

Update of the Comparative Analysis of Multisectoral Response and Capacity Assessments (MRC)

The Multisectoral Response and Capacity (MRC) Comparative Analysis brings together findings from 20 country assessments conducted between 2021 and 2026. Using the WeProtect Model National Response framework, the study identifies common strengths, emerging challenges, and priority actions to strengthen national responses to Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA).

-  **20** Countries Assessed
-  **3** Regions
-  **6** MNR Sectors
-  **5** Years of Assessments
-  National Capacity Building Team

MRC Implementation by Country

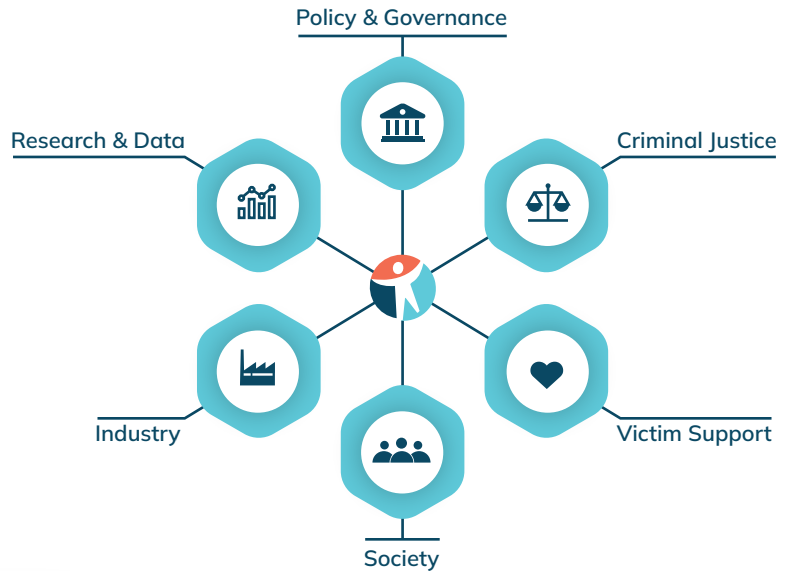


Why the MRC exists



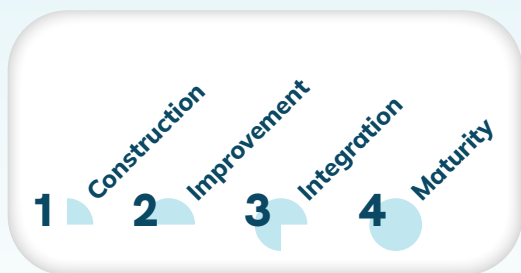
The six sectors

The Model National Response recognizes that protecting children online requires coordinated action across multiple sectors. Rather than relying on one institution, the framework evaluates how governments, civil society, industry, researchers, and justice systems work together to prevent, investigate, and respond to OCSEA.

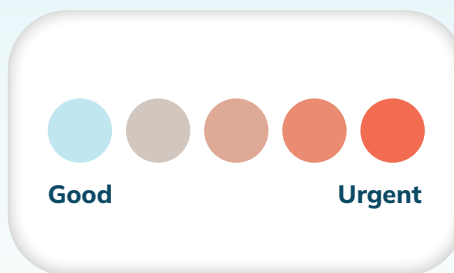


The new digital threats

Understanding the Assessment



Maturity level

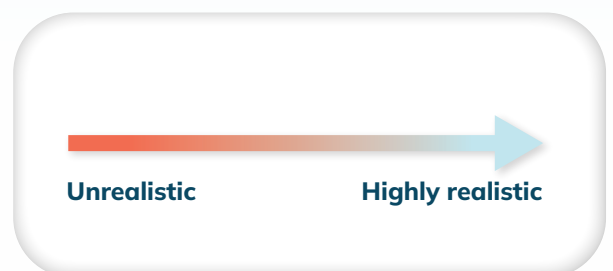


Priority level

To ensure consistency across all assessments, ICMEC applies standardized indicators that measure national capacity, implementation priorities, institutional engagement, and the feasibility of future improvements. Statistical measures such as the Mean and Standard Deviation help compare countries and identify regional trends.



