



# Media Literacy for Refugee Children and Youth in Germany



Save the Children

Zahra, 9, Afghanistan

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According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, every child has the right to education and access to the media. This must be non-discriminatory and guaranteed through equal opportunity (Art. 17, 28)

## Promoting digital skills – Facilitating integration – Creating opportunities

Since 2015, around half a million refugee children and young people have come to Germany. They use modern media and the internet to keep in touch with family, navigate the bureaucracy of their host country and find help.

Refugee children have direct access to media from a very young age. They use their parents' smartphones to play games, watch videos and communicate, in most cases without supervision or guidance.

However, the internet carries high risks for children, who are neither consistently informed about nor protected from these dangers. In refugee shelters, especially, there is little guidance, information, regulation or even awareness about protecting children in the digital environment.

## Background: Refugee children in Germany

Save the Children has been supporting refugee children in Germany since 2015. We provide them with access to much-needed psychosocial support and education. We also ensure their protection. We are working in several federal states to ensure that the rights of refugee children are respected in reception centers and refugee accommodations.

Given the influx of refugee children, we are working to scale up and adapt our programming in Germany. Assessments have highlighted the pressing needs of children: safe environments, early childhood care and activities to improve their development, access to education and health services, and opportunities to acquire life skills.

**The goal of our project is to empower refugee children in Germany through media education and to ensure their awareness of internet safety.**

## Child protection in the digital environment: Child Friendly Spaces

To meet the needs of refugee children in Germany, we have opened our signature Child Friendly Spaces in Berlin and Eisenhuettenstadt, and have partnered with other shelters. In these spaces we have a unique opportunity to provide refugee children with media training. To support their education, we offer them safe access to computers, the internet and various online learning courses in German and their native language.

## Project Outcomes

### ENABLING INTEGRATION AND PARTICIPATION FROM A VERY YOUNG AGE

1. Refugee children are educated in safe internet use and know about the importance of digital citizenship, i.e. participation in society using digital media.
2. Parents of these children and staff members are aware of how to protect children who are using the internet.
3. Save the Children provides an on- and offline technical infrastructure that enables media courses to be scaled up in locations nationwide.
4. Refugee children are given early and entertaining access to education to promote the best possible integration.
5. Reception centers and refugee accommodations receive support to set up technical infrastructure (wi-fi and computer labs).

## Project Overview

### TIMING

- Pilot project: April 2017–March 2018
- Next phase: April 2018–September 2018

### REACH

- Currently three locations in Berlin and Eisenhuettenstadt
- 170 children directly, 900 adults & children indirectly
- Equipment and training of local staff to continue the courses

### TEACHERS

- Qualified media consultants and media educators from Save the Children

»I learn a lot in the media class, even coding! That definitely helps me in finding an apprenticeship.«

Salim, 16, Dagestan



## Key Activities



Key topics include computer usage as well as risks and opportunities in dealing with the internet and social media. The children learn to access study material, software and media.



