

2023 GLOBAL OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Investment Pillar A: Networks and Systems

Investment Pillar B: Research and Data

Investment Pillar C: Technology tools

INFORMATION, INSTRUCTIONS AND APPLICATION

I. Summary

Safe Online is excited to announce a new USD 10 Million Global Open Call for Proposals to continue laying the groundwork for a safe internet globally in line with the latest data and evidence from the field, technology developments and relevant frameworks addressing digital harms to children. The new Open Call builds on seven years of investing and will grow and further diversify the Safe Online Portfolio – currently at USD 77 M invested in 100+ projects with impact in over 85 countries.

With this new Open Call, Safe Online continues investing in a ‘whole system’ approach for maximum impact by supporting the work across multiple sectors in a coordinated manner to advance solutions to address online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA) and related forms of harms to children. The investment approach builds on the vast amount of knowledge generated through Safe Online’s investments, as well as the latest data and evidence in the field and wider digital harms ecosystem.

This new Open Call promotes innovative approaches and seeks proposals addressing under-served areas, the specific needs of survivors and of the most vulnerable groups of children and young people. This will include funding the development of gender sensitive (including boys) and inclusive programmes, solutions, policies, services, regulation, research, and technology tools.

With this new USD 10 Million Global Open Call for Proposals, Safe Online will establish three interconnected standing investment pillars under which it will source projects in the years to come. The three investment pillars are: **Networks & Systems**, **Research & Data** and **Technology Tools**.

Networks & Systems	Research & Data	Technology Tools
Build the foundations of the ecosystem at national, regional and global level to enable effective action to prevent and respond to online CSEA and related harms to children. This pillar aims to strengthen systems, key infrastructure and services, as well as create incentives for action through norms change, policies and advanced regulation.	Generate research and data on children’s and young people’s experiences online, emerging threats and trends in the technology space and on what works to tackle these issues. This pillar aims to create and promote a global evidence base to support the ecosystem, increase alignments of efforts, improve investment targeting and maximise impact.	Design, test and develop technology solutions that can feed into the wider ecosystem and support the whole system approach. This pillar aims to reduce barriers to access to cutting-edge technologies in the online safety space and promote tools that are shareable, adaptable and create efficiencies in online CSEA

		prevention and response efforts at all levels.
USD 40M already invested across six years (2017-2023) via three Open Calls and one tailored funding modality for a total of 48 grants with impact in over 35 countries	USD 21M already invested via 27 grants (2019-2023) to support evaluation, Disrupting Harm in 25 countries across 6 regions, and the Tech Coalition Safe Online Research Fund	USD 16M already invested via three Open Calls for a total of 32 grants awarded across three years (2020-2023)

As part of this new Safe Online 2023 Global Open Call for a total of USD 10 Million, proposals are welcome under the **three Safe Online investment pillars**:

- A. **Networks & Systems** - total envelope USD 6M, up to USD 750K per proposal
- B. **Research & Data** - total envelope USD 1.5M, up to USD 250K per proposal
- C. **Technology Tools** - total envelope USD 2.5M, up to USD 300K per proposal

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- **Geographical targeting:** Global
 - **Grant duration:** Maximum 2 years
 - **Proposal budget:**
 - o Non-profits (Networks & Systems): up to USD 750K
 - o Non-profits (Research & Data): up to USD 250K
 - o Non-profits (Technology Tools): up to USD 300K
 - o For-profits (all Safe Online pillars): up to USD 250K
 - **Eligible organisations:** Non-profit organisations, such as civil society organisations (CSOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), international organisations, research and academic institutions; For-profit organisations (private companies). Consortia of organisations with different strengths and expertise are highly encouraged.
 - **Deadline for applications:** 31 October 2023 11:59PM EST
 - **Submit proposal at:** [Online Form](#)

If you have any questions about the Request for Proposals, do not hesitate to contact the Safe Online team. Please submit questions through this [FORM](#). Answers to all questions submitted will be shared publicly.

II. Background

Safe Online is an investment vehicle that funds initiatives to make the internet safe for children¹. We lead global efforts to make the internet safe for children. Safe Online's grant portfolio as of June 2023 can be found [here](#).

