



Safe Online

2021 Open Call: A systematic approach to making the internet safe for children

Frequently Asked Questions

Prior to completing your proposal, please review this FAQ carefully. Questions or clarifications during the application period can be submitted [here](#). Answers to all questions submitted will be shared publicly periodically.

1. What is End Violence?

The [End Violence Partnership](#) is a public-private partnership launched by the United Nations 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, United Nations 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.

The [End Violence Fund](#) is a flexible funding vehicle that: a) identifies and addresses new and emerging challenges that threaten achievement of SDG 16.2; b) invests in innovative initiatives that have the potential to replicate and scale; and c) generates evidence, data and learning to inform policy and increase the impact of programmes.

Through its [Safe Online initiative](#), End Violence provides funding, policy and advocacy guidance, and coalition-building to advance national, regional and global efforts to prevent and respond to online child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA). In 2020, the Safe Online investment portfolio reached US\$48 million in grants to projects achieving tangible results in nearly 70 countries.

More information about the Safe Online portfolio can be found [here](#).

Both the End Violence Partnership and Fund are financially and administratively hosted by UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund).

2021 OPEN CALL: A systematic approach to making the internet safe for children - KEY FACTS

1. What is the primary focus of this 2021 Open Call?

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:

- (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 exploitation and abuse of children, and responding to harmful or otherwise unwanted experiences online

2. What are the [funding modalities](#) for this Open Call?

The 2021 'A systematic approach to making the internet safe for children' Open Call funding will be made available as grants from End Violence. Each organization or consortia can apply for an award of up to US\$ 1 million. Safe Online initiative encourages applications that fall anywhere within this range. 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, to be co-shared by all the grantees and sub-grantees within each proposal.

3. What is the [geographical focus](#) of the Open Call?

Leveraging the unique and comprehensive data and evidence generated by [Disrupting Harm](#), this Open Call will focus 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.

Proposals are invited from the following countries:

- **Eastern and Southern Africa:** 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
- **Southeast Asia:** Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao DPR, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam

4. What is [Disrupting Harm](#)?

In early 2019, the End Violence Partnership invested US\$7 million to develop **Disrupting Harm** through its Safe Online initiative, a holistic and innovative research project that aims to better understand how digital technology facilitates the sexual exploitation and abuse of children.

The Partnership brought together and funded three global organisations – [ECPAT International](#), [INTERPOL](#) and the [UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti](#) – to undertake new research in 13 countries across Eastern and Southern Africa and Southeast Asia. This type of high-quality research and assessment is new and unique in that it uses a multi-sector approach and the specific expertise of these three global agencies and their local partners.

You can read more on Disrupting Harm on End Violence website [here](#).



ELIGIBILITY

5. What types of organisations are eligible to submit a proposal?

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. However, the organisation submitting the application will be considered the main grantee, bearing all the contractual responsibilities vis-à-vis End Violence. Collaboration with other stakeholders such as private companies, law enforcement, government, etc. is encouraged. We encourage maximising synergies across jurisdictions/sectors/communities, as well as awareness of and sharing with existing research.

6. Can my organisation develop a joint application in partnership with another organisation?

Yes. Joint applications with other organisations that form part of a consortium are encouraged. The application should identify a primary organisation applicant that meets the eligibility criteria as specified and is willing and able to sign a Grant Confirmation Letter with UNICEF.

7. Can an organisation submit multiple Proposals?

Yes, as long as the eligibility criteria are met for each proposal. Multiple proposals from the same institution are acceptable. Also, an organisation can be the main applicant in one proposal and part of consortium in another one(s). However, consideration will be given to ensure diversity of grant recipients and therefore applications from the same institution will be carefully evaluated with this in mind.

8. Can I submit a Full Proposal from anywhere in the world?

Yes, although the organisation must be legally registered in the corresponding country. In addition to this, letters of support from local authorities and organisations will also be required. End Violence's Safe Online initiative encourages applicants from diverse contexts, countries and cultures, as well as applications with representation from or inclusion of Global South countries. As stated in the Open Call documents, Safe Online will have a clear preference for proposals which are able to show active involvement of local partners and authorities in the design and delivery of activities including strengthening of local capacity through the project.

9. Can current or past End Violence grantees apply for this Open Call?

Yes. Safe Online initiative welcomes applications from current and past grantee organisations if their projects align with the objectives of the Open Call and they have the technical, financial, and human resource capacity to meet the requirements of this Open Call.

