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| Contribution by the secretariat | |
| UPDATE ON THE ITU CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION INITIATIVE AND THE COP GLOBAL PROGRAMME | |
| **Purpose**  This report is intended to provide an overview on the status of the COP Initiative and the implementation of the COP Guidelines.  **Action required**  The Council Working Group on Child Online Protection is invited **to note** this report.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [CWG-COP website](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-cop/Pages/default.aspx); <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/COP/COP.aspx> | |

The Child Online Protection initiative aims to protect children from online risks and potential harm and empower them to fully benefit from online opportunities through research, in-country policy support, capacity building and technical tools.

ITU Child Online Protection serves as global leadership platform with a multi-stakeholder community with proven expertise and successful technical assistance record of more than 13 years on child online protection activities worldwide. Through a strong network of more than 80 knowledge partners from leading institutions active in the ICT and child rights sectors, the Child Online Protection initiative provides resources and tools that support children’s and their families’ digital skills development and provide support to industry and government stakeholders in the development of corporate and national child online protection strategies and frameworks allowing countries to provide a safer online environment for children.

**As part of** [**ITU’s global programme (2021-2024)**](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/COP/COP.aspx)**, between October 2023 and January 2024, the following activities were undertaken**:

**Capacity building**

* Conduction of Training of Trainers for Educators in Malawi.
* Conduction of training sessions for policymakers, ICT industries, and civil society in Morocco
* [Online trainings](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/COP/Trainings.aspx): Publication of the ITU-UNICEF joint online self-paced training module focused on child rights and business in the digital environment for Industry.

**Child Participation**

* A child and youth advisory board was established to collaborate with ITU on child online protection.
* A testimonials video sharing the stories of three members was developed.
* A *PoP hackathon* was organized in October with young people from IE University and Generation Connect developing solutions for PoP: Protection through online Participation.

**The following results were achieved:**

* 200 additional parents, carers, and educators participated in training and capacity building activities (total of 1700 participants by end of 2023).
* Two additional countries benefited from Training of Trainers for Educators (total of five countries by end of 2023).
* Two offline capacity-building activities delivered to government stakeholders and ICT Industry with a total of 180 participants (total of 405 participants by end of 2023).

**Collaborating across sectors, the ITU COP Initiative took further actions:**

* [**Child Online Protection in Sports:**](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/COP/Sports.aspx)
  + ITU in collaboration with SCORT Foundation published a [policy brief on Child Online Protection in Sports](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/opb/gen/S-GEN-COP.CHILD_PB-2022-PDF-E.pdf).
  + Development and distribution of an [ITU/SCORT partnership](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=shared&v=_j3mDVaUsdw) video showing the impact of the joint initiative on young coaches using football to guide children towards safer digital experiences.
* [**“PoP: Protection through online participation”**](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/COP/POP.aspx)
  + Led by ITU and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children.
  + Aims to provide insights and recommendations on the development, implementation, and improvement of online protection services.
  + Global partners meeting was held in Madrid in November 2023 to discuss and formulate guidance.
  + Evidence on the three different types of systems (Helplines and Official help services, Child- and Youth-led solutions, AI driven systems) has been acquired and is now accessible on a digital map.
  + First guidance drafted and shared with partners for consideration and contribution.

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