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Theme: “Building forward Better Well Being and Living Standards in Africa”

OCSEA- PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE PLAN FOR 2021

OCSEA - Programmatic Response Plan for 2021

The Programmatic response is based on the Continental Plan of Action drawn in 2020 as a result of the 2year program implementation funded by the UK Government grant. The response draws form the Model National Response (MNR) as a guide to milestones of accomplishments for Member States. In recognition that all capabilities can and need to complement each other and that Member States (MS) are at different levels of MNR implementation, this response provides a general and across the board suggested rollout. Also in recognition that all the capabilities are somewhat interlinked providing a better impact with collective actions from each capability.

1. Policy & Governance Capability

Leadership: The AUC will advocate for the re/establishment of in country task force and focal person for OCSEA under the relevant ministry. This is in recognition of turnovers/changes within ministries/MS. The task force should be ideally a government led body, responsible for dealing with OCSEA and can work across sectors. This task force will be key in setting the agenda, plan of action and strategy of tackling OCSEA in country.

Research, Analysis and Monitoring: AUC will set up and continue to streamline the mapping report through the online data repository using MS reports. Encourage Task Force to conduct national research analysis and monitoring to update reports from a factual standpoint. Advice on the use of the facts for advocacy and inform policies as well as in country programmes aimed at promoting online child safety and abuse.

Legislation: AUC will continue to push for the ratification of the international treaties on child safety in recognition that this holds MS accountable at international level. AUC will establish a platform for knowledge exchange of which a model law, best practices and other useful information will be posted for inter country learning.

Member States have numerous national legislative instruments in place, addressing child exploitation and abuse; as well as child marriage, child labour and human trafficking laws. AUC will hold discussions with focal persons on how to make these national laws to complement the development of specific OCSEA laws. Specific legislation addressing OCSEA is limited, however, in most cases national legislation includes legal stipulations related to child pornography. Some countries are in the process of reviewing existing legislation and drafting legislative instruments addressing OCSEA. The AUC will follow up with the focal person on how best to move these processes forward.

2. Criminal Justice Capability

Dedicated Law Enforcement: The AUC will endeavour in its capacity to facilitate training for the dedicated units with international organizations like INTERPOL. However, Member States need to have dedicated units dealing specifically with OCSEA or 'cybercrime'. Resource and human capacity is a challenge that in country task force advocacy may play a role in ensuring their government puts in place measures such as establishing defined processes for an Africa of good governance, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law including improving the quality of justice to build strong institutions as cornerstones for development.

Judiciary and Prosecutors: The AUC will organize/support through partnership and training for child sensitive proceedings in cases of child sexual abuse. It is important that children be involved in these procedures in different capacities, whether as victims, witnesses, alleged offenders, persons who have been convicted of child sexual abuse or admitted responsibility for such an offence, or as subjects in protection proceedings. "Children who seek justice should be treated in a child-sensitive manner that recognizes their vulnerabilities and address them in a manner that ensures that they are not discriminated against on grounds of their status or abuse."

Access to Image Databases: The AUC will advocate and encourage the signing and being part of the ICSE DB through the INTERPOL's International Child Sexual Exploitation database (ICSE DB) with MS who show interest to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their efforts to identify victims and offenders.

3. Victim Capability

End-to-end support: The AUC will work with partners through its partnerships support to facilitate relevant trainings as needed to key sectors. This is in recognition for the need to provide integrated services during investigations, prosecutions and after-care for the abused child and exploitation cases including intense psychological rehabilitation for child victims. This will be done in country as much as possible in recognition of multi co-factors and diversity within each MS. Key partners here just to mention a few would be UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision, Child Helpline International etc

Most MS have operational helplines which are accessible for children to report cases and receive support as well as address issues such as abuse. What is lacking is awareness of their existence so they can be used effectively, inadequate resources (human and financial and diversity of access code. The AU will work with partners and MS to increase registration, activation and awareness to make them effective in serving their purpose.

