



2021 OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

A systematic approach to making the internet safe for children

GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS

Focus: Strengthening capacity, networks, and systems to make the internet safe for children

Geographical targeting: Eastern and Southern Africa and Southeast Asia

Maximum funding proposal: Up to US\$ 1 million per proposal

Project duration: Maximum 3 years

Deadline for applications: 15 November 2021 11:59 PM EST

Submit proposal at: [Apply here](#)

Index

	Page
1. Summary	2
2. Important information on the key objectives	4
3. General conditions	8
4. Selection criteria	10





1. Summary

Since 2016, through its Safe Online initiative the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children has invested US\$48 million in 60 projects with impact on over 70 countries. As part of this, US\$ 7 million were invested in the large-scale research project [Disrupting Harm](#) to better understand how digital technology facilitates the sexual abuse and exploitation of children, both online and offline, in 13 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa and Southeast Asia.

Leveraging the unique and comprehensive data and evidence generated by Disrupting Harm, the Safe Online initiative is pleased to announce its fifth open call for proposals focused on two regions: **Eastern and Southern Africa** and **Southeast Asia**. The aim is to strengthen country level capacity, cross-sector collaboration and international cooperation based on existing frameworks and networks, and in alignment with national efforts to tackle other forms of violence against children to enable more effective and coordinated prevention and response to online CSEA.

More specifically, proposals are invited for projects aimed at strengthening national systems to combat online CSEA through targeted measures to improve (a) **national infrastructure**, (b) **early intervention and victim support**, and (c) to engage **families and caregivers** in preventing and responding to harmful or otherwise unwanted experiences online.

Proposals are invited for initiatives that **target one or more of the following key objectives**:

<p>(a) Strengthen national infrastructure, including law enforcement, criminal justice and social care capacity to prevent and respond to online offending against children</p>	<p>(b) Improve early intervention to prevent victimisation of children, and victim support to assist in recovery</p>	<p>(c) Engage families and caregivers in preventing the sexual exploitation and abuse of children, and responding to harmful or otherwise unwanted experiences online</p>
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The Safe Online initiative has a clear preference for proposals that can demonstrate:

- active **involvement of local partners and authorities** in the design and delivery of activities including strengthening of local capacity through the project;
- a **cross-sectorial and holistic approach** including the interlinkages between online violence and other forms of abuse against children;
- **strategic partnerships** with the Safe Online grantees and partners across levels;
- **alignment with other End Violence Partnership initiatives** such as [Pathfinding Countries](#) and [Safe to Learn](#); and,
- availability to **match the funding**, and a strong **evaluation and impact** assessment component.

Please refer to section 2 for additional information on the key objectives of this call and to section 3 for the general conditions. Make sure to review the mandatory and scoring criteria on section 4 of this document.





How much? Each organization or consortia can apply for a maximum of **US\$ 1 million** for a project with a duration of maximum **3 years**.

Who can apply? For this open call we are actively seeking submissions of proposals from nonprofit organisations, such as civil society organisations (CSOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), international organisations, research institutes and academic institutions. For-profit organisations are also eligible to apply. Consortia of organizations with different strengths and expertise are highly encouraged. Please refer to section III for greater details on the eligibility criteria.

Building on the groundbreaking research of the large-scale project [Disrupting Harm](#) implemented across Eastern and Southern Africa and Southeast Asia, **proposals are invited from the following countries:**¹

Eastern and Southern Africa	Southeast Asia
Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao DPR, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam

How to apply? Proposal applications must be submitted through the [online form](#) available on the [Safe Online 2021 Open Calls webpage](#), where you will also find all the relevant information and annexes for your proposal. All submissions must be made in English, submissions in other languages will not be accepted.

The last day for submissions of applications is **15 November 2021 11:59 PM EST**. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted and may be requested to provide additional clarification, as applicable.

If you have any questions about the Call for Proposals, do not hesitate to contact the Safe Online team. Please submit questions through this [FAQ Form](#). Answers to all questions submitted will be shared publicly.

