

## The Global Fund to End Violence Against Children

### 5<sup>th</sup> Knowledge Exchange Webinar Recap

30 July 2019

#### (1) End Violence Fund update on Safeguarding

**Sarah Stevenson** (Safeguarding Specialist) thanked the grantees for their reports on safeguarding and informed that a 'progress chart' will be shared with each grantee outlining key areas for improvement. Moreover, a tool is being developed to enable grantees to identify safeguarding capacity needs and areas requiring additional support or guidance.

#### (2) University of East London and 5Rights Foundation: [Support the Government of Rwanda to develop a National Child Online Protection Policy and 5-year Implementation Plan](#).

**Professor Julia Davidson** shared insights on how to develop a National Child Online Protection (COP) Policy and Implementation Plan based on the Rwanda experience. More specifically, she outlined the below key steps and recommendations to ensure that research can have impact and be used to design and implement policy and practices.

##### Key steps:

- **Consult key stakeholders** (e.g. relevant Ministries, academia, key practitioners, civil society, community groups, children, etc.).
- **Convene a cross-sector expert group** (nationally and internationally).
- **Conduct a 'gap analysis'** via a literature review with inputs from cross-sector representatives (health, law, academia, industry, education, social welfare & services, victim support and criminal justice) and a small scale qualitative research (e.g. in Rwanda 12 in-depth stakeholder interviews, workshop and Focus Groups with 30 educators were conducted).
- **Develop the COP Policy and a 5-year Implementation Plan** with a clear timeline and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each policy area:
  - i. Institutional capacity (COP Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee)
  - ii. Legal and regulatory (CP, CJ legal frameworks, data protection)
  - iii. Response systems (removal of CSAM, offender management, victim support)
  - iv. Technical controls/safeguards (CSR, online protection)
  - v. Education
  - vi. Public awareness (communication strategy developed for roll out)
  - vii. Research and development (must dovetail with plan)
  - viii. Global cooperation

##### Lessons learned and promising practices to conduct research with impact:

- Seek Government support in advance for future policy implementation.
- Win buy-in/support from key stakeholders, both senior and community level in advance of and throughout the work to enable immediate implementation when the research is concluded.
- Co-ownership is key (e.g. University of Rwanda and Ministry of ICT).
- Spend time in country to develop an understanding of key social issues; in country scoping work will ensure that practice, policy and methods are context-sensitive and relevant.

- Do not assume or impose practice and methods from elsewhere without discussion and agreement at local level – be prepared to redesign.
- Develop an awareness raising strategy targeting key groups at senior or community level.
- Locate COP around other key issues (e.g. other forms of violence against children and gender-based violence, sexual health and well-being with children, safe schools, etc.).
- Emphasize also the benefits of digital environments, not only the risks.
- Align the COP agenda with investments to maximize children's digital empowerment and contribution as future citizens to the prosperity and civic life of their nation. Digital environment in which children are empowered to exercise their rights to: (i) protection from all types of violence; (ii) promotion of their health and wellbeing; (iii) access to quality information; (iv) prevention from economic exploitation; and, (v) furtherance of their educational attainment.

#### **Q&A:**

**QUESTION 1 – Sarah Hunt (ChildFund Australia):** I would be keen to learn more in relations to the comment about ensuring that the benefits of children and young people accessing the Internet aren't overshadowed by the risk. Do you find that this recommendation is supported by decision makers? Some of our experience in Mekong has been that the default position of policy makers and law makers is to restrict access rather than invest in safe usage and I would be keen to know how this plays out in Rwanda?

**ANSWER:** My experience has been that representatives from a range of Ministries in Rwanda have a very positive approach, whilst understanding the risks. We worked closely with the ICT Ministry and the campaign we have developed also emphasises the positive aspects alongside the risks. I have worked in other countries that may be more likely to restrict access, but this was not the case in Rwanda.

### **(3) EMMAUS: Establish a Safer Internet Centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Amela Efendic** shared the Bosnia and Herzegovina experience in setting up a Safe Internet Centre (SIC).

The SID was developed based on the EU model and it includes four main segments:

- (1) Awareness center:** to raise awareness and understanding of children, parents, general public, teachers and educational staff. Information and material for children are developed for three age groups: up to 8 years old, 9-12 years old and 13+.
- (2) Helpline:** telephone line free of charge to provide support to victims, parents and general public. A helpline manual was developed and two psychologists were recruited.
- (3) Hotline:** anonymous reporting of illegal content online, especially child sexual abuse material (CSAM). The hotline includes a database for easier administration of the reports and is supported by INHOPE and INTERPOL. A protocol with law enforcement agencies was developed to enable follow up actions and triage the material against the relevant legislations.
- (4) Youth Panel:** consists of nine members and three coordinators (one lead and two support). Members participate in peer education activities and contribute to the development of online safety materials, resources and messages.

The SIC Advisory Board is a body that provides non-binding advice to manage the four main segments and comprises of six members: BiH Ministry of Security, BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, BiH Agency for the

Protection of Personal Data, Faculty of Criminology, entity and Brcko District law enforcement agencies/cyber crime units, and IFS-EMMAUS representatives.

**Lessons learned and promising practices:**

- Involve children and young people in all the activities as they know best what they fear or confuse them in the digital world. Consult children to design services and tools to support child victims and prevent online harmful practices against children.
- Build consortia to prevent child online abuse as there is a strong need for cross-sector engagement.
- Develop tools like protocols and manuals to facilitate cross-sector collaboration.
- Secure adequate in-house skills and capacity (e.g. child psychologists).
- Ensure alignment with relevant laws and legislations.
- Adapt existing models, tools and material to the local context and needs.

**Q&A:**

**QUESTION 1 – Maha Homs (UNICEF Jordan):** how is the SIC different from the Ureport platform?

**ANSWER:** Ureport is a messaging tool developed by UNICEF to empower young people around the world to engage with and speak out on issues that matter to them. Ureport in BiH is new and answers from adolescents have been collected on various issues (employment, health, etc.) including child protection. Online safety was noted by adolescents as a key area they are concerned about.