¹ Safe Online is part of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, hosted by UNICEF and funded by government and philanthropic donors, working in partnership with a wide range of civil society, academic and policymaking institutions committed to building a safer internet and ending violence against children.

Since 2016, Safe Online has invested USD 77 Million in 100+ projects with impact in over 85 countries. Safe Online has awarded grants under:

- **Two Global Open Calls** to support systems' strengthening at national, regional and international levels in line with the WePROTECT Global Alliance Model National Response.
- **One Targeted Call: [Tailored Approach](#)** to test the adaptation of the European Safer Internet Centres Model in Cambodia and Colombia to build nationally owned and operated spaces to prevent, detect and respond to online child sexual abuse.
- **One [Regional Open Call](#)** to support systems' strengthening informed by data and evidence generated by Disrupting Harm in 13 countries across two regions to support actioning of the tailored recommendations from each of the 13 countries.
- **One Targeted Call: [Disrupting Harm](#)** to build the global evidence base on the scale of online CSEA in the context of other forms of violence against children and build tailored roadmaps for countries to tackle these harms. In 2019 and 2022, a total of six grants were awarded to three grantees for a total amount of USD 15M to jointly design, implement, improve and expand Disrupting Harm in 25 countries across 6 regions.
- **Two Global Open Calls** as part of the [Tech Coalition Safe Online Research Fund](#) to expand independent research that is actionable for tech industry and generate research insights to make the internet safe for children. These Calls awarded 13 grants in [2021](#) and [2022](#).
- **Targeted Invitation: [Evaluation for Impact](#)** focused on evidence generation and scalable impact among targeted grantees for the development of interventions building on existing project funded by Safe Online, with the objective of conducting evaluations as well.
- **Three Global Open Calls ([2019](#), [2021](#) and [2023](#))** focused on cutting-edge technologies for the global community to make the internet safe for children.
- **Targeted Invitation: Bridging Research to Innovation (to be announced)** as part of the Tech Coalition Safe Online Research Fund to build on and extend research insights to applications and innovation for enhanced tech industry applications and use.

Leveraging the unique and comprehensive data and evidence generated by Disrupting Harm, as well as Safe Online experience and knowledge after launching several calls to strengthen systems at the national and regional level, technology solutions and research on online CSEA, Safe Online is pleased to announce the new 2023 Global Open Call with three investment pillars: **Networks and Systems, Research and Data** and **Technology Tools**.

III. [Main objectives and focus areas](#)

A. Networks and Systems

The **primary focus** of this investment pillar is to strengthen country-level capacity, cross-sector collaboration and international cooperation building on existing multi-stakeholder frameworks and networks, and in alignment with national, regional and global efforts tackling other forms of violence against children and interrelated digital crimes. The aim is to enable more effective and coordinated prevention and response to harms to children and young people in digital environments, with a particular focus on the worst forms namely online CSEA and other existing or emerging forms of online violence against children and young people. This includes setting up the key pieces of

infrastructure across levels such as specialised law enforcement units on online CSEA, survivors' support services, hotlines and helplines, education and behavioural change prevention work, etc.

In line with a 'whole system approach' and building on the latest evidence and data efforts including [Disrupting Harm's findings](#) and the [Safe Digital Futures: Data for Change initiative](#), Safe Online invites proposals for projects aimed at strengthening national, regional and global systems to combat online violence against children through targeted measures to achieve one or more of the following **main objectives**:

- **Strengthen national, regional and global infrastructure** to effectively tackle digital harms to children with a survivor-centred, inclusive and gender-sensitive approach (including boys) through coordinated law enforcement, criminal justice and social care capacity as a necessary precursor to awareness raising and survivor support.
- **Prevent victimisation and strengthen survivors' support** via improving early intervention and assisting in recovery through increased child-participation, coordinated and consistent services, and trauma-informed, well-trained personnel across institutions working on preventative and response services.
- **Engage families and caregivers** who have a critical role in preventing the sexual abuse of children, responding to harmful or otherwise unwanted experiences online and offline and supporting children and young people after experiences of victimisation.

2023 areas of interest² for the Investment Pillar: **Networks and Systems** include (**but are not limited to**):

- Systematised and coordinated approaches to law enforcement capacity building and innovative approaches to ensure meaningful child participation.
- Specific needs of child survivors of online violence and of professionals directly working on online CSEA and other forms of digital harms to children, including trauma-informed services
- Underrepresented countries in regional efforts for more equitable distribution of systems strengthening efforts and support to frontline organisations.