¹ As per [African Union’s list of Member States](#) and [UNESCAP Southeast Asia Subregional Office official list](#).





2. Important information on the key objectives

The primary focus of this Call is to strengthen **country level capacity, cross-sector collaboration and international cooperation** based on existing multi-stakeholder frameworks and networks, and in alignment with national efforts to tackle other forms of violence against children to enable more effective and coordinated prevention and response to online CSEA.

Building on Disrupting Harm's emerging findings and in line with the 'whole system approach' and other initiatives such as [Pathfinding Countries](#) and [Safe to Learn](#), the Safe Online initiative invites proposals for projects aimed at strengthening national systems to combat online CSEA through **targeted measures to achieve three key objectives**:

- a) Strengthen **national infrastructure**, including law enforcement, criminal justice and social care capacity to prevent and respond to online offending against children
- b) Improve **early intervention** to prevent victimisation of children, and **victim support** to assist in recovery
- c) Engage **families and caregivers** in preventing the sexual abuse of children, and responding to harmful or otherwise unwanted experiences online

Proposals should be informed by the Disrupting Harms national reports when available.

A whole system approach

Eliminating online CSEA requires a 'whole system' approach that acknowledges and addresses interdependencies between stakeholders and response measures.² For example, effective public education and awareness campaigns can result in increased reporting of online CSEA to hotlines, helplines and law enforcement. This in turn requires that these services, along with the criminal justice and social work sectors, are adequately resourced, with dedicated capacity and specially trained employees. Legislation must be in place to enable criminal justice actors to investigate and prosecute offences, to gather evidence from public and private sources, and to prevent the re-victimisation of children and young people, through measures such as the management of convicted sex offenders and the removal of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) from continued circulation.

Moreover, victims of online CSEA may require immediate and ongoing psycho-social support to aid their recovery. First responders in social care must therefore be equipped with the knowledge to detect such needs, but must also be able to draw on the capacity of specialist therapeutic providers who can help children move on from their abuse to fulfilling lives. At the same time, parents and caregivers have an important role to play in preventing online CSEA. By staying informed, and by starting conversations with children in their care about how to navigate online risks, caregivers can identify issues before they escalate, and explore together ways of building resilience. Knowing when and where to seek help in a difficult situation can also improve timely responses from the authorities and support services.

² For more on the national and international capacities required to prevent and eliminate online CSEA, see the [WeProtect Global Alliance](#) Model National Response and Global Strategic Response; and, Baines V., [Online child sexual exploitation: towards an optimal international response](#), Journal of Cyber Policy, 2019.





Objective a: Strengthen national infrastructure, including law enforcement, criminal justice and social care capacity to tackle online offending

Strengthening national infrastructure is a necessary precursor to awareness raising and survivor support, as otherwise child survivors are met with a disappointing or harmful response from law enforcement, care providers and the justice system, which data indicates is often the case - Disrupting Harm finding

Evidence from Disrupting Harm indicates that investment is urgently needed to strengthen specialist first responder capacity, including law enforcement and social support workforces. Effective and expert law enforcement and justice systems not only serve child victims better but may also act as a deterrent to offending. Increased sensitivity to children’s needs in the justice system may also lead to increased reporting and disclosure over time. There is therefore evidence that other efforts to combat online CSEA depend on first strengthening national infrastructure.

