

**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Regional Office for the
MIDDLE EAST AND
NORTH AFRICA

UNODC MENA Region Children Storytellers Competition

July 2020

Concept Note

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the education and social sectors to ensure the access to learning, especially for children in vulnerable situations. In order to adapt to this context, this storyteller competition aims at actively engaging education and social work professionals, students and youth in community-based activities focused on exploring innovative ways to enable children to have learning experiences and deliver educational messages.

It is in this context that UNODC will enable youth, students and professionals in contact with children throughout the region to participate in a “children storytellers competition” based on the E4J’s book “[Do it Like The Zorbs](#)” designed for children from 5 years old. This will be achieved through the competition participants videotaping themselves while doing the book reading to communicate the E4J messages to children. In these challenging times, these participants will have the chance to play an active role to convey fundamental values for children.

Objectives

- Raise awareness of basic values among youth and professionals, such as respect, tolerance, integrity, justice and fairness, by involving them in recording reading of *Zorbs* comic book for children “Do it like the Zorbs” developed by E4J under the Doha Declaration Programme using a mobile phone or a camera that is accessible for them and following the filming instructions provided in the appendix.
- Provide children from the age of 5 years old with access to online storytellers, speaking their own dialect and conveying a message of respect, tolerance, integrity, justice and fairness through the Zorbs story that will make them aware of fundamental values, especially during the COVID_19 crisis.

Participants profile

- University students
- NGOs staff involved in educational activities
- Scouts/Youth clubs
- School teachers
- Social workers

**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Regional Office for the
MIDDLE EAST AND
NORTH AFRICA

Details and Timeline of the activity

On 6 July 2020, UNODC launched a children's story-tellers regional competition. The launch is online using the global and regional UNODC and Doha Declarations social media platforms and website and offline by UNODC Programme Offices approaching the different entities concerned, universities, schools, NGOs, scouts, youth clubs etc. The launch announcement is also be accompanied by a link to the book they will be reading.

From 6-29 July 2020, interested young people will work on their reading videos and send the submission to unodc-egyptfieldoffice@un.org or use the same email address to send the video via a file-sharing service such as Dropbox, WeTransfer or Google Drive.

29 July 2020 is the deadline for participants to send their videos, which should be simple and creative with the aim of increasing the understanding of the basic values of children aged 5 to 8 from different cultural backgrounds.¹

Language	Use their own dialect in Arabic, French, or English and be able to reach children of diverse cultural backgrounds. Be as creative as you can while creating your video and reading stories! Like the Zorbs, the sky is your limit! You can launch your video in a variety of creative ways such as using different computer programs, combining graphics, games, or bringing your pet with you!
Length	Up to 6 minutes.
Deadline for the submission of the video	29 July 2020.
Recorded videos submission method	Videos to be sent to: unodc-egyptfieldoffice@un.org or use the same email address to send us a video via a file-sharing service such as Dropbox, WeTransfer or Google Drive.
Announcement of winners	First level selection: 10 August Second level selection: 13 August

¹ Video filming instructions provided in the appendix.

Appendix

Guidance Note for filming

Location

Please choose a quiet indoor spot in your home, with consistent lighting. We would suggest a background that is simple and relatable for our audience, so they focus on you and not what is in the background.

Angle

Be sure that your laptop, camera or phone is in a fixed position.

Technology

Please use whatever technology you are comfortable with, whether it's a laptop, smartphone, camera or tablet. If you use a phone, please shoot in landscape / horizontal orientation. We recommend you use the back camera, not the front-facing camera, as it is then easier to focus on the lens, also your video will have better resolution.

For the video:

- Please make sure to introduce yourself (name, age, location/city and country).
- Share your reading.

Please note that by sending us a video you are confirming that you agree to the dissemination of the video on UNODC platforms and that the video will be viewed by multiple audiences for choosing the winner and to spread the message of the campaign.