

Africa Safer Internet Day 2021



Theme: _____

Positioning and Partnering
for Child Online Protection.

#ASID2021

About Africa Safer Internet Day (ASID)

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The Africa Safer Internet Day was a general discussion by all African ITU members' states to begin to champion the Celebration of the Day within the continent effective 2020.

This enables the choice of theme for the celebration to take on board the peculiar and diverse needs of the continent.

Over the years, Safer Internet Day has become a landmark event in the online safety calendar events. The year 2021 will see the 18th celebration with actions across the globe, which started as an initiative of the EU Safe Borders project in 2004 and was taken up by the Insafe network as one of its earliest actions in 2005.

Safer Internet Day has grown beyond its traditional geographic zone and is now celebrated in approximately 170 countries worldwide and coordinated by the Insafe/INHOPE Network. The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is the leading Specialized Agency of the United Nations, responsible for issues concerning information and communication technologies. ITU is the only international organization which convenes ICT ministries, regulators and industry regularly to fulfil its mandate.

AGENT COP - the Mascot for Child Online Protection Nigeria

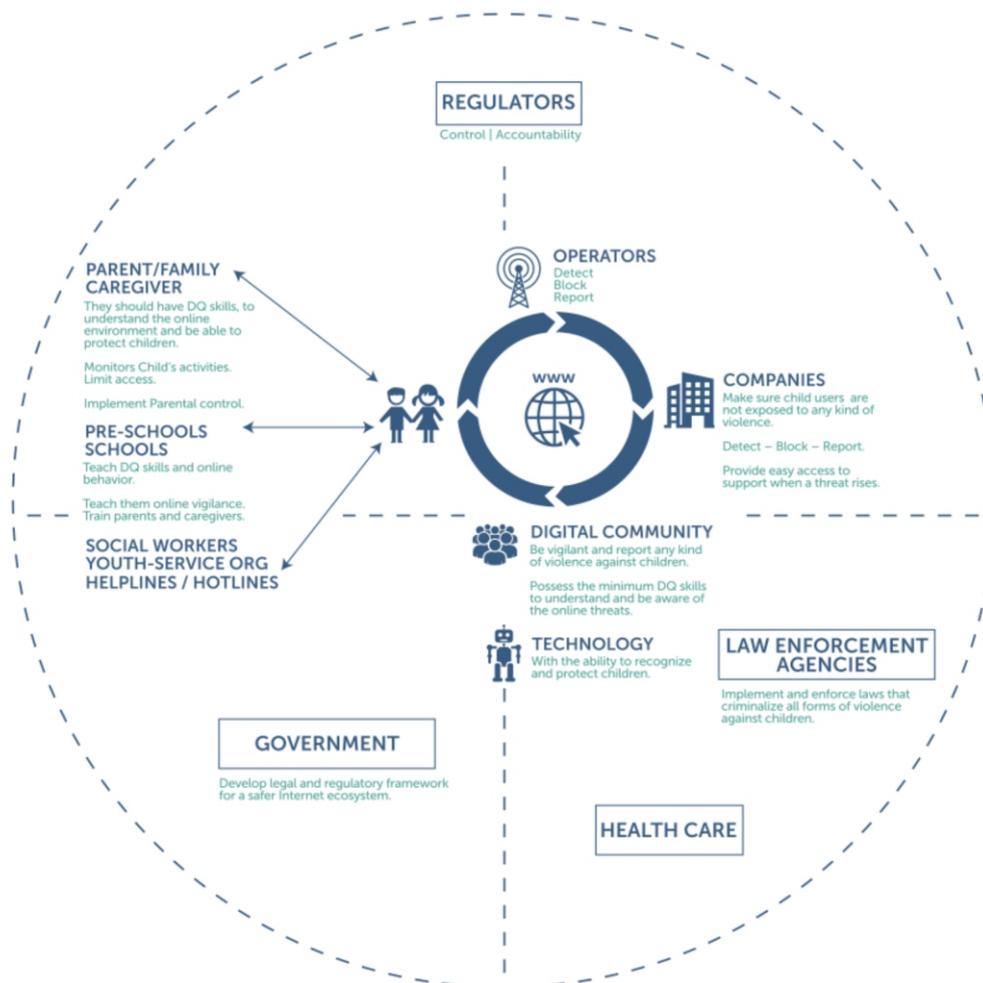


The Goal of #ASID2021

With the vision of creating a world where children can be connected and can fully benefit from the opportunities of a trusted and safe online environment the ITU has outlined the following goals for Africa:

- Promote an Africa-wide education and awareness on the importance of child online safety.
- Raise awareness with governments, industry, educators, children and parents to ensure that the African Child is safe and secure online.
- Design strategies to empower and support the African child's resilience building.
- Develop, share or contextualize available resources to support children's learning and education.

Safer Internet Ecosystem



Source: Lina Fernandez del Portillo.

To fully protect children from online harm or exposure to unacceptable online risk, all relevant stakeholders must be informed, empowered and engaged.

