

# ICTs and Child Participation

## ICTS AND VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: MINIMISING RISKS AND RELEASING POTENTIAL

*Expert Consultation, Costa Rica, 9-10 June 2014*



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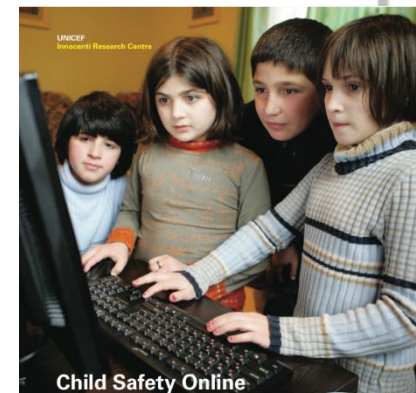
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# UNICEF Global Level Research

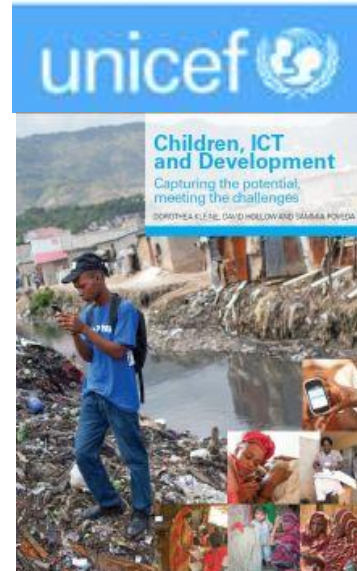
Research to the enhance understanding of children's use of ICTs, risks opportunities, gaps and challenges

- ***Child Safety Online: Global Challenges and Strategies***  
UNICEF Innocenti Research Center in collaboration with UNICEF HQ, (2011)
  - Analysis of children's attitudes, behavior and risks they face; policy responses and services available to children; and suggestion of a framework for action
- ***A Global Agenda for Children's Rights in the Digital Age: Recommendations for Developing UNICEF's Research Strategy***, UNICEF Office of Research and The London School of Economics and Political Science (2013)
  - Scoping study on global research needs and gaps



# UNICEF Global Level Research

- ***Digital Citizenship and Safety Project***  
Youth Section, Division of Communications, UNICEF Headquarters
  - Exploratory research on young people's use of ICTs in Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Africa, Kenya, Zambia, Argentina etc.
- ***Integrating Information and Communication Technologies Into Communication for Development Strategies to Support and Empower Marginalized Adolescent Girls***  
Communication for Development, UNICEF Headquarters (2013)
- ***Children, ICT and Development Capturing the potential, meeting the challenges***  
UNICEF Office of Research (2013)



Integrating Information and Communication Technologies into Communication for Development Strategies to Support and Empower Marginalized Adolescent Girls

# Findings

- Need to better understand children's use and access to ICTs in different settings/contexts, perception of risks and harm, opportunities, parents protective capacities
- Need to understand effective policy and programme response in different contexts
- Need to involve children in research and development of policy and programme response
- Positive experiences of the use of ICTs for the empowerment of children and for their protection against violence and abuse



A Global Agenda for Children's Rights in the Digital Age  
Recommendations for Developing UNICEF's Research Strategy

Professor Nicola Livingstone  
Dr. Muelan E. Halper  
September 2013



Child Safety Online

Global challenges  
and strategies

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# Safe and ethical involvement of children in research and programmes

## ➤ ***Some ethical challenges and dilemmas in research***

- **Impact on children of participation in research on VAC**

- The risk of discomfort, distress, or trauma to child research participants
- The risk to child participants from others learning of their research involvement

- **Provision of information**

- How much information to provide to children
- How much information to provide to parents

- **Children's consent to participate in research**

- **Privacy: Confidentiality, anonymity**

- **Power issues, methodology and ethics**

## ➤ ***What are the challenges and dilemmas in promoting digital citizenship and empowerment of children online?***

# USE OF ICTS FOR CHILDREN'S PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT

## ***Proteja Brazil –Protect Brazil***

- *App* that allows users, with a few taps on their smartphones or tablets, to report cases of abuse, violence or exploitation of children
- Developed pro bono by IlhaSoft in partnership with the Government and UNICEF Brazil and CEDECA-Bahia
- Launched in May 2014 - Brazilian National Week Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children and Adolescents on 18 May
- Witnesses and victims of violence can report by phone or in person the time, location and circumstances of violent acts to local child welfare authorities.
- The report triggers reactions from appropriate law enforcement and child protection authorities.
- Downloaded from Google Play and the Apple Store and is available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.



# USE OF ICTS FOR CHILDREN'S PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT

## ***U-REPORT (Uganda)***

- Developed by UNICEF Uganda, launched in May 2011
- Pioneered ways of giving young people a voice through text-based surveys.
  - By sending the text message, 'join,' to a toll-free number and submitting a few personal details, anyone with a mobile phone can become a 'U-reporter', and share observations/ideas on a wide range of development issues.
- UNICEF staff sends out a question twice a week and collect views of young people on a particular topic, including FGM/C, safe water, child marriage, education, health, and corporal punishment
- Results are printed in newspapers and discussed with parliamentarians in a dedicated television programme which is also broadcast on radio.
- In less than a year, the U-reporters have grown to more than 200,000 with 400 to 500 joining the network daily.

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# USE OF ICTS FOR CHILDREN'S PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT

## ***HarassMap: Crowdsourcing for prevention and response to violence (Egypt)***

- System for reporting incidences of sexual harassment via SMS messaging.
  - Tool which allows girls and women to anonymously report and map incidences of sexual harassment and violence, using a simple text message.
  - By mapping these reports online, the entire system will act as an advocacy, prevention, and response tool, highlighting the severity and pervasiveness of the problem.
- The map is used to dispel myths about where, when, and to whom harassment happens.
- The UNICEF team is researching the use of crowd-sourcing as a method for data collection and research on sensitive issues such as sexual harassment and working on monitoring and analyzing media coverage of sexual harassment in Egypt.





**Thank You !**