Activating the Evidence Base to Empower Law Enforcement Investigations of CSEA

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[Session B4]

We bring key actors together to create a digital world that's _safe and empowering_ for all children and young people, everywhere.

Safe Online

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION - ALL

REGION - ALL

PROJECT STATUS - ALL

PROGRAMMATIC FOCUS - ALL

NUMBER OF PROJECTS
97

TOTAL INVESTMENT (USD)
76,217,576

CO-INVESTMENT (USD)
33,726,341
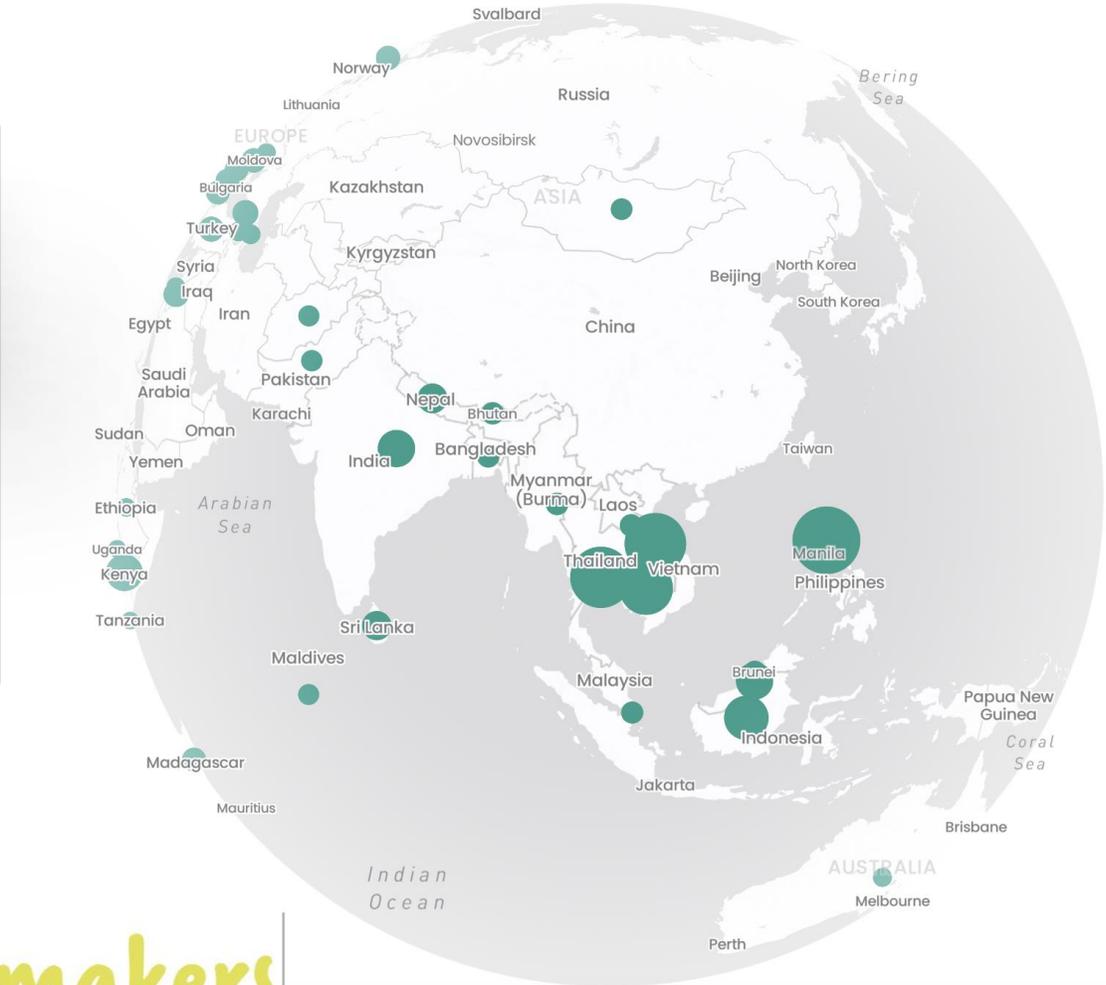
Funding _changemakers_

Snapshot of results 2017-2022

- Advanced national legal, regulatory and policy frameworks in **70 countries**.

