

End Violence Fund Grantee Convening

A space for creativity, learning and problem-solving







8-10 December 2019, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia





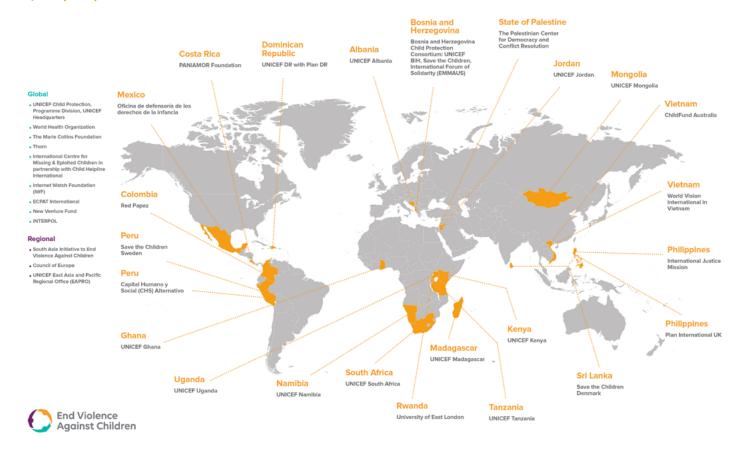
Introduction

The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children is a collaboration of over 400 governments, UN agencies, civil society organisations, research institutions, the private sector and more. We harness the collective energy, expertise and capabilities of our global network to end to all forms of violence against children, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16.2.

As of December 2019, the affiliated End Violence Fund has invested \$32 million into 37 projects across more than 50 countries to tackle online child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) since its inception in 2016. These projects are working to deliver practical and innovative solutions to the issue and contribute to the systemic response that is needed to protect children.

ONLINE GRANT PORTFOLIO

Total funding committed \$ 32,169,491



In addition to financial resources, the End Violence Fund invests in technical resources, skills and opportunities to support learning and build a culture that values collaboration. In line with this approach, after three years of grant-making, the Fund held its first grantee convening from 8-10 December 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The aim of the convening was to provide grantees with a collaborative space to teach, learn, network, and increase the potential impact of their work on the ground.





Why a grantee convening?

The grantee convening provided a platform for organisations across the world to come together, share their resources and experiences, and strengthen the field of child online safety. Nearly **50 individuals attended the convening, representing 38 grantee organisations from 33 projects.** In addition, the convening was attended by three End Violence Fund donors (Human Dignity Foundation, Oak Foundation and UK Home Office); one private sector company (LiveMe); one global mobile industry organisation (GSMA); and the Investors Forum, which works to convene international, public and private donors to increase funding and advocacy to end violence against children.

Speed networking: Let's break the ice and meet each other!

The convening officially began on Sunday, 8 December 2019, with a welcoming and networking reception. The diversity and the richness of the group was remarkable, but what was truly unique and memorable was the positive energy, curiosity and openness of all participants. The Fund is proud to have such an impressive group of dedicated people working together to ensure children are safe online.

What do children say?

The Fund showed videos of children from Albania, Colombia, and Vietnam speaking about their online experiences and how they have benefited from the funded projects.

List of organisations that participated in the convening, representing 33 projects

Name of organisation	Country of implementation
1. 5Rights Foundation	Rwanda
2. Capital Humano y Social (CHS) Alternativo	Peru
3. ChildFund Australia	Vietnam
4. Child Helpline International (CHI)	Global
5. Council of Europe	Regional
6. Corporación Colombiana de Padres y Madres (Red PaPaz)	Colombia
7. ECPAT International	Global
8. Fundación Renacer	Colombia
9. International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC)	Global
10. International Forum of Solidarity (EMMAUS)	Bosnia and Herzegovina
11. International Justice Mission (IJM)	Philippines
12. Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)	Global
13. INTERPOL	Global
14. Marie Collins Foundation	Vietnam, Global
15. Oficina de Defensoría de los Derechos de la Infancia A.C. (ODI)	Mexico

¹Four grantees were unable to attend the convening.





Name of organisation	Country of implementation
16. Paniamor Foundation	Costa Rica
17. Plan International Philippines	Philippines
18. South Asia Initiative for Ending Violence against Children (SAIEVAC)	Regional
19. Save the Children Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina
20. Save the Children Serbia	Serbia
21. Save the Children Peru	Peru
22. Save the Children Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
23. Save the Children Sweden	Peru
24. Thorn	Global
25. UNICEF Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic
26. UNICEF East Asia and Pacific	Regional
27. UNICEF Ghana	Ghana
28. UNICEF Jordan	Jordan
29. UNICEF Headquarters	Global
30. UNICEF Kenya	Kenya
31. UNICEF Madagascar	Madagascar
32. UNICEF Mongolia	Mongolia
33. UNICEF Namibia	Namibia
34. UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti	Global
35. UNICEF South Africa	South Africa
36. UNICEF Tanzania	Tanzania
37. World Health Organisation	Global
38. World Vision International in Vietnam	Vietnam





Objectives

The grantees identified three specific objectives for the convening:

- Share knowledge, good practices and new trends and approaches to end online CSEA;
- Build capacity to address and make progress on pressing and challenging issues; and
- Network to build working relationships and foster future collaboration.