Understanding Steps Deployed by Perpetrators to Exploit Children Online.

The Perpetrator adopts the following steps to exploit children online including reconnaissance, social engineering or catfishing, grooming, sexting, sextortion and consuming.

Reconnaissance: Perpetrators carry out online searches and visit various online forums to identify which platforms they can join and can conceal themselves and identify vulnerable children.

Social Engineering or Catfishing: Perpetrator uses a false identity, and tricks on the child to reveal personal information about themselves and their families that could be used on the victims.

Grooming: Perpetrators use deceptions to gather intelligence about the child to build emotional relationships, trust, and affection to manipulate, exploit and abuse the victims later.

Sexting: Perpetrators use force, bribes, tricks, and persuasion to get the victims online and into sexually explicit acts. They connect via smartphones with webcams to share sexually explicit photos, images and live-streaming of themselves and the child inappropriately either off or online.

Sextortion: Perpetrators use threats to try to extort money, information, or sexual favours from their victims by threatening to reveal their sexually explicit activities that they have secretly recorded unlawfully on social media.

Consumers: Are those who purchase COSEA materials online using false Credit Cards on the Dark Web and Bitcoins.

Child Online Sexual Exploitation & Abuse (COSEA) Challenges in Africa

Child Online Sexual Exploitation & Abuse COSEA involve the use of information and communication technology as a means to sexually abuse and/or sexually exploit children.

COSEA generally includes grooming, consuming child sexual abuse material, and blackmailing children for sexual purposes.

COSEA in Africa has been a major challenge due to factors such as inability to categorize victims' characteristics including children's behaviour, online activities, content monitoring that could provide potential opportunities for education, awareness, attitudinal changes, victim support and information sharing platforms. It is important to understand the Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) to appreciate the role of the various stakeholders who should be involved in the local policing mechanism. TTPs provide knowledge and understanding of the pattern of behaviour, social mediums, marketing platform, financial benefits and security related issues that need to be addressed.

Several Psychosocial challenges exist in Africa which could be as a result of cultural interrelation of social factors and individual thoughts and behaviors which impact on the increasing cases of COSEA. Further, the roles of the mobile network operators, ISPs and other providers in identifying the offence on their online platforms, payments mediums, apps,

websites, and payment platforms that are used by perpetrators to assist in the detection and prevention of victims from their exploits is lacking.

Additionally, the challenge of employing competent personnel in identifying the tactics, techniques, and procedures in committing the cybercrimes, their modes of operations and intents will provide a basis for understanding their motives either, financial, pleasure, extortion, exploitation or revenge.

The concern over child online protections should not be limited to arresting the perpetrators and prosecuting them but should include providing support, mitigation, rehabilitation and counselling that may assist in minimizing the harms as recommended in the Child Online Protection Guidelines for Policy Makers and Industry.

