target all relevant stakeholders, including children and young people, parents and guardians, educators, and the social service workforce
- Support integration of online safety into existing education programmes on, for instance, digital skills or offline child abuse, such as general bullying
- Prioritize efforts to measure the impact of, and evaluate education initiatives aimed at, addressing online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

4.3 Limited comprehensive and institutionalized processes for child and youth participation, including in policy and practice development to address technology-facilitated sexual exploitation and abuse

Although the majority of countries report including children and young people's voices in development of national responses to online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse, there appear to be only few examples of government-led, institutionalized processes for child

participation. In a number of countries, child participation seems to be externally driven by NGOs and UN agencies, limiting the potential for long-term impact. As children and young people are the key intended users of services and interventions designed to address child sexual exploitation, it is critical that their views are sought and considered. Failure to do so risks compromising the effectiveness of the systems and interventions.

Way forward:

- Support transparent, inclusive and institutionalized mechanisms for the participation of children and young people in policies and interventions relating to online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse
- Support reforms to recognize children's legal standing and their right to be heard in relevant judicial and administrative proceedings.

4.4 Under-developed offender support systems

There is a limited evidence-base on existing offender support systems, best practices and challenges faced across LMICs.

- **Way forward:** Support evidence generation on the successes and challenges of ongoing support systems for offenders to prevent reoffending, people with sexual interest in children to prevent them from harming children, and for young people displaying sexually harmful behaviour. This should include monitoring and documenting of the effectiveness and impact of already existing support programmes and could be compiled at international level to further global and national learning and advocacy on such efforts.



5. DOMAIN 5

5.1 Limited awareness of industry on child sexual exploitation and abuse

As online child sexual exploitation and abuse is a relatively new area for a number of low- and middle-income countries surveyed, there is limited awareness among industry stakeholders of the magnitude and severity of the issue. Moreover, there is limited knowledge on best practices and available toolkits that can guide industry in designing effective measures to tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse. As a result, industry in many LMICs appears to be mostly reactive to regulation, and there are few industry-driven initiatives to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse.

→ **Way forward:** Support training and awareness-raising of industry partners, especially the technology industry, on the magnitude and severity of online child sexual exploitation and abuse, and their role in addressing the issue. This should include an introduction of available toolkits and best practices that can guide their company efforts.

5.2 Limited cross-sectoral collaboration between stakeholders

Collaboration between government, industry and development partners working to tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse is complex and relatively new in many countries. There is a need for the different parties involved to ‘learn each other’s language’ and create a mutually beneficial dialogue.

→ **Way forward:** Create space for dialogue between industry, government and other stakeholders on child sexual exploitation and abuse with a view to creating a common agenda and a clear division of responsibilities to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse.



6. DOMAIN 6

6.1 Limited adoption of universally agreed terminology on child sexual abuse

More than half of all surveyed countries report not to have dedicated efforts to support ethical, informed and balanced media reporting on child sexual exploitation and abuse and one-third have not debated or adopted universally agreed terminology. Some countries have noted that translation of the Luxembourg Guidelines into national and local languages is problematic and, as a result, they have not done so. A number of countries have noted that, although the Luxembourg Guidelines have been translated into local languages, they have not yet been widely disseminated.

Way forward:

- Support translation of the Luxembourg Guidelines into all languages
- Support dissemination of the Luxembourg Guidelines.

7. OVERALL

Based on the above, the following suggestions on the way forward overall are made:

7.1 Move towards a comprehensive and integrated approach to tackling child sexual exploitation and abuse

A key lesson learned from almost all surveyed countries was the importance of adopting a comprehensive and integrated approach to addressing violence against children, including offline and online child sexual exploitation and abuse. Experience shows that technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse cannot be effectively addressed in isolation by focusing on the digital dimensions alone. Effective action to tackle technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse requires a consideration of underlying vulnerabilities and risk factors to child sexual exploitation and abuse. These are often 'offline'. At the same time, there is a need to be cognizant of the fact that technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse has its own dynamics and, therefore, requires specific interventions to complement broader work to address child sexual exploitation and abuse and violence against children. Promising practices in LMICs include development of specific action plans to address technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse (for example, the Cambodia Online Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan 2021)⁷³ and the establishment of dedicated law enforcement units to address online child sexual exploitation and abuse (such as in Ghana and the Philippines).

Moreover, efforts to integrate technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse across various types of relevant interventions, such as campaigns, have proven to be effective and cost-efficient. For instance, in Ghana, the Ghanaians Against Child Abuse campaign included messages on online safety, while the Safer Digital Ghana

Campaign included a specific priority area around child online safety, including online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

7.2 Move from project-based support to system-strengthening through statutory bodies

Across the surveyed countries it was noted that, although project-based, fixed-term, interventions are good avenues to deliver quick and tangible results across all domains, there is a risk that such interventions have limited long-term impact and limited sustainability. Instead, interventions focused on strengthening, and working through, statutory bodies responsible for child protection and law enforcement, or working to have education or training programmes on child sexual exploitation and abuse formally integrated into national curricula at schools, as well as in pre- and in-service training for law enforcement, judiciary and the social service workforce and investments in the development of national system for data collection and management emerged as considerably more impactful in the medium to long term.

7.3 Invest in evidence-based policymaking and advocacy

A systems approach that invests in building of national systems for data collection and management, providing a reliable and comprehensive evidence base on online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse, has also proven to be critical to develop comprehensive and contextualized policies and frameworks necessary to effectively tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse. A case in point is UNICEF's work on Disrupting Harm, which yields comprehensive national evidence from children on their experiences of online child sexual exploitation and abuse, complemented by detailed evidence about how the national protection systems are managing to respond. In addition, experience from, for instance, Albania has shown the potential of concrete evidence that highlights the magnitude and relevance of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse to everybody's work for gaining strong support from all stakeholders, including from the private sector, law enforcement, the judiciary and prosecution.