Required initiatives include but are not limited to:

- Targeted capacity building that drives the continued development of specialist police child protection units with adequate resources, online CSEA expertise, equipment and technical solutions, and psychological support.
- Measures that optimize expedient investigations and prosecutions, such as those aimed at improving cross-border evidence gathering, access to data from communications service providers, and continuous knowledge building of the judiciary concerning online CSEA.
- Effective measures for preventing CSEA offending and re-offending, such as registration, notification and monitoring regimes for convicted sex offenders and helplines for people concerned about their own or another person’s behavior.
- A greater focus on child-friendly first response and criminal justice, including gender-sensitive provision of law enforcement personnel, good practice in interviewing children, and minimizing re-victimisation during criminal justice proceedings.
- Measures to improve coordination of responses among government authorities and across sectors, including industry and civil society. Children’s Houses ([Barnahus](#)) or Children’s Centres are an example of effective cross-sector collaboration by first responders. In these centres, law enforcement, social support workers and NGOs work side by side to support child victims in a child-friendly environment.
- Measures that reduce ongoing harm to children from online CSEA, for example the work of hotlines to remove CSAM from continued circulation.

	Prevention	Response
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interventions to prevent offending - management of convicted offenders, helplines, support for potential offenders • Domestic and international industry solutions that reduce opportunities for offending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist law enforcement and judiciary, with adequate resourcing, technical capability, and continuous development • Knowledgeable social support, healthcare and education professionals, with capacity to provide or commission specialist support





Objective b: Improve early intervention to prevent victimisation of children, and victim support to assist in recovery

Prevention is critical to ensure fewer children experience online CSEA. But when children are victimized there is a need to ensure that those seeking help for abuse that involves digital technologies receive high quality and effective support. *Without access to quality services, it is not ethical to raise awareness around online CSEA with the intent to increase reporting and disclosure. Therefore, this is a necessary precursor to awareness raising - Disrupting Harm finding*

While all activities aimed at combating online CSEA have supported children and young people as their ultimate goal, there is a pressing need for targeted early intervention and response measures that assist in victim support and recovery. Building on more general primary prevention, these more **targeted initiatives** include but are not limited to:

- Involving young people in the design of both preventative and response services, with a view to providing resources that are necessarily more effective, because they are what children and young people want, need, and can understand.
- Programs that help children understand what is unacceptable sexual behavior, in the digital environment as well as in person. This includes building resilience through education about the importance of consent, setting boundaries and saying no, how to stay safe and in control if engaging in risky behaviors and where to go for support if things go wrong.
- Programs to strengthen digital literacy for children, and comprehensive sexuality education to enable young people to protect themselves from abuse both online and in person, to be adapted for scaled delivery through incorporation into national curricula.
- Programs that empower children and young people to use their knowledge to support their peers, and to champion online safety; while recognizing that the main responsibility should not be with children to protect themselves from these crimes.
- In addition to effective first response infrastructure above, helplines and other help-seeking mechanisms that are child-friendly, adequately resourced, and staffed by specialists.
- Measures to strengthen the provision of ongoing support to survivors of CSEA, with trained personnel and effective coordination between government authorities and across sectors.

	Prevention	Response
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience building through engagement and early intervention • Programmes that help children understand what is unacceptable sexual behavior, consent and how to set boundaries • Empower children to help each other and champion safety online 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First response services designed together with children (helplines), with adequate resourcing and operational capacity • Child-friendly law enforcement, criminal justice proceedings, and healthcare provision

For instance, one way in which countries can deliver a holistic approach to engage with children and young people on online CSEA is via the [Safer Internet Centre model](#). By bringing together





online CSEA prevention and response they can ensure better coordination, greater consistency of support, and more efficient use of resources. For example, with Safe Online’s financial support International Forum of Solidarity-EMMAUS, Save the Children and UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina have been working as a consortium to develop a Safer Internet Centre for Bosnia and Herzegovina, which comprises a hotline for reports of CSAM, a helpline for children and an awareness centre. The consortium has also worked with the government to establish a National Advisory Board to coordinate action on online CSEA and is conducting an assessment of existing victim support services and documentation of best practices and recommendations.