ICMEC Presence



Realistic Change



Mean (Average)

In statistical terms, the Mean (Average) is the central value obtained by consolidating the results of a group of countries. This allows for a general overview of the state of development in a region or a specific sector.



Standard Deviation

On the other hand, the Standard Deviation is a measure that indicates how grouped or dispersed the data is around the average. A low standard deviation signifies that the countries in a region have similar capacities. Conversely, a high standard deviation indicates a high inequality, meaning that within the same group, there are countries with very advanced systems and others that still have significant gaps in their responses.

Regional Analysis

When observing the global results, it is essential to understand that the current data is not sufficient to achieve a perfect comparative analysis between regions. Additionally, it is important to note that the figures have changed since the first comparative analysis in 2024, as new countries have been added to the study. The inclusion of countries such as Nigeria, South Africa, France, or Chile expands geographic representativeness but also modifies averages and increases variability in results by adding territories with very different development levels.

Africa

Presents gaps with the most urgent priority levels. Although there is institutional willingness to advance, the evaluated countries face severe limitations in financial, human, and technical resources. Additionally, several countries must overcome the significant challenge of social and cultural norms that still validate or normalize violence against children, which hinders the implementation of preventive programs.

Eurasia (Europe and Asia)

This region presents the highest maturity levels in the study, driven by the recent inclusion of countries like France. However, its standard deviation confirms that there is significant internal inequality. Its main challenges focus on rapidly updating legislation to align with international standards and improving access to technological systems and shared databases to combat this transnational crime.

Note: The analysis was calculated for Eurasia in the final averages, taking into account that these are the regions with the fewest studies conducted to date. However, it is understood that the situations in Europe and Asia are very different, which explains the high disparity and standard deviations.

America (Latin America and the Caribbean)

Presents gaps with the most urgent priority levels. Although there is institutional willingness to advance, the evaluated countries face severe limitations in financial, human, and technical resources. Additionally, several countries must overcome the significant challenge of social and cultural norms that still validate or normalize violence against children, which hinders the implementation of preventive programs.



Main Conclusions



The comparative analysis highlights that, while countries are making progress in strengthening their responses to Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA), significant challenges remain. Across the twenty assessments, common trends emerge that point to priority areas for investment, policy development, and multisectoral collaboration. The findings below summarize the most important conclusions identified through the MRC studies.



Legislation Must Keep Pace with Technology

Technological innovation is evolving faster than legal systems. Emerging threats—including Artificial Intelligence, immersive digital environments, and new forms of online exploitation—require legislation that can adapt more rapidly to effectively protect children.

Technology



Legislation



Victim Support Remains the Highest Global Priority

Across all regions, Victim Support consistently emerges as the sector requiring the greatest attention. Effective responses must extend beyond investigations and prosecutions by ensuring access to specialized psychological, medical, legal, and social support that prevents revictimization



Highest Priority Sector Worldwide



Stronger Industry Engagement is Essential

The technology industry remains the least represented sector across the assessments, despite its critical role in preventing and detecting online abuse. Stronger collaboration between governments and the private sector can accelerate innovation, improve platform safety, and support the development of proactive detection and prevention tools.

Public sector  Technology industry



Prevention Requires Greater Investment

The assessments reveal limited attention to offender management and primary prevention. Particularly in resource-constrained settings, investing in preventive measures and early intervention can significantly strengthen national responses while reducing long-term costs.

Investigation



Prevention



More Assessments, Better Evidence

Expanding MRC assessments to additional countries will strengthen the global evidence base, improve regional comparisons, and support more effective, evidence-based public policies. Ongoing assessments in Mexico and Argentina, together with future studies, will continue to enhance the understanding of national capacities and emerging challenges.



Looking Ahead

The MRC Comparative Analysis demonstrates that protecting children online requires sustained commitment across governments, civil society, industry, and international partners. By strengthening legislation, investing in victim support and prevention, fostering public-private collaboration, and expanding the evidence base through additional assessments, countries can build more resilient and coordinated responses to the rapidly evolving landscape of Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

[Want to find out more? Check out the entire study here](#)