7.4 Strengthen multisectoral, national collaboration

Successfully tackling technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse requires cooperation between a multitude of different actors, some of which do not have much experience of collaborating with each other, such as Ministries of Communication, Health, Education, Justice, Social Welfare, various units in law enforcement, the technology industry, the social service workforce and community sector. Experience from the Philippines, Albania and Ghana, for example, has shown the great potential for UNICEF, as a trusted partner with a strong international mandate on children's rights and a long-standing in-country presence, to bring together various stakeholders and facilitate cooperation and trust.

To facilitate this, a key lesson learned has been the need for different stakeholders involved in addressing technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse, such as the private sector, law enforcement, the judiciary, the social service workforce, NGOs, etc., to engage in structured dialogue to 'learn each other's language', create trust and foster mutual understanding.

7.6 Facilitate cross-border, regional and international collaboration

Cross-border, regional and international collaboration across a number of MNR domains has proven to be of great importance to address technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. For instance, strong collaboration with EUROPOL and INTERPOL, significantly strengthened Albania's law enforcement capability to effectively address technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. In South-east Asia for example, with the support of UNICEF and ECPAT, ASEAN has developed a regional declaration and action plan for protection of children from all forms of technology-facilitated exploitation and abuse.

Regional cooperation to fill knowledge gaps on child sexual exploitation and abuse, such as setting up of a regional multi-stakeholder Think Tank in East Asia and the Pacific that is working to develop an evaluation framework to measure the impact of online education initiatives, have also shown great promise.

7.7 Strengthen children's overall digital skills, including online safety

Experience from a number of countries showed the importance of teaching children about online safety, while also strengthening their overall digital skills. Children tend to embrace web-based tools with great enthusiasm and fun. Guided exposure to the internet that includes online safety is critical to enable children to navigate the internet safely. As technology is becoming increasingly intertwined with all aspects of children's lives, it is critical to integrating digital safety into already established education programmes that address offline harms, such as bullying or sexual abuse.⁷⁴

7.8 Promote child participation and children's agency

Examples from a number of countries have highlighted the critical importance of children's agency in solution development to children's online safety challenges. As such, efforts must be stepped up to systemically involve children and youth in the development of tools, software or other interventions to enhance their online safety. Harnessing the innovative potential of children and youth, and the power of peer-to-peer learning in this context, is important for efforts to address technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. Child participation must also extend to ensuring children's views are considered in all matters that affect them, including administrative and judicial proceedings and child protection case management.






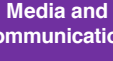
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Appendices

Appendix 1:

Preventing and Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: A Model National Response⁷⁶

| Enablers | | Capabilities | | Outcomes | |
|---|--|--------------|---|--|---|
| <p>Cross sector, multidisciplinary collaboration</p> <p>Willingness to prosecute, functioning justice system and rule of law</p> <p>Supportive reporting environment</p> <p>Aware and supportive public and professionals, working with and for children</p> <p>Sufficient financial and human resources</p> <p>National legal and policy frameworks in accordance with the UNCRC and other international and regional standards</p> <p>Data and evidence on CSEA</p> | Policy and Governance  | 1 | Leadership: An accountable National Governance and Oversight Committee | Highest level national commitment to CSEA prevention and response | Comprehensive understanding of CSEA within the highest levels of government and law enforcement. Willingness to work with, and coordinate the efforts of, multiple stakeholders to ensure the enhanced protection of victims and an enhanced response to CSEA offending. |
| | | 2 | Research, Analysis and Monitoring: National situational analysis of CSEA risk and response; measurements/indicators | | |
| | | 3 | Legislation: Comprehensive and effective legal framework to investigate offenders and ensure protection for victims | | |
| | Criminal Justice  | 4 | Dedicated Law Enforcement: National remit; trained officers; proactive and reactive investigations; victim-focused; international cooperation | Effective and successful CSEA investigations, convictions and offender management | Law Enforcement and judiciary have the knowledge, skills, systems and tools required to enable them to perform victim-focused investigations and secure positive judicial outcomes. CSEA offenders are managed and reoffending prevented. |
| | | 5 | Judiciary and Prosecutors: Trained; victim-focused | | |
| | | 6 | Offender Management Process: Prevent re-offending of those in the criminal justice system nationally and internationally | | |
| | | 7 | Access to Image Databases: 7 National database; link to Interpol database (ICSE) | | |
| | Victim  | 8 | End to End Support: Integrated services provided during investigation, prosecution and after-care | Appropriate support services for children and young people | Children and young people have access to services that support them through the investigation and prosecution of crimes against them. They have access to shelter; specialised medical and psychological services; and rehabilitation, repatriation and resocialization services. |
| | | 9 | Child Protection Workforce: Trained, coordinated and available to provide victim support | | |
| | | 10 | Compensation, remedies and complaints arrangements: Accessible procedures | | |
| | | 11 | Child Helpline: Victim reporting and support; referrals to services for ongoing assistance | | |
| | Societal  | 12 | CSEA Hotline: Mechanism for reporting online CSEA content; link to law enforcement and Internet service providers | CSEA prevented | Children and young people are informed and empowered to protect themselves from CSEA. Parents, carers, teachers and childcare professionals are better prepared to keep children safe from CSEA, including addressing taboos surrounding sexual violence. |
| | | 13 | Education Programme: For: children/young people; parents/carers; teachers; practitioners; faith representatives | | |
| | | 14 | Child Participation: Children and young people have a voice in the development of policy and practice | | |
| | | 15 | Offender Support Systems: Medical, psychological, self-help, awareness. | | |
| | Industry  | 16 | Takedown Procedures: Local removal and blocking of online CSEA content | Industry engaged in developing solutions to prevent and tackle CSEA | Industry has the power and willingness to block and remove online CSEA content and proactively address local CSEA issues. Industry proactively reports online CSEA. |
| | | 17 | CSEA Reporting: Statutory protections that would allow industry to fully and effectively report CSEA, including the transmission of content, to law enforcement or another designated agency | | |
| | | 18 | Innovative Solution Development: Industry engagement to help address local CSEA issues | | |
| | | 19 | Corporate Social Responsibility: 19 Effective child-focused programme | | |
| | Media and Communications  | 20 | Ethical and Informed Media Reporting: Enable awareness and accurate understanding of problem | Awareness raised among the public, professionals and policy makers | Potential future offenders are deterred. CSEA offending and reoffending is reduced. |
| | | 21 | Universal Terminology: Guidelines and application | | |

Appendix 2: Country Office Survey on National Response to Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

SECTION 1

Terminology and scope

Child sexual exploitation and abuse (or 'CSEA') is a form of child sexual abuse that occurs when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can occur through use of technology.

