

Press Release

For immediate release

Safe Online invests an additional USD 15 million to advance efforts to end online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

New York, 5 May 2022 – End Violence’s Safe Online initiative today announced a new US\$ 15 million investment to support global and regional efforts to tackle online child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA). This latest investment will support efforts of 18 organizations to build stronger national-level systems and leverage technology solutions to make the internet safe for children.

"Children across the globe are discovering new worlds online but, at the same time, are exposed to a growing threat of online sexual exploitation and abuse. In the last one year alone, there were over 29 million reports of online child sexual exploitation and abuse. Online child sexual exploitation and abuse is the fastest growing form of violence against children. Safe Online is leading on global efforts to address this issue and this latest round of investments will go a long way in strengthening key pieces of the global ecosystem to ensure that every child is safe online," says Safe Online Director, Marija Manojlovic.

The new projects have been identified after a competitive selection process based on the applications received as part of the 2021 Open Calls for proposals at the regional and global levels. These new initiatives build on the data, evidence and good practices from the Safe Online earlier rounds of investment and focus on ensuring impact by leveraging both technology solutions and strengthening national systems and capacity to be able to respond effectively to online CSEA.

At the regional level, the projects identified will be operational across countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, and South-East Asia and build on efforts to bring about ground-level change. The initiatives will support strong national systems and align efforts to end online CSEA with other national plans and programmes focusing on ending violence against children to ensure improved collaboration.

The winners of the global call will advance new and groundbreaking technological solutions to prevent – and end – online child sexual exploitation and abuse by providing law enforcement, advocates, children and parents with new open-source tools. The technology tools use artificial intelligence, machine learning, augmented reality, virtual reality and more.

"With a simple mouse click, the Internet has opened up to each individual a broader world with unlimited information resources. As a result, the Internet has become an integral part of our lives, including children's. It is not unfamiliar to see children being tech-savvy and knowing many things about using the Internet. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Internet has become an indispensable component of children's lives, exposing them to more risks of being exploited and abused online. With many years of working to end all forms of violence against children, particularly online child sexual exploitation and abuse, World Vision Việt Nam commits to continually joining hands

with relevant stakeholders to equip children, parents/caregivers, teachers, and child protection officials with essential awareness and tool kits to protect children, towards a safe and nurturing world for all of them to grow up in," World Vision Việt Nam Doseba Sinay shared.



Figure 1: Within the “Tackling Online Child Sexual Exploitation” Project, funded by the End Violence Fund, World Vision Việt Nam has successfully engaged with children, parents, and teachers. The goal was to equip them with advanced knowledge and tool kits to protect children from all risks of online sexual exploitation.

World Vision and UNICEF Việt Nam are among the grantees of the Safe Online Initiative to advance efforts to end online sexual abuse and exploitation in Việt Nam.

“Safe Online is delighted to welcome the new grantees to our portfolio. In addition to financial support, the new grantees will become part of our global network and contribute to the culture of knowledge exchange, learning and collaboration across the network,” says Manojlovic.

Read more on the new grantees [here](#)

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About the Safe Online, End Violence Against Children – the Global Partnership and the Fund

The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and its associated Fund were launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2016 with one goal: to catalyse and support action to end all forms of violence against children by 2030. The partnership has over 360 partners from every continent, all of whom bring diverse perspectives, expertise, networks and solutions to the global effort to protect children and adolescents. The End Violence Fund is the Partnership's vehicle for change on the ground.

The Safe Online initiative of End Violence, in close partnership with our partners and grantees, is leading on global efforts to make the internet safe for children. Safe Online is one of the largest non-government funds dedicated to ending online CSEA. Since our inception in 2016, the Safe Online portfolio has grown to reach US\$ 68 million in investments in 80 projects working to end and prevent online child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) in over 75 countries. Read more: <https://www.end-violence.org/safe-online>

Safe Online and the Tech Coalition have launched the 2022 Tech Coalition Safe Online Research Fund, to expand knowledge of online child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) and to develop actionable insights for preventing it. The Request for Expressions of Interest is live and will be open for submissions until 31 May 2022.

For enquiries, please contact Tahseen Alam, Communications Specialist, Safe Online, End Violence Global Partnership at tahseen.alam@end-violence.org

About World Vision Việt Nam:

World Vision is a Christian relief and development humanitarian organization, working to improve the quality of life of people, especially children, who are marginalized and living in poverty. World Vision helps all who are in need regardless of their religion, race, ethnicity or gender. World Vision started working in Việt Nam in 1988. Since then, World Vision has implemented many relief and development programs, partnering with the Vietnamese government, other NGOs, and communities. World Vision's long-term development programs are currently operated in 18 cities and provinces throughout Việt Nam.

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