# The Need of for urgent Action Child online protection (COP) The Education Response #ACOP14





#### **Urgent need for COP in the Africa Region**



- ICT, Internet and mobile use is growing
  - --700 million cell phone subscriptions
  - --300 million mobile broadband subscriptions
  - --400 million internet subscriptions
- Risk-prone behavior of children-vulnerability
  - --75% will share personal and sensitive information online
  - --1 in 5 children online are targeted by people who seek to them (ITU Global Telecom Indicator)
  - -- 12 million indecent pictures children being circulated online (CEOP UK)
- Very minimal awareness on COP at national or Regional level

### Top African Social Networks sites



#### Risks pertaining to Children use of the internet



#### Child as a recipient of (Content)

general information such as advertising or spam, violent, gruesome or hateful content and pornographic or harmful sexual content. This content is not targeted to reach that particular child, he or she simply happens to 'stumble across' it.

#### Child as participant (Contact)

child targeted as participant in one-to-one activity by another child or an adult, e.g. being bullied, harassed or stalked, tracking or harvesting personal information; unwelcome persuasion or encouragement to commit self-harm, being groomed online for sexual abuse offline or being sold online for sexual abuse both online and offline, being made the subjects of child abuse images, being abused through prostitution, using the Internet and mobile phones to contact their abusers or being targeted to engage in cybersex

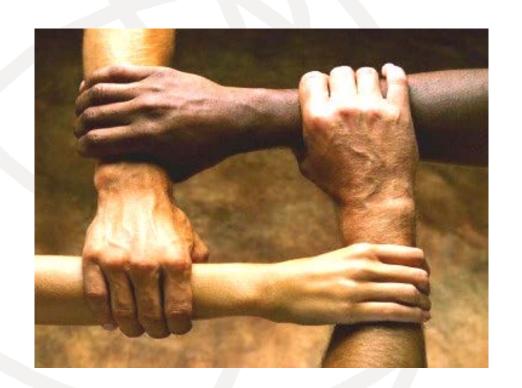
#### Child as actor (Conduct)

initiating abusive or risky behavior, e.g. creating or uploading pornographic material, bullying or harassing another person, sharing personal information online, downloading sexually abusive images of children or placing images of themselves or other young people online; making 'friends' known only online. In this context, it is the child who is the initiator of risk-taking or abusive behaviors.



#### We count on the support of several partners...

**International Organizations** 



**Private Sector** 

**Civil Society** 

#### **COP Guidelines**















 Developed in cooperation with COP partners, is the first set of guidelines addressing different stakeholders. <u>Available in the six UN languages</u>

#### **Current Gaps and challenges in COP**



- Very little awareness and understanding of the issues
- Market fragmentation: Existing COP Guidelines and recommendations have not been implemented in the Member States, broadly, countries are making increasing efforts to respond to national digital challenges, but the measures taken in COP are insufficient. No policies, either regulatory or self-regulatory, are implemented across most Member States.
- > From data in 52 African countries only-
- ➤ 2 have legislation deemed sufficient to combat online child sexual abuse;
- ➤ 40 do not have any legislation at all addressing online child sexual abuse;
- ➤ 49 do not define child online child sexual abuse / pornography;
- ➤ 44 do not criminalize computer-facilitated offenses;
- ➤ 49 do not criminalize the simple possession and distribution of indecent images of children; and
- > 51do not mandate ISP reporting. (Commonwealth.igf.org) ITU statstics
- Children in Africa are yet to be identified as the most vulnerable in the online environment

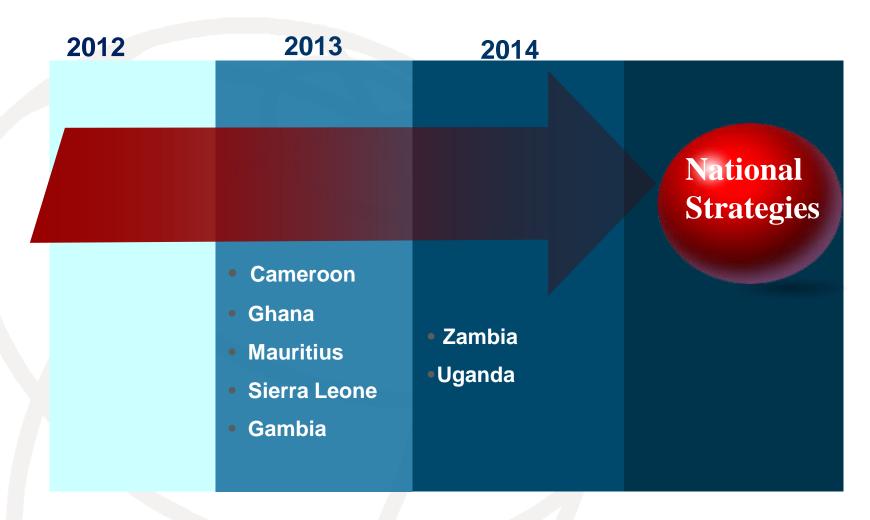
#### The Five pillar strategy to implement Guidelines