The WeProtect Global Alliance endorses the scope set out in the European Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, known as the 'Lanzarote Convention', which extends to cover all possible kinds of sexual offences against children, including the sexual

abuse of a child, exploitation of children through prostitution, grooming and corruption of children through exposure to sexual content, and activities and offences related to child abuse material. The Convention covers sexual abuse within the child's family, or 'circle of trust', as well as acts carried out for commercial or profitmaking purposes. The Lanzarote Convention sets forth the following six criminal offences:

- Article 18: Sexual abuse
- Article 19: Child prostitution
- Article 20: Child pornography (referred to in this survey as child sexual abuse material or 'CSAM')
- Article 21: Participation of a child in pornographic performances
- Article 22: Corruption of children
- Article 23: Solicitation of children for sexual purposes (also known as 'online grooming').

SECTION 2

Introduction

1. Please state your country

2. In which year did your office start supporting efforts to address online CSEA?

3. How has your office used the WPGA Model National Response? (select all that apply)

As a guide for specific domains or capabilities (e.g. policy, criminal justice, etc)

As a reference for good practice

As a basis for influencing policy development

- As a framework for measuring progress
 - Country has not used the Model National Response
 - Other
-

SECTION 3

Model National Response Domain 1 – Policy and Governance

4. Does your country have a national governance or oversight committee (e.g. an inter-ministerial or multi-stakeholder committee or taskforce) to deal with CSEA and/or online CSEA?

- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Other
-

5. Is there a national policy or strategy to deal with online CSEA?

- Yes
- No

- Don't know
- Other

6. What types of national research, analysis and monitoring of CSEA and/or online CSEA have been undertaken in the last 5 years in your country? (select all that apply)

- Crime threat assessments
 - Nationally representative surveys of children's online experiences
 - Nationally representative surveys of CSEA (including online CSEA)
 - Nationally representative surveys of violence against children (including CSEA and online CSEA)
 - No national research, analysis or monitoring of CSEA and/or online CSEA
 - Other
-

7. Is national legislation in place to address online CSEA?

- Yes, comprehensive (laws criminalize all aspects of online CSEA including grooming; and require Internet Service Providers to report suspected child abuse materials to law enforcement or some other mandated agency)
- Yes, partial (some aspects of online CSEA are criminalized but gaps remain)

- No
 - Don't know
 - Other
-

Is UNICEF providing support to government to strengthen any capabilities within the Policy and Governance domain (i.e. coordination, legislation, policy or research/monitoring on offline/online CSEA)? If yes, please describe.

9. Please describe any good practices from your country in relation to the Policy and Governance domain.

10. Please describe the key gaps and challenges (and any lessons learned) in relation to the Policy and Governance domain.

11. [OPTIONAL] Please upload any relevant documentation in relation to the Policy and Governance domain.

SECTION 4

Model National Response Domain 2 – Criminal Justice

12. Does your country have law enforcement capability (i.e. specialised persons, units or services) with an explicit remit to respond to offline/online CSEA? If yes, please describe.

13. Do prosecutors dealing with CSEA cases have specialist knowledge and skills to enable positive outcomes for victims? (e.g. clear awareness and understanding of CSEA, potential vulnerability of victims/ witnesses, and methodologies/profiles of offenders; awareness of how to protect victims/ witnesses from any negative impacts of judicial process)

- Yes, comprehensive (strong knowledge and skills among majority of prosecutors)
 - Yes, partial (average knowledge and skills among majority of prosecutors, or strong knowledge and skills among minority of prosecutors)
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Other
-

14. Do the judiciary dealing with CSEA cases have specialist knowledge and skills to enable positive judicial outcomes for victims? (e.g. clear awareness and understanding of CSEA, potential vulnerability of victims/ witnesses, and methodologies/profiles of offenders; understanding of the risk posed by child sex offenders and sentence according to gravity of crime; allow special measures to ensure victims supported through the process)

- Yes, comprehensive (strong knowledge and skills among majority of judiciary)
 - Yes, partial (average knowledge and skills among majority of judiciary, or strong knowledge and skills among minority of judiciary)
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Other
-

15. What systems exist to manage and rehabilitate child sex offenders to limit their ability to cause further harm to children? (select all that apply)

- Rehabilitation and education programmes offered in custody/ prison
- Management of offenders in the community after release
- National sex offender register

- No systems exist to manage and rehabilitate child sex offenders
 - Don't know
 - Other
-

16. What specialist tools and data does law enforcement in your country have to carry out investigations of online CSEA? (select all that apply)

- Access to Interpol's International Child Sexual Exploitation database
 - National child sexual abuse image database
 - Connection to receive NCMEC CyberTipline reports
 - Digital forensic capability
 - No specialist tools or data
 - Don't know
 - Other
-

17. Is UNICEF providing support to government to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement, prosecutors and/or the judiciary to deal with cases of offline/online CSEA? If yes, please describe.

18. Please describe any good practices from your country in relation to strengthening the capacity of law enforcement, prosecutors and/or the judiciary to deal with cases of offline/online CSEA.

19. Please describe the key gaps and challenges (and any lessons learned) in relation to strengthening the capacity of law enforcement, prosecutors and/or the judiciary to deal with cases of offline/online CSEA.