B. Research and Data

The **primary focus** of this investment pillar is to bring clarity on the scale and nature of digital harms to children as well as the needs, gaps and solutions to inform coordinated efforts at national, regional and global levels. Despite the understanding that children's experiences are frequently in interaction with and mediated by digital technologies – there is a lack of reliable, comparable and comprehensive data to understand children's experiences in digital environments, to quantify and contextualise technology-facilitated risks, and to capture the scale and nature of harms. This makes it difficult to prevent, disrupt and respond to situations of abuse and exploitation.

More specifically, investments under this pillar aim to generate data and evidence on the threats and emerging trends related to children's safety in digital environments - for example offenders' behaviour, prevention strategies, children's experiences in the digital world, solutions to guide

² Areas of interest under each Investment Pillar call out specific topics or issues that have been raised as gaps, priorities or opportunities in the ecosystem under these pillars for the current year's Open Call. These are not meant to be comprehensive and Safe Online welcomes proposals that fall under the pillars outside of these areas of interest as well.

collective efforts, etc. - across three areas of interventions: 1) **prevention and deterrence** 2) **detection and reporting**, and 3) **response and support**.

It's expected that research and data efforts will increase the technical know-how and capacity across the ecosystem to inform the design of research-based products and services along with accessible and actionable outputs for uptake from various stakeholders (governments, technology industry, law enforcement, criminal justice, CSOs and academia, etc.) and to inform joint efforts. Within the scope of this pillar is actionable or exploratory research to better understand the state of the issue, effective implementation of solutions, as well as address unintended consequences and structural barriers of solutions in the field, including a **focus on any/all of the following**:

- **Key populations** (e.g. potential and actual victims, survivors, practitioners, would be and confirmed perpetrators, etc.);
- **Environment** (e.g. devices, tech platforms, geographies, etc.) ; and
- **Broader ecosystem** (e.g. policy, legal, ethical, cultural, economic, etc.).

2023 areas of interest for the Investment Pillar B: **Research and Data** include (but are not limited to):

- Technology facilitated risks and harms to children in humanitarian contexts and during conflicts and crisis, including children on the move
- Gender-based risks and harms, including for boys, facilitated by technologies
- Greater understanding of the existing and emerging forms of online CSEA including risky behaviours, as well as the effectiveness of prevention and response efforts to address them (e.g. early intervention, resilience building, peer-to-peer support, comprehensive sexuality education, etc.). This could include but is not limited to impacts of exposure to sexually violent material on children, self-generated CSAM, financial sextortion, sexual peer-to-peer verbal violence (e.g. cyberbullying, harassment), etc.

C. Technology Tools

The **main objective** of this investment pillar is to support technology tools to seed and grow innovative solutions that leverage existing and new technologies to improve prevention, detection and response to digital harms against children, and its worst forms namely online CSEA. Safe Online will invest in solutions that use technology in innovative and ground-breaking ways and that are scalable. These could address for example detection and removal of child abuse material (CSAM) and grooming, prevention of live-streaming of abuse, age appropriate design, open-source platforms for making the helpline ecosystem more efficient, law enforcement investigative tools (e.g. leading to shorter investigation times, increase in the capacities for victim identification), offenders deterrence behaviour, and education and prevention tools helping children learn how to recognise online risks and protect themselves, among others. Clearly defined technological solutions we will fund include:

- Design of a **proof of concept** that demonstrates an innovative use of technology to address a specific challenge with clear plans for further research and testing;
- Development of **new prototypes or products** – including hardware/software/content components – or of new features within existing products or tools; and,
- **Adaptation or combination** of existing tools to address current gaps, increase efficacy and/or effectiveness, or apply to new use cases.

There are **cross-cutting considerations** for enhancing the impact of tech tools. Safe Online encourages solutions to incorporate / address questions such as:

- How can the development of open-source tools be promoted?
- What are existing methods that have proven useful in specific use cases for online CSEA or in other fields that can be applied to online CSEA use cases?
- How can downstream impacts of different interventions be assessed - e.g. implications for harm reduction, behaviour change or advancing investigations?
- What are the implications of new and evolving technology and trends in tech industry, such as end-to-end encryption, distributed web, generative AI - deep fakes and synthetic imagery, etc.?

