

## **Promoting child online safety in Uganda**

### **Final report**

**Organization:** Internet society Uganda Chapter

**Project Title:** Promoting Child Online Safety in Uganda

**Report Date:** March 13, 2015

### **Project overview:**

1. A description of the activities undertaken by the project during the final reporting period & results

**Research:** We undertook desk research on the current literature on child online safety including current policy and regulatory frameworks in Uganda. Findings from this research were integrated in the survey on children online safety practices in selected schools. (Please see annex 1) We also conducted focus group discussions with parents and children in selected schools to further gauge their understanding of the topic. Findings from these discussions fed into development of the E-safety toolkit.

**Capacity building and stakeholder engagements:** A key strategy in this project was working with multiple stakeholders, both state and non-state especially during the advocacy activities. We developed strategic partnerships with the Ministry of Information Communication Technology Uganda, the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) Uganda and the National Information Technology Authority of Uganda (NITA – U) in conducting awareness exercises on the need for child online protection. We also participated in national cyber security awareness meetings and presented about the project, its objectives as well as the need for child online protection in Uganda.<sup>1</sup>

In June 2013, we participate in a survey conducted by the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) on behalf of the ITU - ITU/IWF Country Readiness Assessment to establish Hotline provision for reporting online child sexual abuse content (CSAC) – Uganda. As a result of our work, the chapter was recommended as one of IWF’s preferred NGO to raise awareness of the issues of child sexual abuse content hosted globally but accessed by Ugandan citizens.

We undertook two capacity building sessions at Ambrosoli International School. The first engagement involved reaching out to teachers at the school. This activity was undertaken in partnership with the Ministry of ICT Uganda and NITA-U. The meeting involved discussions on child online safety measure led by the Ministry of ICT and the NITA-U, Assist Director – Legal Service. In these discussions, teachers were taken into the current ICT policies and how they address child online safety. Among the policies identified was the Computer Misuse Act, 2011, where key terms such as cyber bullying, cyber stalking and child pornography were addressed.

Further, teachers were taken through the Ambrosoli International school child online safety programme and how they can use the computer laboratory to learn more about child online

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<sup>1</sup> CERT – UG,ISOC presentation; <http://bit.ly/1EmPi7T>

safety measures. While discussing the question ‘How can we work together to promote a safer internet for our children?’ teachers called for a more robust approach to include repackaging information to suit different audiences that is children, educators and parents.

**Sensitisation campaign:** In celebration of the Safer Internet Day 2014, the Chapter conducted a reach out session at Ambrosoli International School on February 14, 2014. This followed our earlier engagement in November 2013, during the capacity building session with the teachers who recommended that we reach out to the parents as well.

In order to make the event a success, we worked with the school IT officer to arrange for the day’s activities. Activities at the school included pupils presenting the projects on how to stay safe online followed by a dialogue with the parents. Parents were given tips on how to protect their children online as well as resources including the legal and regulatory measures available in the country on the subject.<sup>2</sup>

Also on February 14, 2014, we released a press statement in commemoration of the Safer Internet Day 2014<sup>3</sup>

On April 03, 2014, we went to Gayaza High School to celebrate the Safer Internet Day 2014, with our partners at NITA-U and the Common Wealth Peoples Association of Uganda (CPAUG)

We were also approached by the Terre des Hommes Netherlands, an organization that works to stop child exploitation seeking partnership in promoting child online protection in Uganda. The organization provides small grants to support organisations working in this area. A new call will be launched this year and ISOC-Uganda was advised to apply.

Further in celebration on the Safer Internet Day 2015, we conducted a twitterthon to raise awareness about child online safety in Uganda.<sup>4</sup> We were also able to disseminate the E-safety toolkit by sharing some of the tips from it to the online audience.