20. [OPTIONAL] Please upload any relevant documentation relating to the Criminal Justice domain.

SECTION 5

Model National Response Domain 3 – Victims

21. Is a case management plan put in place to support victims of offline/online CSEA through investigation, legal proceedings and beyond? If yes, please describe who is responsible (e.g. social welfare/child protection agency) and the type of support available for the child/ children.

22. Is the social service workforce trained and available to provide support to victims of offline/online CSEA?

Yes, comprehensive (expertise, resources, and numbers of workforce are sufficient to meet demand)

Yes, partial (expertise, resources, and/or numbers of workforce are somewhat constrained)

No

Don't know

Other

23. Are remedies and reparations available for victims of online/offline CSEA? (e.g. services to aid recovery of victims, compensation arrangements, independent complaints procedures etc)

Yes, comprehensive

Yes, partial

No

Don't know

Other

24. Is there a Child Helpline in your country?

Yes

No

Don't know

25. Is UNICEF providing support to government to strengthen the capacity of the social service workforce and system to support offline/online CSEA victims? If yes, please describe.

26. Please describe any good practices from your country in relation to strengthening the capacity of the social service workforce and system to address online CSEA and support victims.

27. Please describe the key gaps and challenges (and any lessons learned) in relation to strengthening the capacity of the social service workforce and system to address online CSEA.

28. [OPTIONAL] Please upload any relevant documentation relating to the capacity of the social service workforce and system to address online CSEA.

SECTION 6

Model National Response Domain 4 – Societal

29. Is there a dedicated hotline or reporting portal for the public to report online material suspected to be illegal including child sexual abuse material?

Yes

No

Don't know

Other

30. Is there a national education programme to raise awareness of offline/online CSEA?

Yes

No

Don't know

Other

31. Who does the programme target? (select all that apply)

Children

Young people

Parents and guardians

Social service workforce

Educators

Other

32. Are children and young people encouraged and enabled to give their ideas and influence the development of CSEA-related policy and practice? If yes, please describe.

33. Which of the following support systems exist in your country? (select all that apply)

Support systems for people with a sexual interest in children to prevent them from acting on their interest

Support systems for young people displaying sexually harmful behaviour

Support systems for convicted offenders as part of their rehabilitation to prevent reoffending

No support systems exist for people with a sexual interest in children, young people displaying sexually harmful behaviours or convicted offenders

Don't know

Other

34. Is UNICEF providing support to government to strengthen any of the interventions in the Societal domain (i.e. hotline/portal, education programme, child participation to inform CSEA policy/ interventions, support systems for offenders or those with sexual interest in children)? If yes, please describe.

35. Please describe any good practices from your country in relation to this work in the Societal domain (i.e. hotline/portal, education programme, child participation to inform CSEA policy/ interventions, support systems for offenders or those with sexual interest in children).

36. Please describe the key gaps and challenges (and any lessons learned) in relation to this work in the Societal domain (i.e. hotline/portal, education programme, child participation to inform CSEA policy/ interventions, support systems for offenders or those with sexual interest in children).

37. [OPTIONAL] Please upload any relevant documentation relating to the Societal domain.

Model National Response Domain 5 – Industry

38. Are procedures in place to enable removal or blocking of online child sexual abuse content?

Yes, comprehensive and timely

Yes, but not comprehensive

Yes, but not timely

No

Don't know

Other

39. Does government engage industry and proactively encourage innovative solution development and corporate social responsibility to end CSEA? If yes, please describe.

40. Is UNICEF providing support to government to strengthen any capabilities within the Industry domain? If yes, please describe.

41. Please describe any good practices from your country in relation to the Industry domain.

42. Please describe the key gaps and challenges (and any lessons learned) in relation to the Industry domain.

43. [OPTIONAL] Please upload any relevant documentation relating to the Industry domain.

SECTION 8

Model National Response Domain 6 – Media and Communications

44. Is government supporting ethical, informed and balanced media reporting of CSEA (e.g. through guidance, training, regulations, monitoring)?

Yes

No

Don't know

45. Please describe if and how universally agreed terminology has been debated, discussed or adopted in your country.

46. Is UNICEF providing support to government to strengthen any capabilities within the Media and Communications domain? If yes, please describe.

47. Please describe any good practices from your country in relation to the Media and Communications domain.

48. Please describe the key gaps and challenges (and any lessons learned) in relation to the Media and Communications domain.

49. [OPTIONAL] Please upload any relevant documentation relating to the Media and Communications domain.

SECTION 9

Closing

Thank you for participating in the survey.

50. Please add any other comments including any recommendations based on your experience for any future iterations of the Model National Response or for UNICEF's programming in this area.

Appendix 3: Status of ratification of key international instruments

| Country | CRC | Reservations to CRC | Optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2000) | Optional Protocol on Communication Procedures | UN Convention against transnational organized crime | Convention concerning the prohibition of immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour (1999) |
|------------------------|-----|---------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Albania | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Algeria | Yes | No | Yes (accession) | No | Yes | Yes |
| Belarus | Yes | No | Yes (accession) | No | Yes | Yes |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Yes | No (withdrawn) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Brazil | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Bulgaria | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Cambodia | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| China | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Colombia | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Dominican Republic | Yes | No | Yes (accession) | No | Yes | Yes |
| Egypt | Yes | No | Yes (accession) | No | Yes | Yes |
| El Salvador | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Ghana | Yes | No | No | No | Yes (accession) | Yes |
| Guatemala | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Indonesia | Yes | No (withdrawn) | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Jordan | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Kenya | Yes | No | No | No | Yes (accession) | Yes |