2023 areas of interest for the Investment Pillar: **Technology Tools** include **(but are not limited to)**:

- Future-proofing considerations around new technology and emerging trends in tech industry practice as well as offending, including encryption, livestreaming, generative AI, immersive technologies, distributed web and financial aspects of online CSEA crime.
- Increased inclusion and representativeness of training data and access to relevant datasets for training, validation and scaling of tools
- Increased promotion of open-source tools and considerations for localisation and access in Global South contexts, including language and legal landscape

Please refer to **Technical Notes** for additional information on each of the Investment Pillars of this call.

IV. Safe Online grant making principles, overarching critical areas and focus priorities

In general, Safe Online has a clear preference for proposals that can demonstrate alignment with the following **grant making principles**:

- **Synergies and complementarities:** Seek synergies and complementarities across the three Investment Pillars (Networks and Systems, Research and Data and Technology Tools) and the Safe Online portfolio.
- **Add value:** Add value and/or address gaps in the existing online CSEA ecosystem, does not duplicate, and/or builds upon and/or interacts with existing programmes/intervention, including strategic partnerships with the Safe Online grantees and partners across levels and/or alignment with other relevant initiatives.
- **Strengthen current situation:** Aim to strengthen country-level capacity, cross-sector collaboration and international cooperation based on existing frameworks and networks, and in alignment with national efforts to tackle other forms of violence, including those based on gender for both girls and boys, to enable more effective and coordinated prevention and response to online CSEA. Special attention is given to building capacity of key professionals across relevant sectors and of implementing partners including civil society organizations and NGOs at local level.
- **Involve local partners:** Seek applications with active involvement and leadership of local partners and authorities in the design and delivery of activities, with explicit and formal buy-in from necessary entities and communities.

- **Be evidence based:** Apply an innovative, holistic and evidence-based approach, and address interlinkages between global digital agendas including cybersecurity, gender-based violence online, image based sexual abuse, violent extremism online, etc. Components are child-rights centered, recognising and reflecting the full spectrum of human rights, including but not limited to privacy and safety.
- **Transparent and accountable:** Ensure transparency with accountability mechanisms to ensure governing principles are adhered to and communicated clearly. Projects create open-source outputs and engage in open working techniques to the extent possible.
- **Representative and inclusive:** Seek applications that are representative and inclusive, including countries of applicants and key partners, team profile, and population focus and include clear consideration of downstream implications with nuanced understanding of contextual factors and differential user-experiences.
- **Child safety is paramount:** Require and support child safeguarding policy development and must be compliant with the relevant/applicable legislative, regulatory and enforcement frameworks, including data protection policy in alignment with relevant laws/guidance.
- **Capacity for work:** Require alignment of project activities with team capacity and budget allocation for most effective and impactful use of resources.
- **Match our funding:** Seek applications with ability to match the funding, and a strong monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment (for the *Networks and Systems* pillar) and learning components built in (for all of the pillars).

Safe Online encourages proposals addressing the **areas of interest** for this year's Open Call under each investment pillar and the below **cross-cutting topics** for all the investment pillars. These cross-cutting topics were identified as in need of attention in each investment pillar due to lack of specific research, evidence, strategies and interventions as well as the overarching opportunity to address the specific needs of survivors and of the most vulnerable groups of children and youth. Topics include but are not limited to the following:

- **Children facing multiple risk factors** including children with disabilities, children living in high-risk settings or facing gender-based risks and harms (including boys) facilitated by technology – e.g. informal communities, refugee camps, institutions, in contact with the law, street-connected, etc.
- **Evidence informed prevention** targeting offenders, children and parents with priority given to innovative approaches or those building on evidence of 'what works' from related areas of work.
- **Innovative models** to support and empower experts at local level on prevention, technology, social media, child participation, youth outreach and other relevant areas to build their capacity to tackle digital harms to children and its worst forms namely online CSEA.
- **Intersections with broader relevant agendas** such as Cybersecurity, Digitalisation, Human Trafficking, Gender-based Violence, Image Based Sexual Abuse, Digital Human Rights etc.
- **Implications of new and evolving technology** on trends in offending and children's experiences.
- **Other areas** flagged as relevant and/or priority by applicants based on evidence.

