



A global project to implement the **2020 ITU guidelines on child online protection (COP)** through digital skills development and policy support

ITU Global Project on Child Online Protection

Creating a safe and empowering digital environment for children

Project concept note

Recent developments in information and communication technologies (ICTs) have spawned economic, social and political changes across the globe. The ways individuals live and do day-to-day business has changed dramatically, affecting children and youth. These changes have offered new opportunities for children to have access online, but have also brought risks and challenges to children's rights.

Ensuring digital safety in the online environment, especially for children and young people, requires a global approach based on internationally recognized standards and recommendations and collaboration at national, regional and international level through the development of harmonized frameworks. Integrated approaches that include legal and regulatory frameworks, technical and procedural measures, organizational structures, capacity building, and international cooperation, are necessary.

The 2020 ITU guidelines on child online protection provide a holistic approach to child online protection. They are the result of a multi-stakeholder joint effort of a working group of internationally recognized experts in the fields of child rights, cybersecurity and ICTs. The child online protection initiative brings together partners from all relevant sectors and with its multi-stakeholder community, serves as a global leadership platform providing a strong network of partners for validation and joint implementation.



A global project to implement the child online protection guidelines

The 2020 ITU guidelines on child online protection will be implemented through a global project, divided into two workstreams:

Workstream 1: Digital skills development

Globally, there is a lack of official tools, resources, and educational programmes on child online protection developed in coordination with relevant national and international stakeholders. However, to effectively protect and empower children online, all relevant stakeholders need to have the awareness, knowledge, and skills to play their part. These stakeholders include children, parents, carers and educators, the ICT industry and policy-makers.

To develop effective measures on child online protection, children need to be involved in the development and implementation of relevant frameworks – and therefore need to be equipped with the digital skills and the necessary knowledge to become digitally literate and resilient for themselves and for others.

Dissemination of the ITU child online protection guidelines, combined with the creation of opportunities to engage with all relevant stakeholders, can be considered as a first step towards building a generation of children and young people, parents, carers and educators who are well equipped with digital skills and the necessary knowledge on the risks, harms and opportunities that the online environment brings.

Activities

Translation and dissemination of the child online protection guidelines into national languages.

Face-to-face and online trainings for children and young people.

Train-the-trainer-modules for parents, carers and educators.

A game and an app for children of different age groups reflecting the child online protection guidelines.



«Effectively protect and empower children online»

«Implement, monitor, and evaluate child online protection mechanisms»



Workstream 2: Child online protection policy support

The global nature of the digital environment requires international cooperation to develop an effective response. However, the lack of harmonized laws that meet international human rights standards (such as the Committee on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols) and the lack of international cooperation remain key challenges for the protection of children online. In addition, the lack of capacity to apply, implement, monitor, and evaluate child online protection mechanisms makes it even more difficult to act.

The development of child online protection strategies, policies, legislation, and regulations based on internationally recognized recommendations is therefore necessary in order to achieve change in protecting children's rights in the digital environment.

Activities

National strategy development on COP.

Capacity building for ICT professionals and government stakeholders.

Enhanced cooperation among relevant stakeholders.

Creation of national child taskforces.

Objectives and expected results

The objectives of the ITU global project on child online protection are to:

- Foster a culture of child online protection with all relevant stakeholders through awareness, knowledge sharing and digital skills development.
- Step up the development of strategies that aim to build human and institutional capacity on child online protection at regional and national levels and share experiences gained with other ITU Member States. This project aims to develop and implement child online safety strategies (including policies, regulations, legal frameworks, and educational programmes) among governments, industry, and civil society to increase capacity development and knowledge sharing with all relevant stakeholders, including children and their families, by creating an ecosystem of measures and programmes at national, regional and international level that would ensure child online protection while empowering children with the necessary digital skills to fully benefit from the online environment.

The major outcomes of the project will be:

01 Availability of child online protection guidelines for all stakeholders translated and disseminated at the national level.	02 Dissemination of additional child-friendly resources supporting the development of digital skills for children.	03 Development and adoption of child online protection national strategies and related frameworks.	04 Development of implementation frameworks for the establishment of child online protection related national programmes.	05 International platform for coordinated dialogue and cooperation on national, regional and sector-specific efforts.
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Timeline and milestones

2021

- Project kick-off and development of satellite projects in all ITU regions.
- General e-learning training for all relevant target groups.
- Awareness raising and campaigning.

2022

- One Game and one app for children.
- Face-to-face training programmes for children.
- Train-the-trainers programmes for ICT professionals, social workers, and representatives of the education sector.
- Capacity building for government stakeholders.
- Adoption of national strategies and related frameworks on COP.

2023

- Validation of national implementation plans.
- National child taskforces.
- Newly established cooperative actions and channels.

2024

- Development of 10 global principles on COP.

Stay tuned and keep yourself informed on:
www.itu-cop-guidelines.com
and www.itu.int/cop

