

we asked children

in nine countries about **online safety**
AND GOT SOME SURPRISING ANSWERS





"We use the apps/devices for learning, entertainment, and to get new information about the world."

Child, Burundi

Digital technology is a constant and meaningful part of children's lives. They use digital spaces for learning, communication, creativity, entertainment, and information. As such, digital access is foundational to children's participation and development.

The question is, **how do we make digital spaces safer for them?**

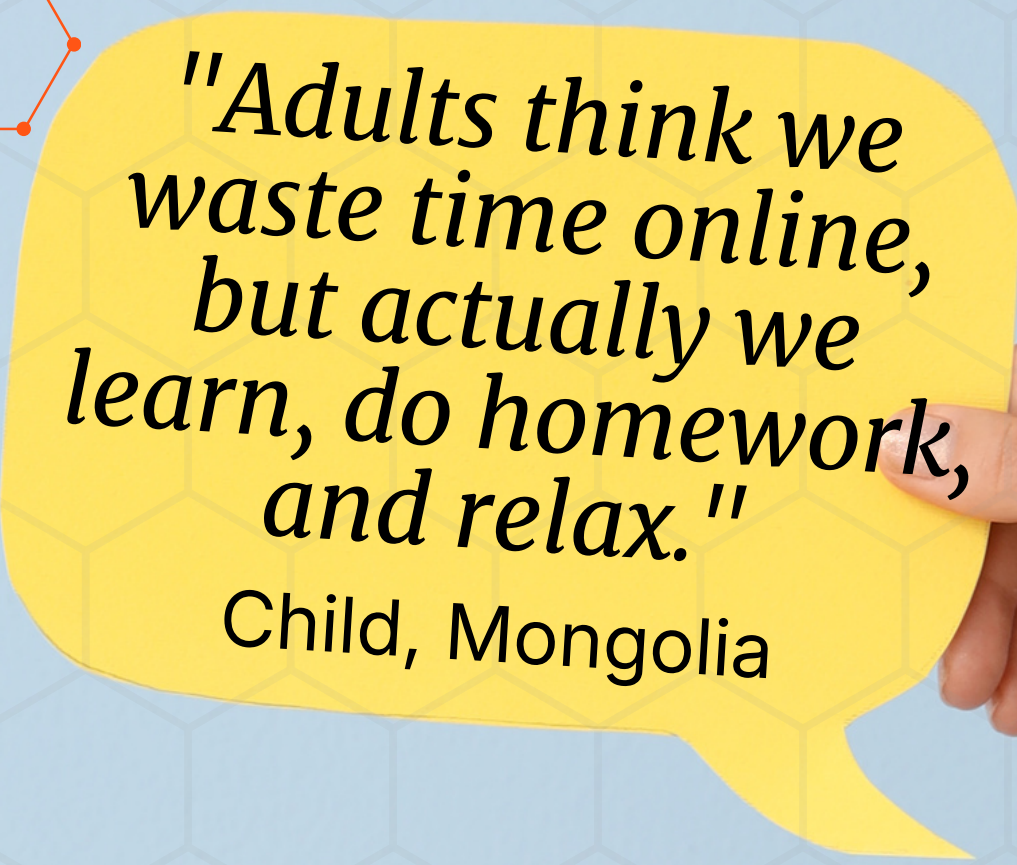
"I want to share my ideas, but sometimes I'm afraid people will comment bad things."

Child, Timor-Leste

Children link their digital experience with **their rights** to well-being, safety, participation, equity, privacy, development, and agency.

"I know some information about me is shared, but I don't really know who sees it."

Child, Georgia



*"Adults think we
waste time online,
but actually we
learn, do homework,
and relax."*

Child, Mongolia



Children feel that adults misunderstand their digital lives. Punitive adult reactions, like anger and confiscating devices, discourage them from asking for help when something goes wrong.



*"Sometimes we're
scared to report
because adults might
get angry or punish
us." "*

Child, Sri Lanka



*"It is hard to report problems
because I don't know who to
report it to."*

Child, Indonesia

Children recognise that
**responsibility for online safety is
shared**, but it's unclear in practice.

Many are unsure who to turn to
when harmed and found **reporting
mechanisms confusing and
intimidating**.



"We should not leave the internet. It should change so it works better for children."
Child, Timor-Leste

Children are not asking to be excluded from digital spaces.

Instead, they're calling for **digital environments that are designed with their best interests in mind**—spaces that are safe, age-appropriate, inclusive, respectful of their privacy, and shaped with children's voices.



Join our call for a
digital world that is
**designed with
children, fair to them,
and accountable to
them.**