4. Societal Capability

This capability mainly speaks to in country programming (Reporting Hotline, Education programmes, Child Participation, Offender Support System and community involvement

– sensitization and protection of the rights and welfare of at risk children). AU together with international partners and MS will dialogue on how to strategize the way forward.

5. Industry Capability

Reporting: AUC will advocate to MS through a multi stakeholder task force to ensure there are guidelines/legislation that explicitly mandates internet service providers (ISPs) to mandatory **reporting** of child pornography and abuse materials to law enforcement; recruit ISPs to be part of the task force as part of decision makers; and advocate for the ratification of the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo convention).

Also for inclusion on the task force is the corporate sector to enable the integration of child safety considerations into appropriate corporate policies, procedures and processes to take adequate measures to identify, prevent and mitigate against OCSEA.

Innovative Solution Development: The AUC will engage in dialogue with regional ISPs in this area.

6. Media and Communication Capability

The AUC acknowledges the role media plays in OCSEA however, capacity building is essential in order to ensure ethical media reporting, especially on issues such as crimes against children. Thus capacity building on ethically, informed and balanced reporting in a sensitive manner that the victim's dignity and rights are respected at all times is necessary. The AUC will work with international partners for this purpose.

As AUC works with MS, there will be a deliberate effort to adopt standard definitions and terminologies that are used globally. Universally agreed terminology will enable information and ideas to be communicated rapidly and clearly amongst all stakeholders.

Partnerships Building

AUC values and recognizes partnership is accomplishing this work. The milestones gained so far would have not been achieved without the support of partners and in particular UNICEF regional and country office and are so grateful in that regard. Because of this valuable support, AUC will reach out to other prominent partners working in Africa to expand and widen the resource base in support of OCSEA work in Africa. A map out of partners and countries of operation will be key and of high priority in moving forward with the OCSEA implementation.

Fundraising for OCSEA activities

This is a continuous work in progress to ensure continuation of programmatic plans.

Results Framework:

POLICY, EVIDENCE AND GOVERNANCE

Outcome 1.1

- a) A supportive reporting environment underpinned by improved research, reporting, monitoring and evaluation of OCSEA programs;
- b) AU Member States implement enhanced, coordinated cross-sectoral efforts in addressing OCSEA underpinned by:
 - High level political commitment to OCSEA
 - Comprehensive and effective legal, policy and programmatic frameworks to protect children, support victims, and investigate and prosecute offenders

Indicators:

No	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification
1.1.1	# of Member States that have conducted research on OCSEA, including epidemiological surveys or surveillance to counteract OCSE	3	30	Reports
1.1.2	An online resource centre established at the AU Commission for data repository.	0	1	A platform set with a link on the AU website.
1.1.3	# of Member States with effective stakeholders committees on OCSEA/ Plans of Actions/strategies.	5	30	Reports
1.1.4	# of Member States that have ratified the AU Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection	9	30	Reports

Proposed activities	Responsible	Timeline				
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5
1.1.1 Develop a regional research agenda on OCSEA including documentation of good practices.	AUC	X	X	X	X	X
1.1.2. Create an online resource centre that would act as Member States repository on OCSEA data, a platform for knowledge exchange and inter-country learning.	AUC	X	X	X	X	X
1.1.3 Develop a model law on OCSEA and inform Member States on the model to respond, adapt and coordinate OCSEA.	AUC	X	X	X	X	X
<p>1.1.4 Provide guidance and technical assistance to Member States to:</p> <p>(i) Develop and implement comprehensive and effective legislation and national strategies on OCSEA to address ICT-related violence, exploitation and abuse in collaboration with partners including statutory provisions for remedy and reparations for OCSEA victims and their guardians/caregivers.</p> <p>(ii) Put in place a national multi-stakeholder, cross-sector national body on OCSEA responsible for coordinating OCSEA work across government, industry and civil society.</p>	AUC	X	X	X	X	X
1.1.5 Advocate to Member States to ratify the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection.	AUC	X	X	X	X	

MEDIA, COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

Outcome 1.2: Media is engaged to raise awareness among the public, professionals and policy makers.