Another key aim was to co-create a body of collaborative knowledge, shared lessons and a culture that values collaboration as a resource for learning.

Outcomes

The convening was a remarkable contribution to a field of organisations working to tackle online CSEA, bringing together organisations working at global, regional and national levels. The convening also enabled new streams of collaboration in multiple areas, such as connecting those working on law enforcement capacity to new investigative tools or linking those who work on education to reporting and helpline expertise.

Throughout the convening, participants strategised how to better collaborate across sectors, enhance their ability to engage industry, and measure and communicate results in their work to end online CSEA. Through presentations, panel discussions, breakout sessions, gallery walks, and networking, participants were able to share ideas, articulate challenges, voice concerns, consider solutions, and initiate or build upon existing collaboration. Grantees also reflected on the inter-linkages and overlaps between new forms of abuse facilitated by technologies and other forms of violence against children, as well as on the latest technological tools and innovative practices to protect children online.

The convening also aimed to strengthen the role of the Fund as a "critical friend" by connecting the grantee community with new resources and collaborators, maximising opportunities for grantees to showcase solutions, and mobilising resources and partnerships. This was achieved by providing a platform for grantees to engage directly with the Fund's donors and other members of the Investors Forum, and by aligning the convening with the Global Summit to Tackle Online CSEA, a high-level event that gathered over 400 individuals, organisations and governments working to prevent and end online CSEA.

Some overarching priorities emerged that are applicable not only to the work of the grantees, but also to the wider child online safety community and key actors.

Build the evidence base

through data collection and analysis to identify protective and risk factors that are specific to online CSEA and applicable to other forms of violence.

Adopt a differentiated approach to stakeholders' engagement and cooperation,

especially for industry actors, while ensuring cross-sector collaboration at all levels and stages in the process.

Adopt flexible approaches

in the design and scope of programmes while prioritising sustainability and taking into account contextual factors.

Build a collective voice, shared understanding, messaging and a common ask, including by using common definitions and terminologies, to communicate and advocate about online CSEA.

Identify and measure what

works in universal and specific contexts, and promote a culture of learning and continued improvement by sharing knowledge and best practices.

Make specialised knowledge and skills universal to ensure that all relevant professionals understand and are able to address online CSEA and other forms of violence within their national child protection systems and the international ecosystem.

² The term 'critical friend' refers to a partner that builds trust and engenders a reflective culture that provides both constructive and positive feedback to the grantee in a supportive way throughout the life of the work.



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Increase access to technology

and applications to tackle online CSEA and further invest in new technology and innovation.

Adapt existing child rights instruments and accountability frameworks to fully protect children from online violence and ensure that all actors work for the best interests of children, including by protecting children's privacy.

Ensure children and media are part of the solution by promoting digital activism and nurturing a culture of shared responsibility.

Invest in prevention by

addressing social norms and adapting existing evidencebased frameworks designed to tackle traditional forms of violence against children.





Lessons learned, best practices and solutions

Celebrating accomplishments

Jordan: UNICEF supported the establishment of the Unit on the Prevention of Online Child Sexual Exploitation to identify and handle cases of online CSEA in cooperation with the government.

Peru: CHS Alternativo supported the development and adoption of a new law that explicitly recognises and criminalises CSEA.

The Philippines: International Justice Mission helped rescue 150 child survivors, arrest 55 traffickers and secure 19 convictions.

Mexico: ODI installed specialised units for child testimony in the Mexican Supreme Court, with clearly articulated procedures to ensure that children will only have to testify once.

Vietnam: ChildFund Australia engaged communities with over 90% of ethnic minority children through its Swipe Safe project, which resulted in improved knowledge and skills on online safety.

Namibia: UNICEF trained 72% of the country's justice professionals by integrating child online protection in pre-and in-service training programmes on the Child Witness Training Manual for police, prosecutors, magistrates, social workers and educators.

Dissecting challenges and areas for improvement

Building on the positivity of so many accomplishments, the group also identified challenges. As a result, participants gained better clarity on the areas that need attention and discovered ways to address them. The challenges were grouped in three high-level categories:

- Stakeholder engagement;
- Awareness-raising, education and training; and,
- Project design and implementation capacity.