V. General conditions

Safe Online invites nonprofit organisations (CSOs, NGOs, international organisations, research institutes and academic institutions) to respond to this Open Call. For-profit organisations will also be eligible to apply. Consortia are also encouraged to apply, however, the organisation submitting the application will be considered the main grantee, bearing all the contractual responsibilities vis-à-vis Safe Online..

Please note that most of the available funds under this Open Call aim to support projects which will benefit countries eligible for ODA support or have a truly global reach and impact. A small portion of the funds is not subject to this restriction.

Review, award and monitoring processes

Safe Online awards grants through an open, fair and competitive process. All proposals will be assessed on their overall quality with attention paid where applicants have clearly explained the contextual challenges, the specific and measurable results that they expect to deliver, the strategies to achieve them with a focus on tailored and holistic approaches and interventions. In addition, applications are expected to acknowledge any risks to delivery and demonstrate plans to mitigate as such.

Organisations are asked to list partners and advisors. We encourage maximising synergies across jurisdictions/sectors/communities, as well as awareness of and sharing with existing research. Funded projects will be connected to similar initiatives in other countries, which should enable projects to develop faster and better. More information about the Safe Online portfolio of grantees is available [here](#).

Special attention will be paid to applications that can demonstrate coordination at the national level with a clear articulation of how their program will complement existing work. Proposals should ideally reflect partnerships among government, UN agencies and civil society organisations. Proposals from more than one organisation must clearly indicate which organisation will take lead responsibility for project management and contractual obligations. Proposals that include additional funding from other sources will be gladly received.

Safe Online does not provide core organisational funding for nonprofit organisations. Considerations of proposals that require more funding than the indicated amount will be considered by Safe Online at its sole discretion and only if this is in the best interests of achieving the goals of the funding round. In addition to the relevant costs for the implementation of their project, applicants must make provisions for regular monitoring and an external evaluation of their projects (~10% of the total direct costs for "Networks and Systems" investment pillar, and ~5% of the total direct costs for "Technology Tools" investment pillar; applications for the "Research and Data" investment pillar are not required to do this) and can also make a provision for contingencies (e.g. fluctuations of exchange rates and unforeseeable circumstances, up to 5% of the total direct costs). We recommend that you also allocate 5% of the total budget to advocacy and communications, including the attendance to key events related to the scope of your project.

Most significantly, proposals will be evaluated for alignment of the scope and activities outlined with the proposed budget. Payment will be made to the applicant's institution, and in the case of a consortium, to the main grantee organisation. Grantees' installments are determined based on their

proposed budgets, with 1-2 installments depending on project duration and budget. Indirect costs are limited to 7% for grants.

Please note that if you are selected for a Grant award, your organisation will be asked to submit two years of the latest financial audit reports or a micro-assessment issued by a relevant donor in the last three years. If your organisation does not have this readily available, a description of why audits are not available and further financial documentation will be requested for the required due diligence. As Safe Online is hosted administratively by UNICEF, organisations without a risk rating within UNICEF's financial management system will be required to undergo a financial micro-assessment during the grant period.

The review process of this Open Call will take place throughout November 2023, and shortlisted organisations might be required to provide additional clarifications and/or incorporate changes in their proposals for our further consideration until the award of the projects finally selected. The award of all the grants under this call is expected by the end of March 2024.

Safe Online will actively monitor the progress of all supported projects during the period of the grant, and periodic evaluation of progress. Specifically, all grantees will be required to:

- Report on project progress during annual reporting periods using the reporting templates which will be provided to the grantees by Safe Online;
- Establish and report on key milestones according to qualitative and quantitative indicators selected by the grantee based on their proposal using the provided Results Framework template. Depending on the project intervention, grantees are advised to select/adapt indicators from the Safe Online Results Framework 2023-2025 as applicable and add new project specific indicators for project monitoring and progress reporting purposes;
- Report on key potential barriers or obstacles included in the proposal. Identify challenges encountered and steps taken to address them throughout the project; and,
- Attend ad hoc webinars, bilateral meetings or other discussions relevant to the project, including field visits by the Safe Online team members, as applicable.