Indicators:

No	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification
1.2.1	# of Member States that have developed a communication plan on OCSEA, based on the information gathered at national, regional and continental levels.	3	30	Reports

Proposed activities	Responsible	Timeline				
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5
1.2.1 Develop and implement a continental communication strategy and advocacy campaign including sensitising regional media houses on ethical, informed, and balanced and victim sensitive reporting.	AUC	X	X			
1.2.2 Provide guidance and technical support to Member States to sensitise national media houses on OCSEA and on making ethical, informed and balanced reporting that is sensitive to victims' dignity and with cognizance to rights and respect.	AUC	X	X	X	X	X

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Outcome 1.3: Strengthened capabilities of justice system particularly law enforcement and judicial officers, with knowledge, skills and tools to perform effective and successful investigations, convictions and offender management.

Indicators:

No	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification
1.3.1	# of Member States that have established links with regional and international agencies on combating OCSEA, such as the INTERPOL, ICSE Data Base.	4	15	Reports
1.3.2	A platform is established at AU level for the sharing of good practices in combating OCSEA	0	1	A platform set with a link on the AU website.
1.3.3	# of Member States that have set up relevant sectorial units and equipment in place to coordinate investigations nationally and internationally.	0	10	Reports
1.3.4	# of Member States that have specialized OCSEA law enforcement units in place.	0	15	Reports
1.3.5	# of Member States that have law enforcement, prosecutors and judiciary who have undergone OCSEA training.	0	30	Reports
1.3.6	# of Member States that have established a child sexual abuse register for the identification of offenders.	0	15	Reports
1.3.7	# of Member States that have established hotlines and helplines.	5	30	Reports

Proposed activities	Responsible	Timeline				
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5
1.3.1 Support Member States to partner with mutually agreeable law enforcement agencies from around the world that have experience in establishing and delivering dedicated law enforcement units on OCSEA.	AUC	X	X	X		
1.3.2 Support the sharing of experiences and good practices between Member States on the law enforcement response to OCSEA.	AUC	X	X	X	X	X
1.3.3 Provide guidance and support to Member States to establish and provide relevant equipment and logistics to law enforcement unit with an explicit remit to lead, support and coordinate investigations of OCSEA.	AUC		X	X	X	
1.3.4. Organise regular specialist OCSEA training for officers within the specialised law enforcement units, judiciary and prosecutors to enhance the knowledge and skills on OCSEA.	AUC & Partners			X	X	X
1.3.5. Provide guidance and technical support to Member States to put in place national child sexual abuse image database to enhance the efficiency of law enforcement efforts in identification of victims and offenders.	AUC	X	X	X	X	X
1.3.6. Advocate for Member States to connect to the Interpol's International Child Sexual Exploitation database (ICSE DB).	AUC	X	X	X	X	X

VICTIM AND SOCIETAL SUPPORT

Outcome 1.4: OCSEA victims are provided with integrated end-to-end services to help them recover from and cope with the immediate and long-term impact of their abuse and stakeholders informed and empowered on protection

mechanisms.

Indicators:

No	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification
1.4.1	# of Member States that have developed and implemented SOPs or protocols to deal with OCSEA.	3	30	Reports
1.4.2	# of social workers trained to facilitate investigations and to render victim support at the same time.	0	30	Reports and AUC capacity building
1.4.3	# of Member States that have sensitised associated sectors such as education and health on OCSEA related tell-tale signs in victims.	4	30	Reports
1.4.4	# of Member States that have expanded national awareness and education on OCSEA to empower children, young people, parents, guardians, caregivers.	5	30	Reports
1.4.5	# of Member States documenting nature of children's participation in their reporting.	0	30	Report
1.4.6	# of Member States that have rehabilitation programmes and monitoring systems in place for convicted child sex offenders	0	15	Reports