Appendix 3: Status of ratification of key international instruments

| Country | CRC | Reservations to CRC | Optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2000) | Optional Protocol on Communication Procedures | UN Convention against transnational organized crime | Convention concerning the prohibition of immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour (1999) |
|--------------|-----|---------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Madagascar | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Mongolia | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes (accession) | Yes |
| Montenegro | Yes | No | Yes (succession) | Yes | Yes (succession) | Yes |
| Namibia | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Nepal | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Paraguay | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Philippines | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Rwanda | Yes | No | Yes (accession) | No | Yes | Yes |
| Serbia | Yes | No (withdrawn) | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| South Africa | Yes | No | Yes (accession) | No | Yes | Yes |
| Viet Nam | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Zimbabwe | Yes | No | Yes (accession) | No | Yes | Yes |

Appendix 4: Country snapshots by Model National Response domain

Yes 

| Country | How has your office used the Model National Response? | | | | |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|----------|
| | As a guide for specific domains or capabilities | As a reference for good practice | As a basis for influencing policy development | As a framework for measuring progress | Not used |
| Albania | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Algeria | | | | | Yes |
| Belarus | | Yes | Yes | | |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Brazil | | | Yes | | |
| Bulgaria | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| Cambodia | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| China | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| Colombia | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| Dominican Republic | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Egypt | | | | | Yes |
| El Salvador | Yes | | | | |
| Ghana | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Guatemala | Yes | | Yes | | |
| Indonesia | | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Jordan | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| Kenya | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Madagascar | | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Mongolia | | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Montenegro | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| Namibia | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Nepal | | | | | Yes |
| Paraguay | | Yes | | | |
| Philippines | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Rwanda | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| Serbia | Yes | Yes | Yes | | |
| South Africa | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Viet Nam | | Yes | Yes | | |
| Zimbabwe | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |

Appendix 4:

DOMAIN 1: Policy and Governance

Yes/comprehensive ■ Partial ■ No/none ■

| Country | Does your country have a national governance or oversight committee to deal with CSEA and/or online CSEA? | Is there a national policy or strategy to deal with online CSEA? | What types of national research, analysis and monitoring of CSEA and/or online CSEA have been undertaken in the last 5 years in your country? | | | | | Is comprehensive or partial national legislation in place to address online CSEA? |
|------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| | | | Crime threat assessment | Nationally representative study on children's online experiences | Nationally representative study on CSEA | Nationally representative study on VAC | No national research, analysis or monitoring on CSEA | |
| Albania | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | No/none | No/none | Partial |
| Algeria | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | No/none | No/none | Partial |
| Belarus | No/none | No/none | No/none | No/none | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Partial |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | No/none | No/none | No/none | No/none | No/none | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | Partial |
| Brazil | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | No/none | No/none | Yes/comprehensive |
| Bulgaria | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | No/none | No/none | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Partial |
| Cambodia | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Partial |
| China | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | No/none | No/none | No/none | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | Partial |
| Colombia | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Partial |
| Dominican Republic | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | No/none | No/none | Partial |
| Egypt | No/none | No/none | No/none | No/none | No/none | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | Partial |
| El Salvador | No/none | No/none | No/none | No/none | No/none | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | Partial |
| Ghana | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | No/none | No/none | Yes/comprehensive |
| Guatemala | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | No/none | No/none | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Partial |
| Indonesia | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Partial |
| Jordan | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | No/none | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Partial |
| Kenya | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Partial |

Appendix 4:

DOMAIN 1: Policy and Governance

Yes/comprehensive ■ Partial ■ No/none ■

| Country | Does your country have a national governance or oversight committee to deal with CSEA and/or online CSEA? | Is there a national policy or strategy to deal with online CSEA? | What types of national research, analysis and monitoring of CSEA and/or online CSEA have been undertaken in the last 5 years in your country? | | | | | Is comprehensive or partial national legislation in place to address online CSEA? |
|--------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| | | | Crime threat assessment | Nationally representative study on children's online experiences | Nationally representative study on CSEA | Nationally representative study on VAC | No national research, analysis or monitoring on CSEA | |
| Madagascar | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | | Yes/comprehensive | | | | Partial |
| Mongolia | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | | | Partial |
| Montenegro | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | | Yes/comprehensive | | Yes/comprehensive | | Partial |
| Namibia | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | | | | Yes/comprehensive | | No/none |
| Nepal | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | | | Partial |
| Paraguay | No/none | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | | | | Yes/comprehensive | Partial |
| Philippines | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | | Yes/comprehensive | | Yes/comprehensive | | Partial |
| Rwanda | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | | | | | Yes/comprehensive | Partial |
| Serbia | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | | | Yes/comprehensive | | | Partial |
| South Africa | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | | Yes/comprehensive |
| Viet Nam | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | | Yes/comprehensive | | | | Partial |
| Zimbabwe | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | | | | Yes/comprehensive | | Partial |

Appendix 4:

DOMAIN 2: Criminal Justice

Yes/comprehensive Partial No/none No survey response received

| Country | Does your country have law enforcement capability (i.e. specialised persons, units or services) with an explicit remit to respond to offline/online CSEA? | Do prosecutors dealing with CSEA cases have comprehensive or partial specialist knowledge and skills to enable positive outcomes for victims? | Do the judiciary dealing with CSEA cases have comprehensive or partial specialist knowledge and skills to enable positive judicial outcomes for victims? | What systems exist to manage and rehabilitate child sex offenders to limit their ability to cause further harm to children? | | | | What specialist tools and data does law enforcement in your country have to carry out investigations of online CSEA? | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|
| | | | | Rehabilitation and education programmes offered in custody/prison | Management of offenders in the community after release | National sex offender register | No systems exist | Access to ICSE | National child abuse image database | Connection to receive NCMEC Cyber-Tipline reports | Digital forensic capability | No specialised tools or access to data exists | |
| Albania | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | No/none | | | | Yes/comprehensive | | | | | Yes/comprehensive | |
| Algeria | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Partial | | | | Yes/comprehensive | | | | | Yes/comprehensive | |
| Belarus | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | Partial | | Partial | Yes/comprehensive | | Yes/comprehensive | | | | | |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Partial | | | | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | | | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | |
| Brazil | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Partial | | | | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | | | | | |
| Bulgaria | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Partial | | | | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | | | | | |
| Cambodia | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | No/none | | | | Yes/comprehensive | | | | | | Yes/comprehensive |
| China | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Partial | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | | | | | | Yes/comprehensive | |
| Colombia | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | | | | Yes/comprehensive | | | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | |
| Dominican Republic | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Partial | | | | Yes/comprehensive | | | | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | |
| Egypt | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | No/none | | | | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | No/none | No/none | No/none | No/none | No/none |
| El Salvador | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | No/none | | | | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | | | | Yes/comprehensive | |
| Ghana | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Partial | | | | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | | | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | |
| Guatemala | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Partial | | | Yes/comprehensive | | Yes/comprehensive | | | Yes/comprehensive | | |
| Indonesia | Yes/comprehensive | No/none | No/none | Yes/comprehensive | | | | Yes/comprehensive | | | | | |
| Jordan | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Partial | | | | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | | | Yes/comprehensive | |