- Over **1,500 industry partners** have agreed to ICT standards to protect children from online violence

- Safe Online has supported **51 reporting mechanisms** to identify and remove online CSAM.

- Invested in design of **20 technology tools** being rolled out in **over 100 countries** across law enforcement, industry, hotlines and helplines, youth and child focused organizations, etc.

- Established and supported **specialised Law Enforcement units in 11 countries**

- Supported law enforcement identify over **3200 perpetrators**; identify **5,533 child victims** of online CSEA; and refer over **2600 to rehabilitation services**.

- **42 million people** have been reached via advocacy and information campaigns, news media outlets and publications and social media channels covering issues related to online CSEA.

Safe Online Approach to Tackling Harm

TECHNOLOGY
Invest in improving existing or building new technology

EVIDENCE & DATA
Collect data & evidence on the context, experiences, and threats and trends

GLOBAL ECOSYSTEM

STRENGHTEN SYSTEMS
Build capacities and capabilities of LE to enable use of tools and data
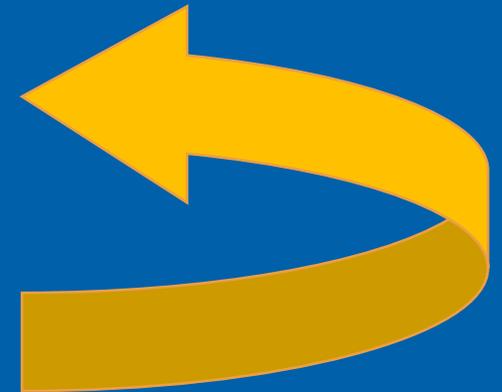
Data is not one thing

- **Ops/Investigative:** device, network, cloud, social media, location, communication data, transactional data, metadata, cryptographic data, log data, digital forensic data, etc.

- **Admin data:** trends over time on specific crime types, etc.

- **Contextual:** data from surveys, research, threat assessments

Data is not one thing

OVERLOAD

- **Ops/Investigative:** device, network, cloud, social media, location, communication data, transactional data, metadata, cryptographic data, log data, digital forensic data, etc.

SCARCITY

- **Admin data:** trends over time on specific crime types, etc.

- **Contextual:** data from surveys, research, threat assessments

Addressing data overload: HOW?

1. Detect, report and remove CSAM

CSAM classifiers
Reporting infrastructure
Hash-sharing
LE specific tools

2. Detect and stop GROOMING

Grooming Classifiers
Capacity development
Child focused tools

3. Stop LIVESTREAMING

Video Classifiers
Investigative tools in e2ee environments
Video summarization tools

4. PREVENTION tools (child + offender)

AI Chatbots
Age Assurance tools
Deterrence messaging
Dark Web interventions

TECHNOLOGY:
Child Rescue Coalition / Project Nemesis

Grant Timeline
September 2020 – September 2022

Countries Involved

Global

Funding Amount

$750,000

Automating law enforcement actions to disrupt market for live-streamed abuse and rescuing children

Targeting Application-based offenders and live-streaming

- 4 Child Sexual Trafficking Networks Disrupted in 2021

  - 4 Traffickers arrested, 12 Offender Buyers arrested,

  - 13 Children Rescued during the same period (35 to date).

  - Latest rescue operations supported by Project Nemesis in the Philippines arrested two traffickers who were selling abuse of their own and other local children (12 in total) to offenders in the United States, Germany, Norway, Sweden, and Australia.