2. A list of publications and/or deliverables created and funded through the Community Grants Programme, if applicable (copies are welcome)
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  - E-safety toolkit – can be accessed here: <http://bit.ly/1GRghLi>
  - Report on laws, policies and practices affecting on child online safety in Uganda - <http://bit.ly/1GY6RBd>
3. The project team’s evaluation on the impact of the project in the community who was expected to benefit from the activities, including specific details and examples that verify the impact

Throughout the project, we have learnt the importance of working with different stakeholders. For instance our partnership with the government was a success as seen in their

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<sup>2</sup> ISOC – Ug, Presentation Pictures at Ambrosoli International School;  
<https://www.facebook.com/internetsocietyug/photos/pb.138553816221481.-2207520000.1424973495./600454510031407/?type=3&theater>

<sup>3</sup> SID 2014 Uganda Celebrations: <http://bit.ly/1MH7hwb>

<sup>4</sup> Safer Internet Day 2015, <http://internetsociety.ug/safer-internet-day-2015/>,  
<https://storify.com/ISOCUg/summary-of-the-safer-internet-day-celebrations-201>,

drive to promote child online protection. As such there has been a call by different government bodies urging for the protection of children online with some officials calling for a specific law to address the child online protection.

Also, through our awareness campaigns, we were able to make presentations at different events highlighting the key aspects of the project.<sup>5</sup> Since we started implementation of the project, we have seen increased media coverage around the topic of promoting Child online protection<sup>6</sup>

4. Methods of disseminating the information gained from completing the project to the wider Internet community

500 copies of the kit were printed and disseminated to all schools that participated in the research. The kit was also sent to the Ministry of ICT, the National Information Technology Authority Uganda.

The kit has also been re-shared on partner sites - like the NITA and the UCC websites-<sup>7</sup>

5. Ideas and suggestions on how the project may be replicable and/or sustainable for continued community benefit

The issue of Child Online Protection is really and should not be ignored. Further research needs to be conducted on child online behaviour and the different techniques that can be used to provide the much needed protection children need online.

We therefore see using the developed toolkit as a tool to continue engaging with identified stakeholders in creating awareness on child online safety.

6. Any additional information that would be useful to the Internet Society or the wider Internet community for dissemination and knowledge sharing.

The completed **written section must be submitted at the same time as the financial report.** Electronic or hardcopies will be accepted.

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<sup>5</sup> Opnnet Africa (2014), Report On The Forum On Internet Freedoms In East Africa, <http://bit.ly/1MIY709>,

<sup>6</sup> The Daily Monitor, , Keep your data away from prying eyes, February 18, 2015, <http://bit.ly/18WQkOZ>

<sup>7</sup> The Online E-Safety Educational Toolkit for Young People in Uganda, <http://nita.go.ug/media/online-e-safety-educational-toolkit-young-people-uganda>, Child Online Protection, <http://cert.ug/publication/child-online-protection>

## **Annex 1. Survey on online safety practice in Uganda schools**

The Internet Society Uganda Chapter is an organization based in Uganda with the aim of promoting the open and transparent development on the internet. We are currently undertaking a project on promoting Child Online Protection in Uganda. As part of this, we are conducting research to establish the status of online safety in selected schools in Uganda.

We kindly request your input to the questions below by ticking or writing your responses in the gaps provided. **Your response will be considered confidential.**

**Thank you for your cooperation!**

1. What is your Age: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Gender: **Male**  **Female**
3. Do you use the internet? **Yes**  **No**
4. ***How do you access the internet? (Please tick all that apply)***
  - I access the internet at the school ICT Lab
  - I use a laptop/computer at home
  - Personal mobile phone
  - My friend's mobile phone
  - I access internet using tablet (iPad)
  - Internet café
  - Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_
5. ***What do you use the internet for?***
  - Chatting with my friends
  - Watching /downloading movies
  - Researching about homework
  - Playing video games
  - Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which of these social networking sites do you visit?
  - Facebook

- Youtube
- Myspace
- Twitter
- Others, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

7. Have you experienced any of the following problems while using the internet

- Bullying
- Stalking
- Harassment
- Others, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Please suggest ways in which you would like to see the internet improved to meet your needs?

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Thank you!