Objective c: Engage families and caregivers in preventing the sexual abuse of children, and responding to harmful or otherwise unwanted experiences online and offline

The important role of families and caregivers in preventing and responding to online CSEA is often overlooked and underserved. Disrupting Harm has found that *parents who use the internet less also have fewer opportunities to grow their awareness of risks or engage with children to support or guide them online. Supporting caregivers, especially older caregivers, to go online and become more familiar with the platforms that children are using are useful strategies that can help with harm mitigations and with providing support to children - Disrupting Harm finding*

Targeted initiatives are required, which center on building knowledge and skills for establishing ongoing communication with children about their lives online, sex and relationships. Among intended outcomes, these would:

- Help caregivers better understand the digital environment, so that they learn more about children’s online lives and are equipped to support them as they need help and guidance.
- Empower caregivers to be more confident and knowledgeable with digital technologies.
- Empower caregivers to talk to children about relationships, consent, sex and sexual risks, both online and offline.
- Empower caregivers to start and maintain conversations with children about online activities and difficult situations, particularly those that may arise from the sharing of sexual content.
- Empower caregivers to seek professional help when their child is in difficulty.

	Prevention	Response
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empower caregivers to start conversations with children about online activities and difficult situations • Empower caregivers to talk to children about relationships, consent sex and sexual risks, online and offline • Empower caregivers to be more knowledgeable and confident with digital technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caregivers know where to seek help when their child is in difficulty • Caregivers know how to support a child victim with recovering





3. General conditions

The End Violence Partnership, through its Safe Online initiative, invites nonprofit organisations (CSOs, NGOs, international organisations, research institutes and academic institutions) to respond to this Open Call. For-profit organisations are also eligible to apply. Consortia are also encouraged to apply, however, the organisation submitting the application will be considered the main grantee, bearing all the contractual responsibilities vis-à-vis End Violence.

Please note that most of the available funds under this Open Call aim to support projects which will benefit countries eligible for ODA support. A small portion of the funds is not subject to this restriction.

Review and award process

The End Violence Partnership awards grants through an open, fair and competitive process. All proposals will be assessed on their overall quality with attention paid where applicants have clearly explained the contextual challenges, the specific and measurable results that they expect to deliver, the strategies to achieve them with a focus on tailored and holistic approaches and interventions. In addition, applications are expected to acknowledge any risks to delivery and demonstrate plans to mitigate as such.

Organisations are asked to list partners and advisors. We encourage maximising synergies across jurisdictions/sectors/communities, as well as awareness of and sharing with existing research. Funded projects will be connected to similar initiatives in other countries, which should enable projects to develop faster and better. More information about the Safe Online portfolio of grantees is available on the [End Violence Partnership website](#).

Special attention will be paid to applications that can demonstrate coordination at the national level with a clear articulation of how their program will complement existing work. Proposals should ideally reflect partnerships among government, UN agencies and civil society organisations. Proposals from more than one organisation must clearly indicate which organisation will take lead responsibility for project management and contractual obligations. Proposals that include additional funding from other sources will be gladly received.

Under this Call, eligible proposals may result in signing of a Grant Confirmation Letter for a period of up to three years and up to US\$1,000,000. The End Violence Partnership does not provide core organisational funding for nonprofit organisations. Considerations of proposals that require more funding than the indicated amount will be considered by the End Violence Partnership at its sole discretion and only if this is in the best interests of achieving the goals of the funding round. In addition to the relevant costs for the implementation of their project, applicants are strongly encouraged to make provisions for evaluation of their projects (10-15 % of the total direct costs) and contingencies (i.e. fluctuations of exchange rates and unforeseeable circumstances, up to 5% of the total direct costs).





Most significantly, proposals will be evaluated for alignment of the scope and activities outlined with the proposed budget. Payment will be made to the applicant's institution, and in the case of a consortium, to the main grantee organisation. Grantees' installments are determined based on their proposed budgets, with 2-3 installments depending on project duration and budget. Indirect costs are limited to 7% for grants.

Please note that if you are selected for a Grant award, your organisation will be asked to submit two years of the latest financial audit reports. If your organisation does not have this readily available, a description of why audits are not available and further financial documentation will be requested for the required due diligence. As the End Violence Partnership is hosted administratively by UNICEF, organisations without a risk rating within UNICEF's financial management system will be required to undergo a financial micro-assessment during the grant period.