Grantees were equally forthcoming with ideas about how to address common challenges - and learn from one another – throughout the duration of the convening. For example, to address a lack of stakeholder engagement, grantees encouraged one another to ensure government representatives were involved from the start of a project, and to find hooks within the existing national strategy to ensure online CSEA is not overshadowed by other priorities, among other responses.

Increasing efficacy and capacity

A series of sessions and workshops were held to increase programme effectiveness and grantees' capacity in a variety of ways.

- Technology solutions & innovative practices
- Online CSEA in the context of the wider VAC agenda
- Child safeguarding
- Cross-sectoral collaboration

- Measuring and communicating results
- Industry actors
- The power of parents, schools and communities



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Examples of learnings from the sessions are highlighted below.

I. Cross-sectoral collaboration

Building on experiences from their project implementation, grantees explored good practices to design, build, sustain and contribute to cross-sector collaboration in the field.

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Ensure you have the right decision-makers in the room so resources can be channeled towards solutions. This can be especially challenging when the government says the crime is a low priority, often because it is not 'visible' and there is a lack of hard data and evidence to track prevalence rates. In this case, consider how to frame online CSEA within the issues that are priorities for the government, for example, within a response to trafficking or other cybercrimes.

II. Safeguarding policies and practices

The transition from an organisation without a strong safeguarding policy to one with a policy can be challenging and requires the nurturing of a safeguarding culture. This session explored how to make that transition, and how to solve challenges that might arise along the way.

Highlight

Senior managers have a key role to play in championing child safeguarding and have a critical responsibility to lead by example for their organisations. Senior leadership needs to communicate a clear message that the policy is not tokenistic and should lead the way in building a culture of compliance.

III. Online CSEA in the context of the wider VAC agenda

This session was a space to share, learn and reflect on the interlinkages and overlaps between new forms of child abuse facilitated by technologies and more traditional forms of violence against children.

Highlight

Research shows significant overlaps between online and other forms of violence against children. For example, the WHO found that 40% of children who experienced bullying have also been bullied online. These and other overlaps are not necessarily addressed in the global response at present. There is, therefore, a strong argument for integrating the response to online issues into existing mechanisms to address violence in general, something that will also help the child protection community maximise scarce resources.

IV. The role of parents, schools and communities

Participants discussed how parents, schools and communities can be meaningfully empowered and engaged in the fight against online CSEA. They also explored challenges related to that effort, such as how to properly consult key stakeholders, create sustainable programmes, overcome socio-cultural and gender barriers, and more.

Highlight

Empower children to voice their opinions and offer ideas about what needs to happen from beginning to end; ensure their voices are genuinely heard and that interactions are free from judgment and criticism. For example, programmes can work to establish child rights clubs and fora in schools that can identify issues, provide suggestions and inform activities.

V. Technology solutions and innovative practices

This session, which was organised in collaboration with the Investors Forum, explored global technology-related trends that have an impact on children's safety online, including the key challenges, emerging threats, and opportunities to respond to online CSEA.





Highlight

Law enforcement faces huge challenges to conduct investigations because of the large number of data sources that relate to the crime and the international nature of the investigations needed. An additional challenge is the volume of data (i.e. the number of items being seized, as well as the size of the data), notably due to an exponential increase of videos in recent years. Technology is critical for the work of law enforcement to analyse, categorise, and share data in relation to online CSEA.

VI. Industry actors

Grantees worked – individually and in groups – to engage industry actors with their work. They also explored how organisations can identify and collaborate with the right partners in their respective countries based on different types of collaboration models.

Highlight

There are many ways organisations can have converging interests with private sector players. Fighting online CSEA is clearly a vested interest for ICT companies, particularly those who provide connectivity to the internet and those who host and provide internet services. No company wants to be singled out for their service being misused to distribute or store CSAM or for failing to do enough to protect their vulnerable users.

VII. Measuring and communicating results

Grantees discussed and workshopped the best ways to measure and communicate results from projects, including how to identify and communicate stories and solutions from the field to inform key audiences and support advocacy efforts.

Highlight

Grantees reflected on the challenges they faced when communicating with various audiences because the media, as well as other stakeholders, often opt for 'newsworthy' items and decide what they want to say regardless of the communication needed for a particular topic. However, solutions journalism is a growing area that does not always focus on the negative or newsworthy, and this could be an option worth exploring.

Hear from grantees

After the convening, a feedback survey was conducted to gather participants' satisfaction and observations about the convening; 92% of participating organisations completed the survey and gave the convening of **4.6 (out of 5)** indicating high satisfaction with the event in general.

Very interesting to meet so many different types of organisations, including industry actors, who are all working on the same issue but in different ways. It certainly broadened my horizon in the fight against online CSEA.

The convening was the most engaging and productive gathering I have ever attended: non-stop learning, non-stop engagement.

The energy in the room and the welcoming nature of the convening, where all participants felt they could share their views without any reservations, was amazing!