10. Can I submit a Full Proposal for funding as an individual?

No. Individuals cannot submit proposals. The entity submitting the proposal needs to be a legally registered organisation. 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.

**11. Does my organisation have to have **previous experience** to qualify?**

Yes. For this Open Call, End Violence will assess the experience of your organisation to implement the project. Your organisation must have been active for at least three years, and you must be able to provide previous auditing records, at least one reference from a previous donor or partner, and at least three project references with the corresponding supporting documentation.

12. Can applicants outsource the **technical expertise in my project?**

Yes, but if the core team does not have the necessary technical expertise, the organisation should explain in response to the relevant application questions in their Proposal what type of technical expertise their partners or advisors are able to provide. As per UNICEF rules, all sub-contracting of activities described in the grantee's Programme Document require the prior approval of the UNICEF Funds Support Office. Advance approval is not required if partners sub-contract out general services such as general office IT support, bookkeeping, cleaning services, etc.

13. Is there a **maximum number of people I can have on the team?**

No. Suitability of the team to the proposal will be evaluated as well as if the budget is commensurate with the proposed scope of activities.

14. Can I submit my application in a **language other than English?**

No. If applicant organisations would like to write the proposals in a local language, Safe Online initiative would be pleased to receive the English translation of such proposals. We recommend that you use translation tools if you're unable to complete the proposal in English. However, applicants should keep in mind the due date for all applications and ensure that the English translation is as accurate to the extent possible.

15. What is the **duration of the supported initiatives?**

Safe Online initiative will support initiatives that last for a maximum of 36 months. A detailed description of the methodology and milestones with associated timeline is required as part of the application process.

16. What is the maximum **budget my organisation can apply for?**

The grants awarded will be up to US\$ 1,000,000. Organisations are required to submit a comprehensive budget using the annex provided on the application page. Proposals from organisations able to match the funding requested will be preferred.

17. What are **indirect costs and how does End Violence handle them?**

As per UNICEF rules and regulations, indirect costs are those associated with management results and classified in the management category (i.e. costs which are not associated with specific programmes/projects). End Violence will accept indirect costs that are 7% or lower, and they must be co-shared by as many grantees and sub-grantees involved in the implementation of your project. This should be reflected in your budget as part of your application.

18. What is a **due diligence assessment?**

As Fund Custodian and Administrator, UNICEF is the entity that sends out money to grant recipients of this Open Call. Prior to receiving a grant from End Violence via UNICEF, UNICEF will conduct a due diligence assessment by ensuring that all grantees selected are reviewed with respect to their (i) core values screening and (ii) fiscal management capacity assessment. The



core values and integrity assessment are to ensure alignment with UNICEF's core values, whilst the financial management capacity assessment determines eligibility for funding in terms of institutional, managerial, financial and technical expertise.

19. What is a child safeguarding policy?

End Violence requires each of its grantees to either already have in place or develop a robust child safeguarding policy before grant confirmation. However, it's not just about having a policy – it's also about ensuring there are procedures in place to put that policy into practice, and that all information on those procedures are easily accessible to practitioners, parents and children. Importantly, any children affected or included in the research also need to be made aware of those procedures and practices, therefore these need to be available in a child-friendly language. The policies and procedures must also address power dynamics within and across organisations, and explicitly understand the role of gender in how we do our work. Acknowledging these factors contribute to the creation of child-safe organisations.

End Violence is committed to supporting organisation's efforts to improve their safeguarding capacity and practice. End Violence's Safe Online initiative allows grantees to include a budget line for safeguarding and protection within their proposal budget (up to 5% of the total direct costs). This can include (but is not limited to) costs for capacity building, policy development, a proportion of costs for specialist personnel, as well as costs associated with managing safeguarding/protection concerns. The End Violence's Safeguarding Policy is available for all the grantees to consult [here](#) on our website.

APPLICATION PROCESS

20. How does the application process work?

Applicants are expected to **submit a Full Proposal** using this online [Application Form available at End Violence Safe Online 2021 Open Calls webpage](#) starting from **30 September 2021**. The last day for submissions of Proposals is **15 November 2021 11:59 PM EST**. Submissions to this Open Call will be reviewed by technical experts at End Violence as well as a group of external experts, as applicable. Please note that your organisation may be invited to provide more details before funding decisions are final.

21. What are the different steps in the application process?

STEP 1: Check that your organisation/company and project meet the eligibility criteria

Check the eligibility criteria:

- 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)

STEP 2: Any questions?