Appendix 4:

DOMAIN 2: Criminal Justice

















































































Yes/comprehensive Partial No/none No survey response received

| Country | Does your country have law enforcement capability (i.e. specialised persons, units or services) with an explicit remit to respond to offline/online CSEA? | Do prosecutors dealing with CSEA cases have comprehensive or partial specialist knowledge and skills to enable positive outcomes for victims? | Do the judiciary dealing with CSEA cases have comprehensive or partial specialist knowledge and skills to enable positive judicial outcomes for victims? | What systems exist to manage and rehabilitate child sex offenders to limit their ability to cause further harm to children? | | | | What specialist tools and data does law enforcement in your country have to carry out investigations of online CSEA? | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|--|---|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| | | | | Rehabilitation and education programmes offered in custody/prison | Management of offenders in the community after release | National sex offender register | No systems exist | Access to ICSE | National child abuse image database | Connection to receive NCMEC Cyber-Tipline reports | Digital forensic capability | No specialised tools or access to data exists |
| Kenya | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Partial | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | No | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | No |
| Madagascar | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Partial | No | No | No | Yes/comprehensive | No | No | No | No | Yes/comprehensive |
| Mongolia | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Partial | No | No | No | Yes/comprehensive | No | No | No | No | Yes/comprehensive |
| Montenegro | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Partial | Yes/comprehensive | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| Namibia | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | No | No | No | Yes/comprehensive | No | No | No | No | Yes/comprehensive |
| Nepal | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Partial | No | No | No | Yes/comprehensive | No | Yes/comprehensive | No | No | No |
| Paraguay | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | No | No | No | No | Yes/comprehensive | No | Yes/comprehensive | No | No | No |
| Philippines | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | No | No | No | No | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | No |
| Rwanda | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Partial | No | No | Yes/comprehensive | No | Yes/comprehensive | No | No | No | Yes/comprehensive |
| Serbia | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Partial | No | No | Yes/comprehensive | No | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | No |
| South Africa | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Partial | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Yes/comprehensive | No | No | Yes/comprehensive | No | Yes/comprehensive | No |
| Viet Nam | Yes/comprehensive | Partial | Partial | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | No | No | Yes/comprehensive | No | No | No | No |
| Zimbabwe | Yes/comprehensive | No | Partial | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | No | No | No | No | Yes/comprehensive | Yes/comprehensive | No |

Appendix 4:

DOMAIN 3: Victim





































Yes/comprehensive  Partial  No/constrained  No survey response received 

| Country | Is a case management plan put in place to support victims of offline/online CSEA through investigation, legal proceedings and beyond? | Is the social service workforce trained and available to provide support to victims of offline/online CSEA? | Are remedies and reparations available for victims of online/offline CSEA? | Is there a Child Helpline in your country? |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Albania |  |  |  |  |
| Algeria |  |  |  |  |
| Belarus |  |  |  |  |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina |  |  |  |  |
| Brazil |  |  |  |  |
| Bulgaria |  |  |  |  |
| Cambodia |  |  |  |  |
| China |  |  |  |  |
| Colombia |  |  |  |  |
| Dominican Republic |  |  |  |  |
| Egypt |  |  |  |  |
| El Salvador |  |  |  |  |
| Ghana |  |  |  |  |
| Guatemala |  |  |  |  |
| Indonesia |  |  |  |  |
| Jordan |  |  |  |  |
| Kenya |  |  |  |  |
| Madagascar |  |  |  |  |
| Mongolia |  |  |  |  |
| Montenegro |  |  |  |  |

Appendix 4:

DOMAIN 3: Victim

Yes/comprehensive  Partial  No/constrained  No survey response received 

| Country | Is a case management plan put in place to support victims of offline/online CSEA through investigation, legal proceedings and beyond? | Is the social service workforce trained and available to provide support to victims of offline/online CSEA? | Are remedies and reparations available for victims of online/offline CSEA? | Is there a Child Helpline in your country? |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|
| Namibia |  |  |  |  |
| Nepal |  |  |  |  |
| Paraguay |  |  |  |  |
| Philippines |  |  |  |  |
| Rwanda |  |  |  |  |
| Serbia |  |  |  |  |
| South Africa |  |  |  |  |
| Viet Nam |  |  |  |  |
| Zimbabwe |  |  |  |  |

Appendix 4:

DOMAIN 4: Societal

Yes ■ No ■ No survey response received ■

| Country | Is there a dedicated hotline or reporting portal for the public to report online material suspected to be illegal including child sexual abuse material? | Is there a national education programme to raise awareness of offline/online CSEA? | Who does the programme target? | | | | | Are children and young people encouraged and enabled to give their ideas and influence the development of CSEA-related policy and practice? | Which of the following support systems exist in your country? | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---|--|---|--|--------------------------|
| | | | Children | Young people | Parents & guardians | Social service workforce | Educators | | Support systems for young people displaying sexually harmful behaviour | Support systems for people with a sexual interest in children | Support system for convicted offenders | No support systems exist |
| Albania | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | No | No | Yes |
| Algeria | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| Belarus | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| Brazil | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | No | No | Yes |
| Bulgaria | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| Cambodia | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| China | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | Yes | No |
| Colombia | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| Dominican Republic | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | Yes |
| Egypt | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| El Salvador | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| Ghana | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | Yes |
| Guatemala | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| Indonesia | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | No |

