

CONCLUSIONS

When compared with the other countries in the region, children in Nigeria fare lower than average for both communicative and instrumental resilience. Despite this, Nigerian children display higher levels of cognitive resilience equaling the regional average of 1.94. The national policy for ICT, implemented in 2014, enhanced cyber security efforts. Additionally, Nigeria is a member of the Regional Conference on Africa Child Online Protection (ACOP), an event organised by the United Nations specialised agency for information and communication technologies (ITU) focusing on issues relating to child online safety.

Despite 68% of children in Nigeria having come into contact with inappropriate content when online, they record lower instances on average for all other risks faced online when compared to the regional average. Moreover, 75% are very careful about which friend requests to accept, and 77% are very careful with regards to what they share or post online.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the comparatively low scores in Nigeria for the use of digital skills in responding to risk, this report specifically recommends to promote the inclusion of enhanced digital literacy and internet safety education in school curricula.

It also recommends to foster extra-curricular activities aimed at promoting responsible internet use for young people, and to promote hotline support services as a means for children to report problems when online.

THE RESEARCH

This multinational research explores the role of digital resilience (the ability to prevent and respond to online risk) in providing children with the skills and characteristics needed to navigate the internet safely.

Analysing the findings from children aged 9-18 in Nigeria, Kenya, Israel, South Africa, Turkey, and Russia; it investigates the ways in which young people can be encouraged to be resilient users.

ABOUT THINKYOUNG

ThinkYoung is the first think tank dedicated to young people.

Founded in 2007, ThinkYoung has expanded to have offices in Brussels, Geneva and Hong Kong. It is a not for profit organisation with the aim of making the world a better place for young people, by involving them in the decision making process and by providing decision makers with high quality research on youth conditions. Think Young produces research papers, surveys, documentary movies and education programs.

As of today, ThinkYoung projects have reached over 600,000 young people.

POWERED BY 

Think Young
We lobby for young people

DIGITAL RESILIENCE EMPOWERING YOUTH ONLINE

Practices for a safer internet use in Nigeria, Kenya, Israel, South Africa, Turkey and Russia.

COUNTRY BRIEFING: NIGERIA



INTRO

The following overview presents the key findings from Nigerian children in response to a survey investigating the role of digital resilience in positively impacting children's online engagement. Shedding light on how a digitally resilient young person responds to potentially risky online content, the research investigates the ways in which young people can be encouraged to be resilient users when online by analysing


data from Nigeria, Kenya, Israel, South Africa, Turkey, and Russia.

The survey targeted children and young people between the ages of 9-18 and was administered in two parts: the first directly to respondents above the age of 16, and the second with the consent of parents (9-16 years!).

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

In response to the growing policy debate between online risk and opportunity, the following research aimed to shed light on child attitudes in dealing with online risk. Moreover, a focus was placed on integrating safety concerns with the promotion of a positive uptake of online opportunities for children, through the concept of 'digital resilience'.

Based on the survey administered, this research has first measured levels of digital resilience by analysing the responses adopted by young people to varying online risks. From these results, it has then sought to **investigate how children prevent and react to online risk, taking into account:**

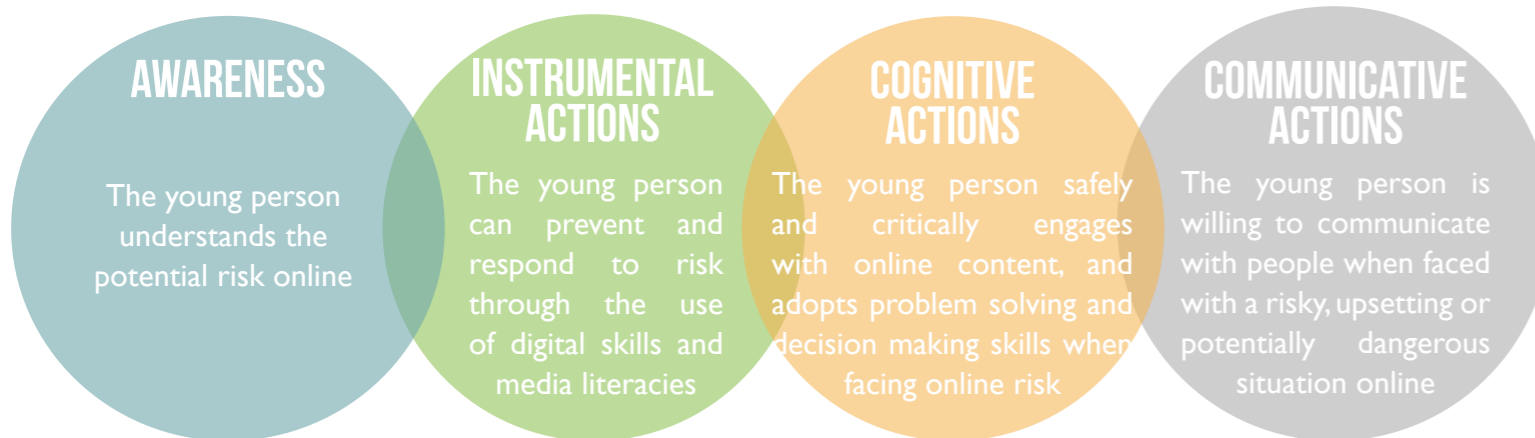
 The impact of awareness and self-regulation in understanding the potential for risk, and in engaging with online content in a resilient manner.