Accelerated Livestreaming Investigations

- "What took 60 hours now takes 20 hours" – Surveyed law enforcement official

TECHNOLOGY:
Thorn / LE Dark Web Investigation Tool + CSAM classifiers

Grant Timeline:
April 2018 – June 2024

Funding Amount:
$2,200,000

Building foundations for greater collaboration & innovation

- **Reducing investigation time by 68%:** by feeding most salient data collected from CSAM dark web into law enforcement through an investigative application

- Over *3,500 child victims* since 2017 and *711 abusers* in 2021 alone

- **Building and improving CSAM classifiers:** In 2021, more **than 1.8 million suspected pieces of CSAM** were identified through Thorn's Classifier tool, which was tested by LE professionals worldwide through an existing investigation platform

TECHNOLOGY:
Project VIC International / Katalyst

Grant Timeline
October 2020 – March 2023

Countries Involved

India

Funding Amount

$748,052

Open source LE tool for enhancing online CSEA investigations

The first of its kind – an all-inclusive, open-source platform designed from the ground up, *tailored* to meet a country's needs in fighting child abuse crimes

Provide end-to-end solutions for CSAM investigations through:

- Investigative Package (bespoke tools)
- KATALYST Server (purpose-built hardware)
- Training and Reporting Framework (victim-centric)

Designed for countries building *dedicated* online CSEA units

- Enables countries to establish own media library and hash database;
- Can ingest data from *any* system enabling greater collaboration with local and international agencies

Operation P-Hunt: Kerala sting resulted in hundreds of pieces of evidence seized and 14 victims identified

Addressing data scarcity: HOW?

- Admin data: ensure that it enables you to meaningfully track emerging trends

- Survey data: indicators that capture accurately experiences of affected populations

- Research: invest in understanding emerging threats

- Collaboration: data and intelligence sharing

- Assessments: legal, service delivery, etc.

EVIDENCE & DATA:
Disrupting Harm

Partners

ECPAT International, INTERPOL, UNICEF Office of Research Innocenti

Grant Timeline
Mar 2019 – Sep 2022 (DH1)
Nov 2022 – July 2025 (DH2)

Geo Focus:
Southern and Eastern Africa and Southeast Asia (13 countries) + three new regions (11 countries) + EU

Law Enforcement Component

Led by INTERPOL: cross-referencing LE data + needs analysis of the capacity of LEA to counter online CSEA in each country.

Funding Amount:

$7M (DH1), $7.5M (DH2)

National threat assessments across 13 countries
(Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam)

At minimum, 1-20% of children were subjected to OCSEA in the past year alone, depending on the country

- Over half of children said it last occurred on social media
- Only 3% of OCSEA victims called a helpline for support. Similarly, only 3% contacted the police.

Almost no children surveyed turned to the police, helplines or to a social worker:

- only 2.5% had contacted a social worker,
- 3% had contacted a helpline, and
- 2.9% had contacted police.

Caregivers surveyed for Disrupting Harm were asked to predict what they would do if their child was abused or harassed

- Only 49% said that they would report it to the police.

EVIDENCE & DATA:
Protect Children Finland / Re-Direction Program

Grant Timeline
Sep 2022 – Sep 2023 / Mar 2023 – Jun 2024

Countries Involved
Global (with a focus on English speaking countries, and now also Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Hindi)

Funding Amount
$968,000

Capturing approaches for better detection, deterrence and prevention of CSEA livestreaming

Evidence-based self-help programme working to prevent the consumption of CSAM on the Dark Web

- By providing targeted support for these individuals, the project will also reveal new information about these searchers and their pathways to CSAM access and use

- Two surveys launched: "Help us to help you" and "No need for Help": Project has been extended to analyse responses from Russian-speaking, Chinese and Hindi, among others.

Findings

- 37% of respondents have sought direct contact with children after viewing CSAM

- 70% said that they first saw CSAM when they were under the age of 18.

Moving upstream

- **AI is not a silver bullet:** while essential, human capacity is key

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- **Improve actionability of data:** industry collaboration, standards, feedback loops

- **Legislation:** set expectations and key requirements

- **Collaboration is key:** within the LE community and beyond

Thank you!

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X: @SafeOnlineFund / @MarijaMano