Appendix 4:

DOMAIN 4: Societal







































Yes No No survey response received

| Country | Is there a dedicated hotline or reporting portal for the public to report online material suspected to be illegal including child sexual abuse material? | Is there a national education programme to raise awareness of offline/online CSEA? | Who does the programme target? | | | | | Are children and young people encouraged and enabled to give their ideas and influence the development of CSEA-related policy and practice? | Which of the following support systems exist in your country? | | | |
|--------------|--|--|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---|--|---|--|--------------------------|
| | | | Children | Young people | Parents & guardians | Social service workforce | Educators | | Support systems for young people displaying sexually harmful behaviour | Support systems for people with a sexual interest in children | Support system for convicted offenders | No support systems exist |
| Jordan | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| Kenya | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | No |
| Madagascar | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| Mongolia | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| Montenegro | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| Namibia | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | Yes | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| Nepal | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| Paraguay | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | Yes |
| Philippines | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | Yes |
| Rwanda | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | Yes |
| Serbia | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| South Africa | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | Yes |
| Viet Nam | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| Zimbabwe | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | No | No | Yes |

Appendix 4:

DOMAIN 5: Industry




























Yes/comprehensive  Partial  No/none  No survey response received 

| Country | Are comprehensive or partial procedures in place to enable removal or blocking of online child sexual abuse content? | Does government engage industry and proactively encourage innovative solution development and corporate social responsibility to end CSEA? | Are there any statutory protections that allow industry to fully and effectively report online CSEA (including the transmission of content) to law enforcement or another designated agency |
|------------------------|--|--|---|
| Albania |  |  |  |
| Algeria |  |  |  |
| Belarus |  |  |  |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina |  |  |  |
| Brazil |  |  |  |
| Bulgaria |  |  |  |
| Cambodia |  |  |  |
| China |  |  |  |
| Colombia |  |  |  |
| Dominican Republic |  |  |  |
| Egypt |  |  |  |
| El Salvador |  |  |  |
| Ghana |  |  |  |
| Guatemala |  |  |  |
| Indonesia |  |  |  |
| Jordan |  |  |  |
| Kenya |  |  |  |
| Madagascar |  |  |  |
| Mongolia |  |  |  |
| Montenegro |  |  |  |

Appendix 4:

DOMAIN 5: Industry











































Yes/comprehensive  Partial  No/none  No survey response received 

| Country | Are comprehensive or partial procedures in place to enable removal or blocking of online child sexual abuse content? | Does government engage industry and proactively encourage innovative solution development and corporate social responsibility to end CSEA? | Are there any statutory protections that allow industry to fully and effectively report online CSEA (including the transmission of content) to law enforcement or another designated agency |
|--------------|--|--|---|
| Namibia |  |  |  |
| Nepal |  |  |  |
| Paraguay |  |  |  |
| Philippines |  |  |  |
| Rwanda |  |  |  |
| Serbia |  |  |  |
| South Africa |  |  |  |
| Viet Nam |  |  |  |
| Zimbabwe |  |  |  |

Appendix 4:

DOMAIN 6: Communication and media

Yes  No  No survey response received 

| Country | Is government supporting ethical, informed and balanced media reporting of CSEA? | Has universally agreed terminology has been debated, discussed or adopted in your country? |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Albania |  |  |
| Algeria |  |  |
| Belarus |  |  |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina |  |  |
| Brazil |  |  |
| Bulgaria |  |  |
| Cambodia |  |  |
| China |  |  |
| Colombia |  |  |
| Dominican Republic |  |  |
| Egypt |  |  |
| El Salvador |  |  |
| Ghana |  |  |
| Guatemala |  |  |
| Indonesia |  |  |
| Jordan |  |  |
| Kenya |  |  |
| Madagascar |  |  |
| Mongolia |  |  |
| Montenegro |  |  |
| Namibia |  |  |

| Country | Is government supporting ethical, informed and balanced media reporting of CSEA? | Has universally agreed terminology has been debated, discussed or adopted in your country? |
|--------------|--|--|
| Nepal | | |
| Paraguay | | |
| Philippines | | |
| Rwanda | | |
| Serbia | | |
| South Africa | | |
| Viet Nam | | |
| Zimbabwe | | |