Proposed activities	Responsible	Timeline				
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5
1.4.1 # of Member States that have developed and implemented SOPs or protocols to deal with OCSEA. Document best practice models and develop Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) to inform and facilitate working with victims during the investigation	AUC	X	X	X	X	X

and judicial proceedings.						
1.4.2 Advocate to embed social workers within the specialised law enforcement unit to work alongside officers working on OCSEA investigations	AUC	X	X	X	X	
1.4.3. Organise specialist training for social workers to give appropriate and timely support to minimize harm, provide support through any law enforcement investigation and legal proceedings, and aid recovery	AUC & Partners	X	X	X		
10.4.4 Provide guidance and technical support to Member States to establish and/or strengthen child and gender sensitive reporting and complaint mechanism for children to file OCSEA grievances.	AUC		X	X	X	X
1.4.5 Provide guidance and technical assistance to Member States to conduct national education programme to empower children, young people, parents, guardians, caregivers and practitioners with information about OCSEA.	AUC	X	X	X		
1.4.6 Promote and enable participation of children and young people in the development of OCSEA- related policy, practices and existing guidelines.	AUC		X	X	X	X
1.4.7. Provide guidance and technical assistance to Member States to establish support systems for convicted child sex offenders as part of their rehabilitation to prevent re-offending			X	X	X	

INDUSTRY AND NETWORKS

Outcome 1.5: Multi-sectors including industry engaged in developing and implementing solutions to prevent and tackle OCSEA. Member States join the international organizations working on OCSEA.

Indicators:

No	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification
1.5.1	# of Member States that have engaged their internet industries to combat OCSEA according to the Model National Response guidelines.	0	15	Reports
1.5.2	# of Member States that have an agreement with their internet industries and placed legal obligation to report, remove and block child sexual abuse materials.	0	15	Reports
1.5.3	# of internet industries on the continent that are engaged/involved in innovative solutions to prevent and report OCSEA.	0	5	Reports
1.5.4	# of Member States that have involved their education and related sectors to mainstream OCSEA in their frameworks.	0	30	Reports

Proposed activities	Responsible	Timeline				
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5
1.5.1. Engage at a regional level Internet Industries with regional coverage on their responsibility to develop solutions on OCSEA Engage education sectors and others working with children to mainstream OCSEA in their frameworks.	AUC	X	X	X		
1.5.2 Advocate with Member States to include legal responsibility for mandatory reporting and removal or blocking of child sexual abuse material	AUC		X	X	X	X
1.5.3. Engage Internet Industries to develop innovative technological solutions that enhance existing approaches to	AUC		X	X	X	X

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preventing and tackling OCSEA or enable development of new approaches.						
1.5.4 Engage education sectors and others working with children to mainstream OCSEA in their frameworks.		X	X	X	X	
Outputs						
Output 1: Enhanced capacity of regional and national institutions to implement Policies, laws and programmes that are specific to and support tackling OCSEA.						
Indicators:						
1.1 # of countries that developed/reviewed existing legislation and policies to make provisions for OCSEA.						
1.2 # of countries showing the extent of mainstreaming OCSEA into laws and policies as reflected in national development frameworks and processes.						
1.3 # of countries with effective institutional frameworks						
Output 2: Political will in tackling OCSEA.						
Indicators:						
2.1. Proportion of national resources allocated for the implementation of multi-sectoral action plans for tackling OCSEA						
2.2. # of countries that have mainstreamed OCSEA in key sectors						
2.3. # of countries with over 50% of all forms of media coverage on OCSEA awareness.						
2.4. # of countries that have adopted cross border policies, laws and programmes						
2.5. # of international cross border partnerships						
2.6. # of countries that have ratified the African Union Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection (2014), known as the “Malabo Convention”						

Output 3: Active and participating internet providers in tackling OCSEA

Indicators

- 3.1. # Internet providers with innovative solutions to tackle OCSEA
- 3.2. # of providers (national and regional) who have signed up to reporting, removing and blocking child sexual abuse materials.

Output 4. Established continental central and common knowledge management hub on laws, policies, good practices and researches on OCSEA

Indicators:

- 4.1. A functional continental knowledge management hub in place
- 4.2. National OCSEA documents (research, good practices, policies, legislation)
- 4.3. Knowledge management in an organisation on knowledge co-creation, structuring and organising, knowledge transfer and application