Please ensure you have thoroughly reviewed the [Safe Online 2021 Open Calls webpage](#) before beginning your application. Please review the full Call for Proposals and download a version of the Application Form to use in developing your application, but **the final submission must be made in the online portal.**

Carefully review these Frequently Asked Questions. You can also [submit questions](#) that you may have through the form provided on the site. We will endeavor to upload new questions and answers every two weeks.

STEP 3: Submit your Full through the [Safe Online 2021 Open Calls webpage](#).

All submissions must be made in English.

22. What are the scoring criteria?

Technical experts at End Violence as well as a group of external experts, as applicable, will review the Proposals based on an objective assessment of the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of contextual challenges and the need to intervene
2. Level of coordination at the national and/or transnational level, and cross-sector collaboration
3. Likelihood of impact and results
4. Local buy-in and sustainability approach
5. Suitability of the team and partners to implement the project
6. Budget and value for money

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 initiatives** such as [Pathfinding Countries](#) and [Safe to Learn](#); and,



- availability to **match the funding**, and a strong **evaluation and impact** assessment component.

23. Is it possible to **contact someone at End Violence about this Open Call before applying?**

Questions or clarifications during the application period can be submitted through the [FAQ Form](#). Answers to all questions submitted will be shared publicly periodically.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS

24. How are the **funds disbursed to successful applicants?**

UNICEF is the Fund Administrator and Custodian for End Violence and has the responsibility to disburse the funds to selected grantees. Therefore, organisations awarded funding from End Violence must be eligible and willing to receive funding from UNICEF as a grantee. Once selected and cleared, UNICEF will issue a Grant Confirmation Letter for countersignature, and the first installment will be disbursed within ten days.

25. Are there any **restrictions for what the funds invested are used for?**

The invested funds should be used for what the grantee has specified in its proposal and accompanying budget. End Violence, at its discretion, may conduct an audit during or after the implementation of the project. In any case, 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.

In addition to the relevant costs for the implementation of their project, applicants are strongly encouraged to make provisions for contingencies (i.e. fluctuations of exchange rates and unforeseeable circumstances, up to 5% of the total direct costs).

26. Can I see a sample of the **Grant Confirmation Letter?**

Yes. A sample grant confirmation letter with its legal stipulations and conditions is available [here](#) for interested applicants.

27. What are the **monitoring and evaluation requirements for successful applicants?**

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 Safe Online's reporting templates, which will be provided to grantees.
- Establish and report on key milestones according to qualitative and quantitative indicators selected by the grantee based on their project proposal using Safe Online's Results Framework and Project Milestones and Implementation Plan template which includes suggested indicators.
- Describe key potential barriers or obstacles you can foresee to the development of this research and any quantifiable risks, dependencies or framework conditions (such as regulation, standards, public acceptance, workforce considerations, financing of follow-up steps, cooperation of partners), that may determine whether and to what extent the expected



outcomes will be achieved in the related question on the application at the start of the project. Identify challenges encountered and steps taken to address them throughout the project.

- Attend ad hoc webinars, bilateral (online) meetings or other discussions relevant to the project, including field visits by End Violence team members, when feasible and as applicable.

Safe Online initiative will have a clear preference for proposals with a strong evaluation and impact assessment component. 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).

28. What are the reporting requirements for this Open Call?

The reporting requirements for grantees are included in Section III of the Grant Confirmation Letter shared above.

KEY DEFINITIONS

29. What is online child sexual exploitation and abuse?

Unless otherwise indicated, the definitions provided below are from the [Luxembourg Terminology Guidelines](#) for the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation (2016).

Online child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) refers both to the sexual abuse of children that is “facilitated by information, communication and technology (ICT) and to sexual abuse of children that is committed elsewhere and then repeated by sharing it online through, for instance, images and videos.”¹

Child sexual abuse material (CSAM) is used to describe a subset of “child sexual exploitation material” where there is abuse or a concentration on the anal or genital region of the child. Both terms refer to material that depicts and/or that documents acts that are sexually abusive and/or exploitative to a child.

Livestreaming of child sexual abuse of a child in real time occurs when a child is forced by an offender(s) to appear in front of a webcam to engage in sexual behaviour or to be subjected to sexual abuse. These acts are then live streamed over the Internet to a paying customer (also an offender(s)) who uses and/or requests a particular type of abuse to be perpetrated over the webcam in real-time.² It is also very possible that the offender is also the one perpetrating the abuse against the child physically.

Online sexual grooming refers to the process of establishing and building a relationship with a child through the use of the Internet or other digital technologies to facilitate either online or offline sexual contact with that child.