End Violence's Safe Online initiative will actively monitor the progress of all supported projects during the period of the grant, and periodic evaluation of progress. Specifically, all grantees will be required to:

- Report on project progress during annual reporting periods using the reporting templates which will be provided to the grantees by the Safe Online initiative;
- Establish and report on key milestones according to qualitative and quantitative indicators selected by the grantee based on their proposal using the provided Monitoring & Evaluation template with suggested indicators;
- Report on key potential barriers or obstacles included in the proposal. Identify challenges encountered and steps taken to address them throughout the project; and,
- Attend ad hoc webinars, bilateral meetings or other discussions relevant to the project, including field visits by the Safe Online team members, as applicable.

Terms & Conditions

- By submitting a proposal, you authorize the End Violence Partnership to evaluate the proposal for a potential award, and you agree to the terms herein.
- You agree and acknowledge that personal data submitted as part of the proposal, including name, mailing address, phone number, and email address of you and other named staff in the proposal may be collected, processed, stored and otherwise used by the End Violence Partnership for the purposes of administering the website, reporting to donors and evaluating the contents of the proposal.
- You acknowledge that neither party is obligated to enter into any official agreement as a result of the proposal submission, the End Violence Partnership is under no obligation to review or consider the proposal, and neither party acquires any intellectual property rights as a result of submitting the proposal. The End Violence Partnership reserves the right to withdraw at any time and the applicant agrees to not take any action to bring the Partnership into disrepute.
- Applicants represent and warrant that they have authority to submit a proposal in connection with this Open Call and grant the rights set forth herein on behalf of their organisation. Any problems that arise related to IP or data privacy are solely the responsibility of the applicant.
- A sample grant confirmation letter with its legal stipulations and conditions is available [here](#).





4. Selection criteria

Eligibility criteria

Only entities that fulfill these mandatory requirements will be considered eligible:

- Your organisation is a **legally registered** entity within the country or countries of implementation. In addition to this, letters of support from local authorities and organisations will also be required.
- Your organisation has been active for **at least three years**
- Your organisation is able to provide **previous auditing records**
- Your organisation is able to provide **one reference from a previous donor or partner**
- The proposed project aligns with **at least one of the 3 main objectives** set in this Call
- The proposed project focuses on the **eligible countries** set in this Call
- **Funds must not be for** an organisation's core funding, cost of infrastructure, general awareness campaigns, stand-alone research and data collection, activities where a substantial part of the budget is allocated for travel or conferences.
- Your organisation has a **safeguarding policy** in place (including data privacy) or is willing to develop a policy. Budget for safeguarding activities up to 5% of the total direct costs.
- Your organisation is able to demonstrate a **track record of implementing similar projects** in similar contexts (at least three project references with the corresponding supporting documentation shall be provided)
- Organisations applying for transnational projects shall demonstrate a **track record of success** delivering activities to prevent and tackle online CSEA regionally and internationally (at least three projects)

Mandatory and scoring criteria

All received proposals will be scored according to the following criteria:

MANDATORY CRITERIA

Criteria	Specific Criteria	Score
1. Legal registration	Registered as a legal entity (nonprofit or for-profit organisation) in the country or countries of implementation. In addition to this, letters of support from local authorities and organisations will also be required.	Yes/No
2. Alignment with priority objectives	The proposed solution addresses one or more of the three main objectives set in this Call	Yes/No
3. Focus on priority countries	The project focuses on the eligible countries set in this Call	Yes/No
4. Safeguarding	The entity has a Safeguarding Policy and procedures in place (including data privacy) or is willing to develop a policy	Yes/No