- 1. Legal Measures: A strong and comprehensive child protection legislative framework is an essential component of any national framework addressing Internet safety
- **2. Technical and Procedural Measures**: Whether accessing the internet, communicating with a friend using SMS, IM or Twitter facebook a certain amount of protection can be provided by default. This can be put in place on behalf of the users and it is possible to prevent the user from removing some of the protection.
- **3. Organisational Structures:** Good organisational structures need to be in place at national level in order to facilitate the development of Internet safety infrastructures
- 4. Capacity building: An effective awareness raising strategy has to be built nationally
- **5. International cooperation:** The borderless nature of the internet, COP initiative recognises that online child abuse is a global crime that requires international collaboration.

#### **Towards implementation / activities**





**National Strategy Frameworks Drawn** 



# E-safety pilot in Ethiopia 2013









## Pilot objectives

- Promote Africa-wide education and awareness on the importance of child online safety
- Raise the level of awareness among governments, industry, educators, children and guardians to ensure a safe and secure online experience for children
- Create a focal point of contact for child online safety Education and awareness in Africa and for international partners
- Develop, contextualise available resources without the need to reinvent the wheel

#### ITU/ACOPEA Pan African E-Safety pilot program in Ethiopia



- The pilot received endorsement from the Ethiopian Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT).
- Trained a total of up to 150 safety ambassadors from government, law enforcement and educators from 25 schools across Addis Ababa.
- More than 15 000 children and young people have seen Spot messages promoting online safety developed under the banner "Click Safe, Click Clever".









#### **ACOPEA Train the Trainer model**

ACOPEA ThinkUKnow (TUK) trainers





#### **Content of awareness materials**

- Introduction to COP, the issues and the ITU COP guidelines.
- Staying up to date with popular technologies/applications that children and young people use around the world.
- Risks posed to young people.
- Education response to COP, including methodology on how to deliver the awareness material to key audiences stakeholders - professionals, parents and lesson planes for children and young people.
- How to report abuse and handle disclosure/the hotline response.

#### **Accelerating Implementation of the ITU COP Guidelines**

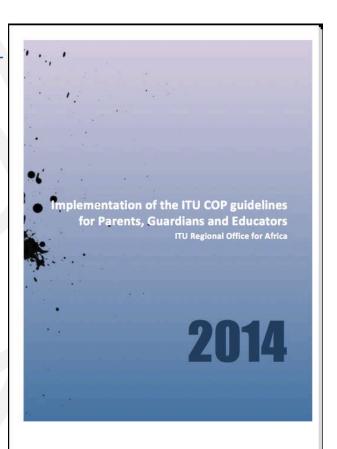


• The Regional office for Africa has also conducted the indexing of best practices on COP from around the world, inline with the guidelines. This to accelerate the implementation of concrete COP actions regionally and at national level.

#### No need to reinvent the wheel!

Education & awareness Best Practices from around the world-

- 1. for Children
- 2. for parents, guardians and educators
- 3. for Industry
- 4. for policy makers





#### 90% of children should benefit from a basic level of protection online by 2020\*

COP Guidlines Implimentation Plans for Africa	For what	How
1. Documented COP education and awareness best practices	To be shared with Member states	Through national stakeholder group meetings, (Already approached 7 member states in 2014 and concept letters has been sent.)
1.2. ITU will continue to demonstrate and promote COP best Practices to Member states and other stakeholders at national, regional and continental level	To ensure adequate understanding /awareness of the issues and draw Strong and high-level, industry, government commitment to COP national strategy implimentation	Through national workshopes, in the above countries and regional ACOP conference in Kampala 15 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2014
1.3. Define country plan of Action partnership with the government and stakeholders	To identify National COP projects, mobilise resources and implementation from 2015-18	E.g. awareness raising could be one action & project to be implemented next year in more than one country 2015-2018
1.4 Hold ACOP Forums/workshop	A Platform for sharing COP Knowledge and experience in Africa	Planning for a recurring annual event 2014, 2015 and beyond.



# Thank you

www.itu/cop
cop@itu.int
daniel.asfaw@itu.int

DANIEL.ASFAW@AOPEA.ORG