Terms & Conditions

- By submitting a proposal, you authorise Safe Online to evaluate the proposal for a potential award, and you agree to the terms herein.
- You agree and acknowledge that personal data submitted as part of the proposal, including name, mailing address, phone number, and email address of you and other named researchers in the proposal may be collected, processed, stored and otherwise used by Safe Online for the purposes of administering the website, reporting to donors and evaluating the contents of the proposal.
- You acknowledge that neither party is obligated to enter into any official agreement as a result of the proposal submission, Safe Online is under no obligation to review or consider the proposal, and neither party acquires any intellectual property rights as a result of submitting the proposal. Safe Online reserves the right to withdraw at any time and the applicant agrees to not take any action to bring Safe Online into disrepute.
- Applicants represent and warrant that they have authority to submit a proposal in connection with this Open Call and grant the rights set forth herein on behalf of their organisation. Any problems that arise related to IP or data privacy are solely the responsibility of the applicant.

- A sample grant confirmation letter with its legal stipulations and conditions is available [here](#).

Eligibility criteria

Only entities that fulfill these mandatory requirements will be considered eligible:

- Your organisation is a **legally registered** entity within the country or countries of implementation. In addition to this, letters of support from local authorities and organisations **may** also be required.
- Your organisation is able to provide previous auditing records or a micro-assessment.
- The proposed project aligns with **at least one of the main objectives, modalities and areas of the investment pillars** set in this Call.
- **Funds must not be for** an organisation's core funding, cost of infrastructure, general massive awareness campaigns, activities where a substantial part of the budget is allocated for travel or conferences.
- Your organisation has a **safeguarding policy** in place (including data privacy) or is willing to develop a policy. Budget for safeguarding activities up to 5% of the total direct costs.
- Your organisation is able to demonstrate a **track record of implementing similar projects** in similar contexts (at least three project references with the corresponding supporting documentation shall be provided) **(Applicable only for the Investment Pillar A: "Networks and Systems")**.
- Organisations applying for transnational projects shall demonstrate a **track record of success** delivering activities to prevent and tackle online CSEA regionally and internationally (at least three projects) **(Applicable only for the Investment Pillar A: "Networks and Systems")**.

Scoring and mandatory criteria

All received proposals will be scored according to the following criteria:

MANDATORY CRITERIA

Criteria	Specific Criteria	Score
1. Legal registration	Registered as a legal entity (nonprofit or for-profit organisation) in the country or countries of implementation. In addition to this, letters of support from local authorities and organisations will also be required.	Yes/No
2. Alignment with priority objectives, modalities and areas	The proposed solution addresses one or more of the main objectives, modalities and areas set in this Call.	Yes/No
3. Safeguarding	The entity has a Safeguarding Policy and procedures in place (including data privacy) or is willing to develop a policy.	Yes/No
4. Track record of implementation (only for the Investment Pillar A: "Networks and Systems")	Track record implementing similar projects in similar contexts (at least 3 project references with the corresponding supporting documentation shall be provided). For transnational projects, track record of success delivering activities to tackle online CSEA regionally and internationally (at least 3 projects).	Yes/No

5. Organisational capacity and references	Your organisation shall be able to provide auditing records or a micro-assessment to be conducted by Safe Online prior the grant award. ³	Yes/No
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SCORING CRITERIA

A. Networks and Systems

Criteria	Specific Criteria	Score
1. Demonstration of contextual challenges and the need to intervene	- Add value and/or address gaps in the existing online CSEA ecosystem, does not duplicate, and/or builds upon and/or interacts with existing programmes/interventions. - Proposals should be grounded in rigorous and documented data and evidence, clearly outlining the need for action at the national, sub-national or transnational level. - Where applicable, proposals should be informed by Disrupting Harm national reports or and Data Insights series. - Integration of children's views and child-rights centred approaches in the program and activities design. - Intersection between technology facilitated abuse, and other forms of violence against children, ensuring it articulates how it addresses other forms of violence and multiple risk factors. - Strengthening of the evaluation and knowledge generation component of each intervention.	20 Points
2. Level of coordination at the national and/or transnational level, and cross-sectors	- Proposal should demonstrate a high level of cross-sector coordination between key actors at national or transnational level. - Alignment with national and/or regional action plans (or similar initiatives) and relevant frameworks (e.g. WeProtect Global Alliance Model of National Response). - Linkages with technology industry including domestic service providers, industry accountability systems and other relevant frameworks (e.g. Safety by Design).	20 Points
3. Likelihood of impact and results	- Proposals should be representative and inclusive, including countries of applicants, key partners, and population focus. - Overall probability of successful delivery of the program and the chance that the predicted impact and results will be realised. - Organisation's relevant experience and proof of capacity to implement the project successfully, including solid enumeration of risks and assumptions. - Project designed in line with a whole system approach and includes a solid methodology for the implementation of the project. - Gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) principles incorporated in the design and implementation of the project as applicable.	20 Points