The way forward

It is the Fund's aspiration to continue to connect grantees to each other and relevant stakeholders. The Fund is also committed to promoting knowledge exchange and using its investments to generate credible evidence for the field. In 2020, the Fund is also expected to welcome a new cohort of grantees working on cuttingedge tools for the global community to make children safe online. This cohort will enrich the diversity of the organisations the Fund is partnering with and bring new expertise to the network.



With these evidence and investments, the Fund hopes to contribute to the field of ending violence against children more broadly. Through the End Violence Fund donors, the Secretariat is humbled in its support to like-minded organisations around the world and is steadfast in its commitment to protect all children.









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The End Violence Fund: Safe Online Window – Tackling Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

2016

In July, the United Nations Secretary-General launches the Global Partnership and Fund to End Violence Against Children (End Violence) – a unique public-private collaboration that includes United Nations agencies, governments, industry, regional bodies, civil society, young people, advocates and champions, all focused on one thing – making the world safe for children.

In July, the **UK Home Office** becomes the first donor to the Fund with a commitment of £40 million focused on ending online child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) aligned with the Model National Response. This contribution effectively **opened the Safe Online window** of the Fund and **the first funding round** is launched.

2017

In February, the first funding round is completed, and 15 organisations join the first cohort of End Violence Fund grantees.

In July, **Human Dignity Foundation** commits US\$5.05 million to the Fund for online CSEA.

In September, the Fund launches its **second funding round** also focused on building the foundations of an integrated response to online CSEA aligned to the Model National Response.

2018

In February, the second cohort of End Violence grantees is announced - another 16 organisations join the End Violence community working to tackle online CSEA.

In April, End Violence's first **Knowledge Exchange webinar** is hosted for grantees focusing on sharing key results, lessons learned and challenges. The focus of each webinar has varied depending on needs and requests of grantees.

In September, the second Knowledge Exchange webinar is hosted.

In October, the Oak Foundation commits US\$5 million to the Fund for tackling online CSEA.

In November, the Fund invests in a new invitation-only project in Rwanda, working to create a child online protection policy and implementation plan for the country.

In December, the third Knowledge Exchange webinar is hosted.

2019

In March, the Fund supports the **launch of a large-scale research project** to collect evidence on online CSEA and other forms of crimes against children – Disrupting Harm – in 14 countries in Southeast Asia, South and Eastern Africa.

In March, the Fund invests in its second invitation-only project focusing on capacity building for child online protection practitioners in Vietnam and creating a Global Protection Online Network, a secure knowledge platform for professionals to access key resources to tackle online CSEA, with the goal of scaling up in other countries.

In April, the fourth Knowledge Exchange webinar is hosted.





In July, the fifth Knowledge Exchange webinar is hosted.

In July, the University of East London and 5Rights Foundation are the first End Violence grantees to complete their joint project in Rwanda. The key outcome of this project took place in June 2019, when a child online protection policy and implementation plan was passed by the Rwandan government.

In September, the Fund launches a \$13 million open call for solutions focused on leveraging new and existing technologies with the potential to enhance detection and response to online violence and prevent online CSEA threats. Approximately \$3 million is reserved for invitation-only strategic opportunities.

In September, Oficina de Defensoría de Los Derechos de la Infancia (ODI) completes its project in Mexico focused on child protection services providing protection and reinstitution plans for victims of online violence. Over 1,200 state child protection lawyers and case workers were provided with skills to represent child survivors in 27 Mexican states.

In October, the sixth Knowledge Exchange webinar is hosted.

In November, the seventh Knowledge Exchange webinar is hosted.

In November, the South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) completes its project. SAIEVAC developed a regional strategy to address online child exploitation and abuse in eight countries in South Asia. Regional efforts generated momentum at the national level and national level plans were finalised in Nepal and Sri Lanka, while other countries began developing their national plans or revitalizing their legal systems and enforcement mechanisms.

In December, the first-ever **End Violence Grantee Convening** is held - 47 individuals from 38 organisations, along with over 15 donors and external stakeholders gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

In December, UNICEF Jordan completes its project, which built national capacity through the Prevention of Online Sexual Exploitation of Children Unit, mandated to identify and handle cases of online CSEA. As part of the grant, the Unit handled 121 reported cases of online CSEA and supported the forensic digital examination of 325 digital evidences as part of conviction proceedings. Jordan also became the first country in the region to be connected to INTERPOL's International Child Sexual Exploitation Database.

In December, Save the Children Sweden, working with Save Peru, completes its project in Peru. Through adolescent leaders, the organisation increased the knowledge of over 4,800 children and young people on the dangers of online abuse. Save the Children also promoted activism among adolescents, helping them promote awareness through communications campaigns and dialogue spaces with authorities.





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