

Opportunities for strengthening international cooperation for the protection of children from sexual violence including on-line

*Exploring the role and potential of existing platforms to promote a safe,
empowering and inclusive digital agenda for children*



*High level Cross-Regional Meeting on the Protection of Children from Sexual Violence,
Strasbourg, 18-19 June 2015*

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UNICEF - Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

- Addressing the **sexual abuse and exploitation** of girls and boys in development and humanitarian settings is a key mandate for UNICEF within our Strategic Plan for 2014-2017.
- UNICEF is currently supporting Government and civil society efforts in **more than 70 countries** around the world to prevent and respond to sexual violence against children, in and out of emergency context.

Ending Violence against Children: Six Strategies for Action

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Six strategies to prevent and respond to violence against children

Strategy

1

Supporting parents, caregivers and families

Educating families, caregivers and parents on their child's early development increases the likelihood that they will use positive disciplining methods. This reduces the risk of violence within the home.

Strategy

2

Helping children and adolescents manage risks and challenges

Giving children and adolescents the skills to cope and manage risks and challenges without the use of violence and to seek appropriate support when violence does occur is crucial for reducing violence in schools and communities.

Strategy

3

Changing attitudes and social norms that encourage violence and discrimination

Changing the attitudes and social norms that hide violence in plain sight is the surest way to prevent violence from occurring in the first place.

Strategy

4

Promoting and providing support services for children

Encouraging children to seek quality professional support and report incidents of violence helps them to better cope with and resolve experiences of violence.

Strategy

5

Implementing laws and policies that protect children

Implementing and enforcing laws and policies that protect children sends a strong message to society that violence is unacceptable and will be punished.

Strategy

6

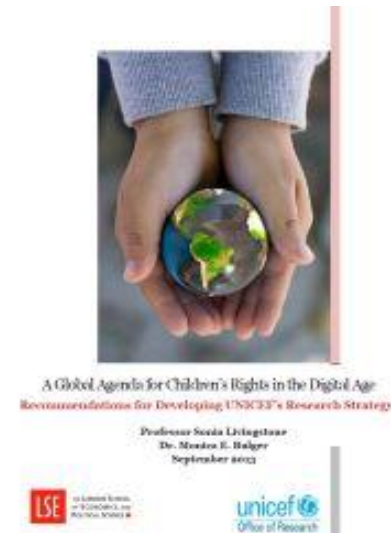
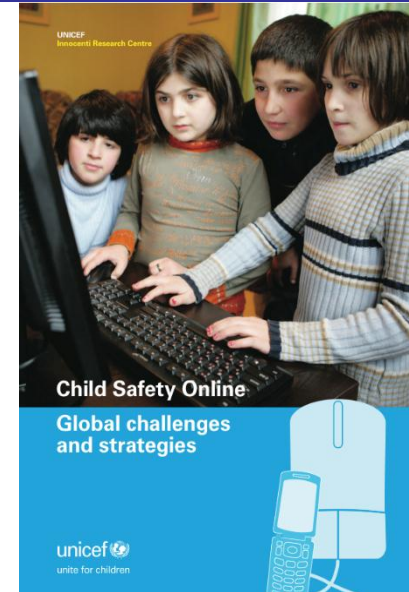
Carrying out data collection and research

Knowing about violence – where it occurs, in what forms, and which age groups and communities of children are most affected – is essential to planning and designing intervention strategies, and setting numerical and time-bound targets to monitor progress and end violence.

UNICEF Global Level Research on children and ICTs

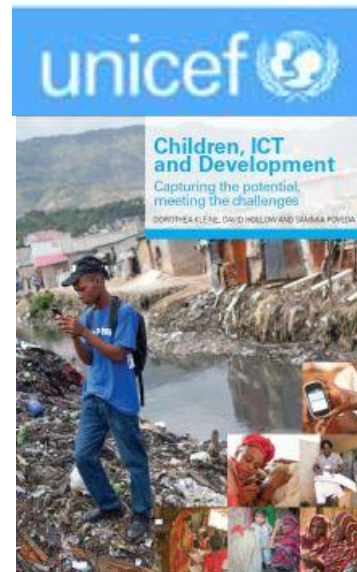
Research to the enhance understanding of children's use of ICTs, risks opportunities, gaps and challenges

- ***Child Safety Online: Global Challenges and Strategies (2011)***
 - Analysis of children's attitudes, behavior and risks they face; policy responses and services available to children; and suggestion of a framework for action
- ***A Global Agenda for Children's Rights in the Digital Age: Recommendations for Developing UNICEF's Research Strategy, (2013)***
 - Scoping study on global research needs and gaps