5. Track record of implementation	Track record implementing similar projects in similar contexts (at least 3 project references with the corresponding supporting documentation shall be provided). For transnational projects, track record of success delivering activities to tackle online CSEA regionally and internationally (at least 3 projects)	Yes/No
6. Organisational capacity and references	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Your organisation shall be active for at least 3 years - Your organisation shall be able to provide auditing records³ - Your organisation shall be able to provide at least one reference from a previous donor or partner 	Yes/No

SCORING CRITERIA

Criteria	Specific Criteria	Score
1. Demonstration of contextual challenges and the need to intervene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals should be grounded in rigorous and documented data and evidence, clearly outlining the need for action at the national, sub-national or transnational level • When available proposals should be informed by Disrupting Harm national reports • Integration of children's views in the program and activities design • Intersection between technology facilitated abuse, and other forms of violence against children, ensuring it articulates how it addresses other forms of violence • Strengthening of the evaluation and knowledge generation component of each intervention 	20 Points
2. Level of coordination at the national and/or transnational level, and cross-sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal should demonstrate high level of cross-sector coordination between key actors at national or transnational level • Alignment with national and/or regional action plans (or similar initiatives) and relevant frameworks (e.g. WeProtect Global Alliance Model of National Response) • Linkages with technology industry including domestic service providers, industry accountability systems and other relevant frameworks (e.g. Safety by Design) 	20 Points

³ If your organisation does not have this readily available, a description of why audits are not available and further financial documentation will be requested for the required due diligence.





3. Likelihood of impact and results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall probability of successful delivery of the program and the chance that the predicted impact and results will be realised • Organisation’s relevant experience and proof of capacity to implement the project successfully, including solid enumeration of risks and assumptions • Project designed in line with whole system approach, and includes a solid methodology for the implementation of the project • Gender mainstreaming incorporated in the design and implementation of the project • A clear Theory of Change and a well-articulated monitoring and evaluation plan 	20 Points
4. Local buy-in and sustainability approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Government system strengthening and sustainability • Active involvement of local partners in design, delivery of activities • Strengthening of local capacity (including under-represented capabilities) through the project to foster local expertise and ensure adequate national capacity and sustainable progress. • When possible, include new models to support and empower local experts in technology, social media, children outreach and other relevant areas to contribute creating a local expertise that understand their unique context to help combat online CSEA • There is a sound sustainability plan or considerations reflected in the proposal for the continuation of activities and results after the project implementation 	20 Points
5. Suitability of the team and partners to implement the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment of team members’ proficiency and experience with skills and time commitment needed to implement project • Team is diverse. We encourage gender diversity and representation from diverse contexts, countries and cultures as well as applications with representation from or inclusion of Global South countries, underrepresented populations such as BIPOC10, LGBTQI+11, people with disabilities, and those with relevant lived experience including survivors of online CSEA • Team is primarily composed of individuals with direct local knowledge and connections to the country where the solution is being built and piloted • Existence of key advisers filling team’s expertise gaps • Existence of relevant partners • Existence of consortia with different type of organisations 	10 Points
6. Budget and Value for Money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The matching of overall budget ask for Safe Online's investment with main objectives of the project • The balance of funding sources: entity’s own capital contribution to the project (human, capital, assets) and other investments • The balance of funding sources: entity’s own contribution to the project (human, capital, assets) and other investments 	10 Points
TOTAL SCORE		100 Points





More background

Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children

The [End Violence Partnership](#) is a public-private partnership launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2016 to accelerate progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 16.2: ending all forms of violence against children by 2030. End Violence comprises 600+ partners, including governments, civil society organisations, UN agencies, the private sector and research institutions, and acts as a global platform for advocacy, evidence-based action, and investments to end all forms of violence against children.

Through its [Safe Online initiative](#), End Violence provides funding, policy and advocacy guidance, and coalition-building to significantly advance national, regional and global efforts to prevent and respond to online CSEA. In 2021, End Violence's Safe Online investment portfolio reached US\$48 million in grants to projects achieving tangible results in nearly 70 countries.

Safe Online's grant portfolio as of August 2021 can be found [here](#).