Sexual extortion of children, also called “sextortion”, is the blackmailing of a child with the help of images of that child in order to extort sexual favors, money, or other benefits from her/him under the threat of sharing the material beyond the consent of the depicted child.

¹ For more information on the definition of online CSEA and its many types, please refer to the Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, adopted by the Interagency Working Group in Luxembourg, 28 January 2016 (<http://luxemburgguidelines.org>).

² ECPAT International Factsheet (2016).



30. How does End Violence define a 'child'?

End Violence refers to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which defines a "child" as a person below the age of 18, unless the relevant laws recognise an earlier age of majority. On some issues, States are obliged to provide for minimum ages, such as the age for admission into employment and completion of compulsory education; but in other cases, the Convention is unequivocal in prohibiting life imprisonment without possibility of release or capital punishment for those under 18 years of age.

FAQ Update 8 October 2021

31. Are current grantees eligible to apply for this open call if the proposed project is not already funded by our current grant?

As per the eligibility criteria set in the Open Call documents, current End Violence grantees are eligible to apply. All the organisations can apply for new projects not funded by End Violence, as well as additional project components not funded by End Violence under a project which receives (or has received) support by End Violence.

32. I would like to access an editable version of the online application form. The Hyperlink in the online form to the editable version just links to the Call for proposals website, and I cannot find the form in any of the annexes.

To access the application form, please click and download the Invitation Pack for the specific Call (Regional/ Global).

33. We are seeking clarification on the rules of eligibility under the regional call for the development of transnational projects. This question concerns the specific case of INGOs networks, structured as "family organisations" and operating in the regions and countries eligible under this call through a number of independent member organizations. Considering the specificity of this structure, we would like to know if an eventual transnational project would be considered as eligible (and would therefore meet the mandatory criteria of the call) if the primary organisation applicant and its co-applicants affiliated under the same network are, all together, registered legal entities in the countries of implementation OR if the call requires the primary organisation applicant to be registered as a legal entity in all the countries of implementation.

As per the eligibility criteria set in the Open Call documents, it is required that applicants are legally registered as an entity within the country or countries of implementation. In addition to this, letters of support from local authorities and organisations will also be required. In the case of consortia and transnational projects, you will need to identify at least one legally registered organisation as a partner for each of the target countries, in charge of the implementation of activities and operations in the country or countries. In addition to this, you will need to show letters of support or any other proof of endorsement from local authorities and/or organisations. The lead applicant (the one bearing solely the contractual obligations vis-à-vis End Violence) shall be legally registered in the country or countries where their activities and operations regarding this project will take place.



34. I would like to know whether the funding call for Eastern and Southern Africa is also open to UN organisations (e.g. UNICEF)?

As per the Guidelines of these two Calls, International Organisations such as UN entities (including UNICEF) are eligible to apply, either as lead applicants or co-applicants. Following with these Guidelines, consortia of organizations with different strengths and expertise are highly encouraged. However, the organisation submitting the application will be considered the main grantee, bearing all the contractual responsibilities vis-à-vis End Violence.

35. Regarding non-eligible costs, could you kindly clarify what is meant by core organizational funding? We understand that this is different from indirect costs since you state that the Fund allows a maximum of 7% of indirect costs for grants. Could you confirm that staff costs for project implementation will be covered by the grant?

We consider core organisational funding the organisational and administrative costs that cannot be directly or indirectly attributed to the development of the project. These costs are different from the indirect costs (costs incurred by the organisation that can be indirectly attributed to the development of the project). Staff costs for project implementation can be covered by the grant, as long as they can directly be attributed to the project and prorated according to the percent of effort/time spent on the project can be covered by the grant (direct costs), or indirectly (indirect costs).

36. Can one organization apply in more than one consortium for the same call?

As per the eligibility criteria set in the Open Call documents, an organisation can submit multiple proposals, as long as the eligibility criteria are met for each proposal. Multiple proposals from the same institution are acceptable. Also, an organisation can be the main applicant in one proposal and part of consortium in another one(s). However, consideration will be given to ensure diversity of grant recipients and therefore applications from the same institution will be carefully evaluated with this in mind.

37. Could you kindly confirm that for the regional call for proposals, we may include more than one country in our proposal?

As per the eligibility criteria set in the Open Call documents, transnational projects are allowed within the regional call for proposals. Please kindly refer to the eligibility criteria and our replies in this FAQ regarding the need for registration and letters of support in the country or countries of implementation.