



# POP

PROTECTION THROUGH ONLINE PARTICIPATION

*Understanding how children and youth use digital platforms to be safe*

Children and young people are increasingly turning to the online world when at risk of any form of violence, online or offline. They access helplines, hotlines, counseling services, and violence reporting systems, and they also use digital platforms to create solutions for the protection needs of their peers. However, there is little information about how these systems operate.

The protection community has been very focused on understanding the risks that children face online - and we need to continue to do that - but it hasn't yet fully understood the other side of the coin: **how thanks to having access to the Internet, children can also be safer.** Evidence is showing how sometimes the Internet is the only means through which children can access safety, especially in times of lockdown and isolation. This adds an additional layer of complexity to the digital divide, as children who have access to the Internet have higher chances of accessing protection than those who don't. There is a need to bridge that gap.

#### How are digital platforms an entry point to being safer?

Every child who has access to the Internet, should also have access to online protection system.

POP, Protection through online participation, has the vision of a world where children and young people can safely access support and referral systems through online means, having increased possibilities to receive support, either from their peers or official services.

Through intersectorial cooperation and an evidence-based approach, POP will provide insights into how online protection systems function, in order to share recommendations to the world on how to implement and improve these services.

Led by United Nations Agencies, POP is working with over 30 global partners - private sector companies, academia, civil society organizations and children and young people themselves - on making recommendations for implementing or improving online protection services.

## Children are turning to the online world to be safe:

They are reporting violence.

They are connecting with helplines through online means.

They are receiving counselling.

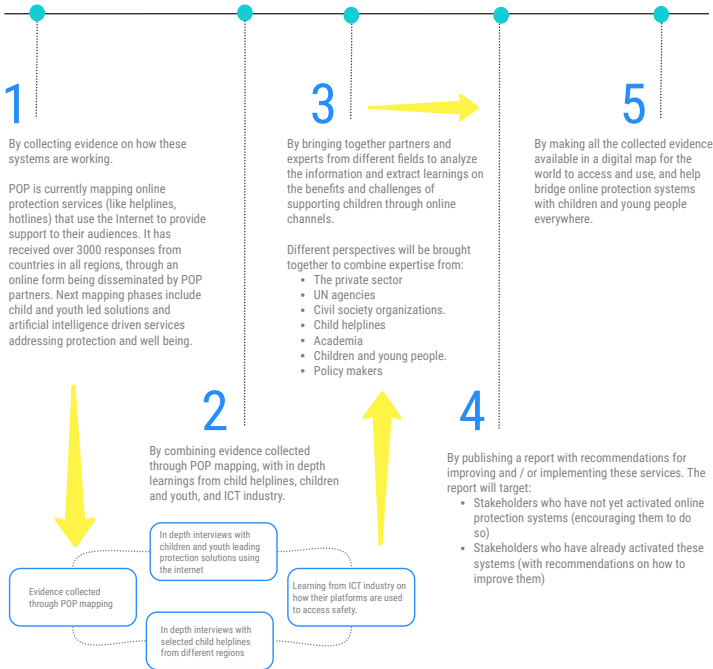
They are connecting with services.

They are coming up with innovating solutions to address the protection needs of their peers.

And more.....

## By better understanding how they're doing it, we can help them get the help they need.

# HOW IS POP DOING THIS?



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON  
**VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**



United Nations  
Office of the Secretary-General's  
Envoy on Youth



Women in AI UAE