Endnotes

- 1 United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘Action To End Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: A Review of Evidence’, UNICEF, New York, 2020.
- 2 United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘Protecting Children from Violence in the Time of COVID-19: Disruption in Prevention and Response Services’, UNICEF, New York, 2020.
- 3 Albania, Algeria, Brazil, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Montenegro, Namibia, Paraguay, Philippines, Serbia, Uganda, Viet Nam.
- 4 Albania, Algeria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia, South Africa, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.
- 5 United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘Action to end child sexual abuse and exploitation: A Review of Evidence’, UNICEF, New York, USA, 2020.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Bisha, E., Sulstarova, A., Shapo, Zh. and Ymeri, H. ‘WebFactor: Assessment of the Legal Framework and Institutional Readiness to address Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse online in Albania’, UNICEF Albania/Shapo Consulting, Tirana, 2019.
- 8 United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘Action to end child sexual abuse and exploitation: A Review of Evidence’, UNICEF, New York, USA, 2020.
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘Global Kids Online: Comparative report’, UNICEF, New York, USA, 2019. Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Least-developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDSs).
- 12 United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘Promising programmes to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse and exploitation’, UNICEF, New York, USA, n.d.
- 13 See later discussion about Disrupting Harm, a comprehensive multi-country research project on online child sexual abuse and exploitation funded by the End Violence Fund and implemented by ECPAT, INTERPOL and UNICEF.
- 14 WeProtect Global Alliance, End Violence against Children Fund and the United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘The WeProtect Global Alliance: Working examples of model national response capabilities and implementation’, WeProtect Global Alliance, n.d. <www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/cybertipline#bythenumbers>.
- 15 The NCMEC portal itself clearly notes the limitations of the data, as it states that, “Most CyberTipline reports include geographic indicators related to the upload location of the child sexual abuse material. It is important to note that country-specific numbers may be impacted by the use of proxies and anonymizers. In addition, due to variance of law, each country must apply its own national laws when assessing the illegality of the reported content. These numbers are generated for informational purposes only. These numbers are not indicative of the level of child sexual abuse in a particular country.” <www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/cybertipline>.
- 16 Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse, ‘A new typology on child sexual abuse offending’, Middlesex University, Ilford, United Kingdom, 2020.
- 17 UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office and the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention, ‘Our Lives Online: Use of social media by children and adolescents in East Asia – opportunities, risks and harms’, UNICEF, Bangkok, Thailand, 2020.
- 18 WeProtect Global Alliance website <www.weprotect.org/alliance/>.
- 19 WeProtect Global Alliance, End Violence against Children Fund and the United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘The WeProtect Global Alliance: Working examples of model national response capabilities and implementation’, WeProtect Global Alliance. n.d.
- 20 United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘Action to end child sexual abuse and exploitation’, UNICEF, New York, USA, 2020.
- 21 Albania, Algeria, Brazil, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Montenegro, Namibia, Paraguay, Philippines, Serbia, Uganda, Viet Nam.
- 22 Countries covered by this report were selected based on one or more of the following criteria: 1) Country is part of the WeProtect Global Alliance and committed to implement the Model National Response; 2) Country received support through the 2015/2016 UNICEF Global Programme and/or the 2017 and 2018 awards from the Global Fund to End Violence against Children to address online child sexual exploitation and abuse; and/or 3) Country has demonstrated significant engagement over the past 3–5 years on the issue of online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

- 23 Since its launch in July of 2016, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children has promoted the concept of ‘pathfinding’, which aims to raise awareness, stimulate leadership commitment, galvanize action and establish a standard of national violence prevention throughout the world.
- 24 Not all survey questions were responded to by each country, hence the baseline varies marginally. Please see Appendix 3 for detailed survey responses by country.
- 25 Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Viet Nam, Cambodia.
- 26 See section on ‘Capability 7: Access to image database’ for more detail.
- 27 Some countries have more than one system in place. Please see Appendix 3 for details.
- 28 The survey results were verified with INTERPOL, which provided up-to-date information on countries with an ICSE connection.
- 29 See also: INTERPOL and ECPAT, ‘Towards a global indicator on unidentified victims in child sexual exploitation material: Technical Report’, ECPAT International, Bangkok, 2018.
- 30 Ibid.
- 31 The report indicates that “interventions that emphasise the prosecution of those under the age of 18 engaged with youth produced sexual imagery and which emphasise the criminality of the act, may be counterproductive and serve as a disincentive to children’s reporting, promote self-blaming and victim-blaming, and ultimately compromise victim identification potential”: INTERPOL and ECPAT, ‘Towards a global indicator on unidentified victims in child sexual exploitation material: Technical Report’, ECPAT International, Bangkok, 2018.
- 32 Council of Europe, ‘Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: Child-friendly, interdisciplinary and multiagency response inspired by the Barnahus model’, n.d. <<https://edoc.coe.int/en/children-s-rights/8003-protection-of-children-against-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-child-friendly-multidisciplinary-and-interagency-response-inspired-by-the-barnahus-model.html>>.
- 33 The latter point is addressed in the section on ‘Capability 8: End-to-end support’.
- 34 United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Service Workforce for Child Protection’, UNICEF, New York, 2019; United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘Global Annual Results Report: Goal Area 3’, UNICEF, New York, USA, 2020.
- 35 United Nations Children’s Fund Bulgaria, ‘Study on Violence Against Children in Bulgaria’, n.d. <www.unicef.org/bulgaria/media/10836/file/BGR-VAC-Research-volume-1.pdf>.
- 36 Ibid.
- 37 United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘Action to end child sexual abuse and exploitation: A Review of Evidence’, UNICEF, New York, 2020.
- 38 United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘Child protection in the digital age: National response to online child sexual abuse and exploitation in ASEAN Member States’, UNICEF EAPRO, Bangkok, 2016; see also <www.childhelplineinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Child-Helpline-International-FINAL-REPORT-and-Annexes-UoS.pdf> for data on high-income countries.
- 39 United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘Action to end child sexual abuse and exploitation: A Review of Evidence’, UNICEF, New York, 2020.
- 40 Ibid.
- 41 InHope Foundation Reporting Portal, <<https://inhope.org/EN>>.
- 42 Internet Watch Foundation Reporting Portal, <www.iwf.org.uk/what-we-do/how-we-assess-and-remove-content/our-international-reporting-portals>.
- 43 UNICEF has supported Mongolia, Madagascar, Namibia and Ghana to set up reporting hotlines or reporting portals through INHOPE and/or IWF.
- 44 United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘Action to end child sexual abuse and exploitation: A Review of Evidence’, UNICEF, New York, 2020.
- 45 United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘Action to end child sexual abuse and exploitation: A Review of Evidence’, UNICEF, New York, 2020.
- 46 See: <<https://mision.ciberconscientes.com>> for more information.
- 47 Although this is the terminology of the MNR, not all of the systems encouraged under this capability are targeting ‘offenders’ (e.g. young people displaying sexually harmful behaviour and people with a sexual interest in children). This terminology may be stigmatizing and risks preventing service utilization.
- 48 United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘Action to end child sexual abuse and exploitation’, UNICEF, New York, 2020.
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