UNICEF Global Level Research on children and ICTs

- ***Digital Citizenship and Safety Project***
 - Exploratory research on young people's use of ICTs in Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Africa, Kenya, Zambia, Argentina etc.
- ***Children, ICT and Development Capturing the potential, meeting the challenges (2013)***
- ***Integrating Information and Communication Technologies Into Communication for Development Strategies to Support and Empower Marginalized Adolescent Girls (2013)***



Integrating Information and Communication Technologies into Communication for Development Strategies to Support and Empower Marginalized Adolescent Girls

Findings and Lessons Learned

- To create an empowering, inclusive and safe digital environment for all children, we need to **strike a balance** between ensuring that all children have **equal access**, and may take advantage of the benefits offered by ICTs, at the same time as **minimizing risks and potential harm** from using ICTs.
- What happens in the **online environment is a reflection of society at large**, and of the dangers that children face in their homes, schools, communities and in institutions that ought to be protective.
- **Strategies** to address **online-related violence** and exploitation, must therefore be **integrated into wider protection strategies** to address other violence, abuse and exploitation taking place through other modalities.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH

To effectively protect children from harm when using ICTs, **a range of stakeholders need to take action**

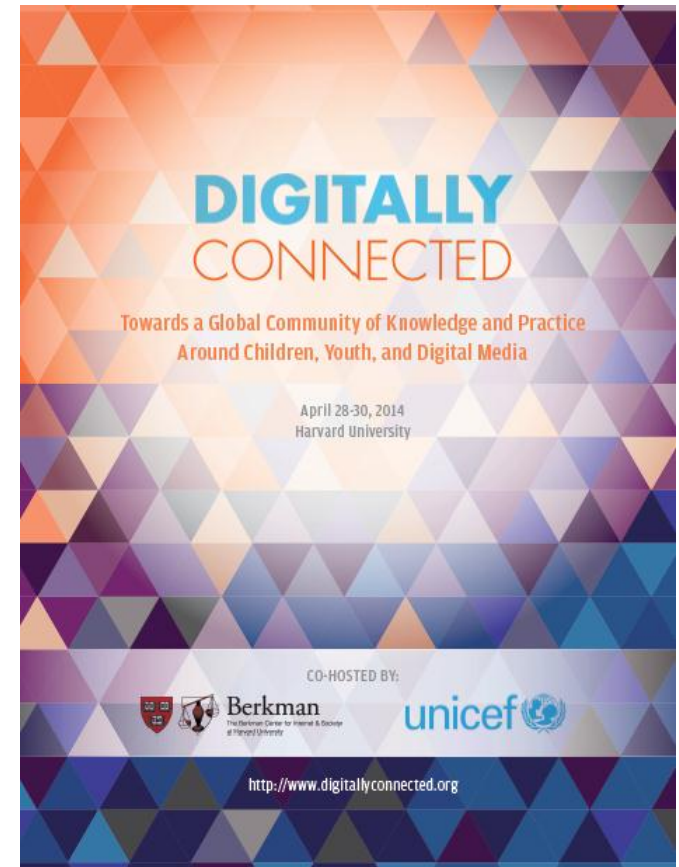
- Governments, parliamentarians, civil society, the private sector, professionals working with and for children, teachers, parents, children, media, academia, and the private sector, all have a role to play.
- **Guidelines for Industry on Child Online Protection** – ITU, UNICEF and partners
- Multi-stakeholder roundtables at country level convening different stakeholders – government, industry and NGOs



- **Cooperation and coordination among different stakeholders is not only critical at national level but essential at international level.**
- The **#We PROTECT Children Online Summit** and the **Global Alliance against Child Abuse Online**, represent important efforts to foster international cooperation and create a global alliance to address online child sexual exploitation.
- Global programme to build capacity to tackle online sexual exploitation, in an estimated 17 countries across six regions and with regional level engagement and activities at global level by UNICEF and partners
- Important contribution to scale up much needed actions to address violence against children, including online child sexual exploitation

OTHER PLATFORMS - DIGITALLY CONNECTED

- A collaborative initiative between **UNICEF** and the **Berkman Center at Harvard** for analyzing digital and social media growth and trends among children and youth globally.
- **Network** consisting of academics, practitioner, young people, activists, philanthropists, government officials and representative of technology companies from around the world who together **address the challenges and opportunities** children and youth encounter in the **digital environment**



ITU CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION INITIATIVE

- Established by the [International Telecommunication Union \(ITU\)](#) in 2008
- The initiative works to establish an international [collaborative network for promoting child online protection](#) through information sharing, providing guidance and best practices on safe online behavior, and helping partners develop and implement effective plans.
- It brings together [partners from all sectors](#) of the global community to ensure a safe and secure online experience for children everywhere

Thank You !