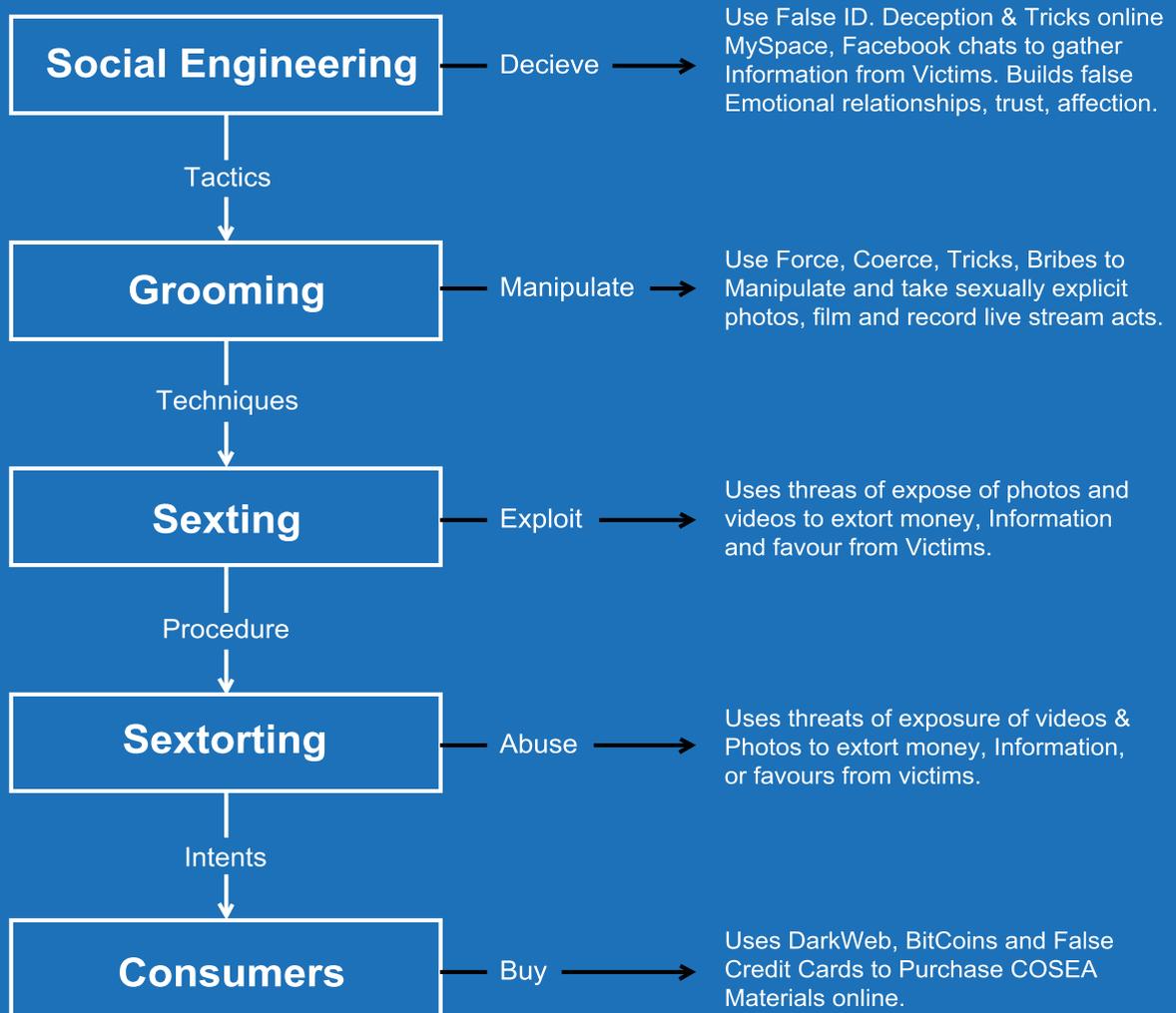
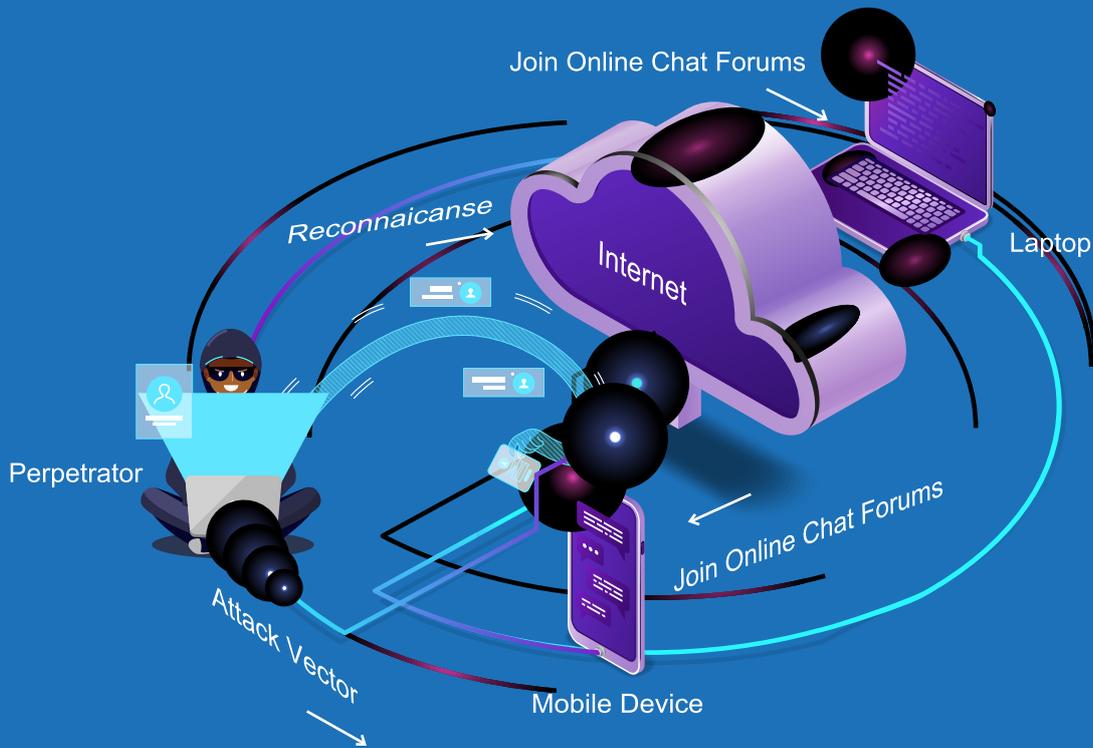


Figure 1. TTPs Deployed on Children online

Partners

FACEBOOK



innovare



World Vision



Ministry of Communications
Republic of Ghana





Email: cop@ncc.gov.ng

NCC Toll Free Line: 622

Cece yara foundation: **08008008001** (For children, toll free)
07007007001 (For Adults, non-toll free)

Website: www.ncc.gov.ng
Instagram: [ngcommunication](https://www.instagram.com/ngcommunication)
Twitter: [NgComCommission](https://twitter.com/NgComCommission)