³ If your organisation does not have this readily available, a description of why audits are not available and further financial documentation will be requested for the required due diligence.

	• A clear Theory of Change, Results Framework and a well built-in monitoring, evaluation and learning plan is included. • Proposals should demonstrate potential for scalable results.	
4. Local buy-in and sustainability approach	• Proposals must ensure that proposed projects have explicit and formal buy-in from necessary entities and communities. • Proposals shall aim to strengthen country level capacity, cross-sector collaboration and international cooperation based on existing frameworks and networks, and in alignment with national efforts to tackle other forms of violence against children (including gender-based violence) to enable more effective and coordinated prevention and response to online CSEA. Proposals should count active involvement of local partners and authorities in the design and delivery of activities including strengthening of local capacity through the project; using a cross-sectorial and holistic approach including the interlinkages between online violence and other forms of abuse against children, also those gender-based; with strategic partnerships with the Safe Online grantees and partners across levels; considering alignment with other relevant initiatives; and, with availability to match the funding, and a strong evaluation and impact assessment component. • Strengthening of local capacity (including under-represented capabilities) through the project to foster local expertise and ensure adequate national capacity and sustainable progress. • When possible, include new models to support and empower local experts in technology, social media, children outreach and other relevant areas to contribute creating a local expertise that understands their unique context to help combat online CSEA. • There is a sound sustainability plan or considerations reflected in the proposal for the continuation of activities and results after the project implementation, as well as accountability mechanisms.	20 Points
5. Suitability of the team and partners to implement the project	• Alignment of team members' proficiency and experience with skills and time commitment needed to implement the project. • Team is diverse. We encourage gender diversity and representation from diverse contexts, countries and cultures as well as applications with representation from or inclusion of Global South countries, underrepresented populations such as BIPOC, LGBTQI+, people with disabilities, and those with relevant lived experience including survivors of online CSEA. • Team is primarily composed of individuals with direct local knowledge and connections to the country where the solution is being built and piloted. • Existence of relevant partners. • Existence of consortia with different types of organisations. • We encourage the inclusion of relevant advisers and partners to fill team's expertise gaps, as well as the formation of consortia with different types of organisations.	10 Points
6. Budget and Value for Money	• We require alignment of project activities with team capacity and budget allocation for most effective and impactful use of resources. • We seek applications with availability to match the funding, and a strong evaluation and impact assessment component budgeted.	10 Points

TOTAL SCORE		100 Points

B. Research and Data

Criteria	Specific Criteria	Score
1. Relevance & novelty of the research	- Alignment between need/gap identified and research questions proposed - Add value and/or address gaps in the existing child online safety ecosystem, does not duplicate, and/or builds upon and/or interacts with existing research and data - Generating innovative actionable or exploratory research by: - Developing new research; - Expanding existing research; or - Developing a new application / use case of existing research. - Proposals should be representative and inclusive, including countries of applicants, key partners, and population focus.	25 Points
2. Likelihood of impact and feasibility	- Overall probability of successful delivery of the research and the chance that the predicted impact and insights will be realized. - Gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) principles incorporated in the design and implementation of the project as applicable. - Ensuring feasibility of the research and outputs - Robust design, methodology and outputs described. - Required data access in place including any necessary agreements. - The proposed research complies with existing and relevant regulatory and ethical frameworks. - Ensuring actionability of the research - Considering uptake and translation to applications of research outputs. - Producing open access research and outputs to the extent possible. - A clear Theory of Change and Results Framework is included.	25 Points
3.Scope and inclusivity of the research	- Representation of traditionally underrepresented groups in the research (BIPOC15, LGBTQI+16, children out of school, children living in poverty, children with special education needs and disabilities, and those with relevant lived experience including survivors of online CSEA) and age and gender-disaggregation, i.e. sex and/or gender analysis, are taken into account in the research and may have different experiences with platforms - Describe considerations of cross-cultural and context-specific approaches. - Integration of children's views and child-rights centred approaches in the program and activities design.	20 Points