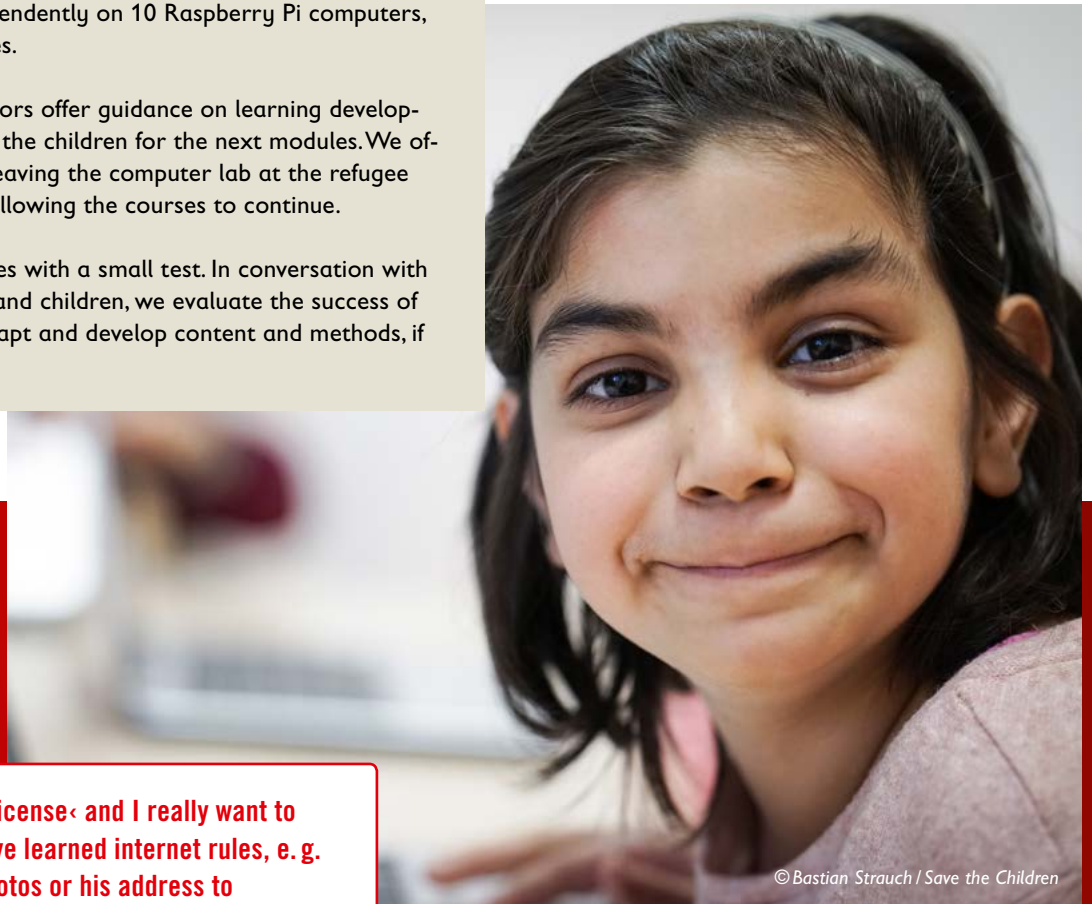
To provide guaranteed access to the modules and teaching material, we will set up a Raspberry Pi based “educational server” that gives the children access to the course material on- and offline, independently of the course. Each space will have a computer lab where children can work through the modules independently on 10 Raspberry Pi computers, or on other devices.



Our media educators offer guidance on learning development and prepare the children for the next modules. We offer the option of leaving the computer lab at the refugee accommodation, allowing the courses to continue.



Each course finishes with a small test. In conversation with teachers, parents and children, we evaluate the success of each course to adapt and develop content and methods, if necessary.



**»I already got the ›surfing license‹ and I really want to continue the course. We have learned internet rules, e. g. that one should not send photos or his address to strangers.« Mursal, 7, Afghanistan**

# Learning Modules

We plan to offer four learning modules over the course of 12 visits, 60-90 minutes each

## MODULE 1: INTERNET ABC

**Suitable for ages: 6–18 (8 hours)**

Children learn basic vocabulary and how to use a computer and an internet browser. We teach the safe use of media for communication through email, chat, instant messaging and social media. We cover the dangers of the internet and how to keep personal information safe.

## MODULE 2: KHAN ACADEMY

**Suitable for ages: 6–18, (2 hours)**

We show the children how to use the Khan Academy's website to access videos, games and teaching material in math, science, history and literature, in German and in their native language.

## MODULE 3: INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Suitable for ages: 6–18, (4–16 hours)**

Code.org is a non-profit website that encourages the learning of computer science through games. Children receive an introduction to the concepts of computer programming through age-appropriate lessons.

## MODULE 4: HTML AND CSS WITH RASPBERRY PI

**Suitable for ages: 13–18, (4–12 hours)**

Children set up a web server on a Raspberry Pi computer and learn the basics of HTML and CSS to build their own website or blog. Raspberry Pis provide a safe solution, allowing the children to publish and access their websites offline.

Would you like to learn more about this project or other programs and help children sustainably and long-term?

We are happy to provide you with further information, photos and videos. Depending on the availability of the refugee accommodation we offer visits to our partners.

*Self-confident handling of technology and to support each other comes naturally at the accommodation in Berlin-Pankow.*

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## We appreciate your generous support:

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF TEACHERS & SUPERVISORS

- 2-day workshop & professional support for 2–4 people
- Professional support over 12 course units

**Total 2,040 €**

### BASIC EQUIPMENT & SET-UP COMPUTER LAB

- 30 children per course / 10 computers
- Incl. computer, video projector, further equipment & set-up

**Total 6,020 €**

### COMPLETE PACKAGE TO ACCOMMODATE

- 30 children / 12 course units / 4 learning modules
- Incl. planning, material costs & equipment, training of the supervisor
- Professional management & salary over 4 months

**Total 21,320 €**



» In Syria we did not have a computer. The computer-class with Joe is fun and in terms of grades, I can keep up with my classmates.«

*Narven, 12, Syria*

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