 How children and young people can enhance their levels of resilience through communication and from seeking advice.


 The role of media skills and digital literacies in improving resilience, and the types of responses used by technologically adept young people.

WHAT IS DIGITAL RESILIENCE?

Drawing on the most prevalent scientific literature on resilience, the report presents the fundamental characteristics of the ideal digitally resilient young person, encapsulated by:



The concept of digital resilience includes both a preventive and reactive phase where at first young people are able to self-regulate and avoid online risk and, when faced with risk, are able to employ coping mechanisms in order to respond to the risk or harmful situation in a problem focused manner.

 **PREVENTIVE RESILIENCE**
Resilience strategies employed to avoid risk including instrumental (using technical skills to avoid risk) and behavioural (avoiding risk through specific safety behaviours and online awareness).

 **REACTIVE RESILIENCE**
Resilience strategies adopted after coming into contact with an online risk. These include:

- 1 Instrumental (using technical skills).
- 2 Confrontational (confronting the source of the risk).
- 3 Communicative (seeking advice).
- 4 Disengagement (ignoring the risk).

¹In gaining parental permission for the 9-16 year olds a very clear statement of intent was given to parents/guardians in advance, outlining the exact purpose of the study, sharing the exact questions and giving assurances that the data would be treated anonymously.

KEY FINDINGS

Children in Nigeria are confident in preventing risk through instrumental actions, with 73% likely to modify privacy settings to avoid unwanted contacts, and 62% likely to have software to avoid unwanted content. Amongst all Nigerian children, 68% had been exposed to inappropriate content. Furthermore, 86% are likely to keep their password completely secret.

Moreover, when responding to risk young Nigerians are also confident using digital skills, with 50% who would change their password when personal information is misused and 36% who would review their privacy settings. 17% of the children surveyed had experienced this risk.

While 23% had experienced cyber-bullying, amongst the top reactions in responding to this risk, 41% of children in Nigeria would block and report the person and 36% would ignore the person.

31% of children in Nigeria stated they would reply to a message from a stranger who contacted them online while only allowing him/her to see a limited profile. However, 30% stated they would reply to the message with a full profile. Amongst all Nigerian children, 41% had experienced this risk.

Young people in Nigeria show a critical awareness in their use of the internet, with 80% very careful about what they say or post online, and 66% likely to avoid suspicious material.

In response to a request from an online contact to meet in person 41% of children in Nigeria would refuse to meet and 34% would seek advice from a parent/guardian.

Children in Nigeria are likely to keep their password completely secret



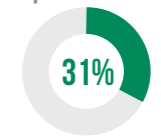
Children in Nigeria change their password when personal information is misused



Children in Nigeria would block and report a bully



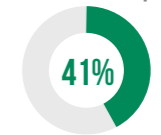
Children in Nigeria would reply to a message from a stranger who contacted them online while only allowing him/her to see a limited profile



Children in Nigeria are very careful about what they say or post online



Children in Nigeria would refuse to meet an online contact in person



THE ONLINE RESILIENT YOUNG PERSON

The graphical representation below illustrates how well children in Nigeria fare in comparison to the ideal digitally resilient young person, who would score 3 points in each area of resilience. Each child obtains a score from 0 to 3 depending on how many cognitive, instrumental and communicative strategies he or she is likely to adopt. It also compares the results in relation to the average resilience scores from the MEAR region.