	Intersection between technology facilitated abuse, and other forms of violence against children, ensuring it articulates how it addresses other forms of violence and multiple risk factors.	
4. Suitability of the team and partners to implement the research	- Alignment of team members' proficiency and experience with skills and time commitment needed to implement the project. - Team is diverse. We encourage gender diversity and representation from diverse contexts, countries and cultures as well as applications with representation from or inclusion of Global South countries, underrepresented populations such as BIPOC¹⁰, LGBTQI+¹¹, people with disabilities, and those with relevant lived experience including survivors of online CSEA. - Team is primarily composed of individuals with direct local knowledge and connections to the country where the solution is being built and piloted. - Existence of relevant partners. - Existence of consortia with different types of organisations. - We encourage the inclusion of relevant advisers and partners to fill team's expertise gaps, as well as the formation of consortia with different types of organisations.	20 Points
5. Budget and Value for Money	- We require alignment of project activities with team capacity and budget allocation for most effective and impactful use of resources. - We seek applications with availability to match the funding. - We encourage allocations for travel to key outreach and dissemination events related to the research project.	10 Points
TOTAL SCORE		100 Points

C. Technology Tools

Criteria	Specific Criteria	Score
1. Problem-solution fit, relevance & principles	- Clearly defined technological solution or research questions to address a specific challenge/gap related to online CSEA and other interrelated digital harms to children. - Alignment between problem described and solution proposed. - Integration of children's views and child-rights centred approaches in the tech tool design.	20 Points
2. Innovation: Novelty and impact of tech solution or research	- Innovative design, methodology or application of technology - Generating open source⁴ outputs by: - Developing new technology;	20 Points

⁴ Safe Online will consider occasional exceptions from the open-source rule as justified by the nature and/or sensitivity of the proposed solution. However, all intellectual property and other proprietary rights including, but not limited to, patents, copyrights, and trademarks, with regard to products, processes, inventions, ideas, know-how, or documents and other materials which the Grantee develops using the Grant will be managed in a way that maximises public accessibility and allows the broadest possible use.

	- o Expanding existing technology; or - o Developing a new application / use case of existing technology. • Clarifying and ensuring actionability of the tech solutions or research for key stakeholders. • Robustness of the results of initial prototyping/ piloting, as applicable. • Existence of code repository, as applicable.	
3. Robustness & feasibility: Performance of the tech solution	• Robust design, methodology and applications described. • Well defined testing environments or research questions, data, and other resources required by solution. • Overall probability of successful delivery of the tech solution or research products and likelihood that the predicted impact and results will be realised. • Organisation's relevant experience and proof of capacity to implement the project successfully, including solid enumeration of risks and assumptions.	20 Points
4. Fairness & Inclusion: Suitability of the team to implement the project	• Alignment of team members' proficiency and experience with skills and time commitment needed to implement the project. • Team is diverse. We encourage gender diversity and representation from diverse contexts, countries and cultures as well as applications with representation from or inclusion of underrepresented populations such as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIOPC), Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex + (LGBTQI+), people with disabilities, and those with relevant lived experience including survivors of online CSEA. • Team is primarily composed of individuals with direct local knowledge and connections to the country where the solution is being built and piloted. • We encourage the inclusion of relevant advisers and partners to fill team's expertise gaps, as well as the formation of consortia with different types of organisations. • Existence of relevant partners. • Existence of consortia with different types of organisations (e.g. local and international, not-for-profit and for profit) or sectors, as applicable.	20 Points
5. Budget and Value for Money	• We require alignment of project activities with team capacity and budget allocation for most effective and impactful use of resources. • We seek applications with availability to match the funding, and a robust monitoring, evaluation and learning component budgeted.	20 Points
TOTAL SCORE		100 Points