

# SCHOOL TALK BOX GUIDE

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# 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE TALK BOXES IN SCHOOLS

**Children are often faced with protection concerns that affect them such as sexual abuse, physical abuse, exploitation and neglect.**

Despite the protection concerns they face, children rarely have the courage to speak out about these concerns. Consequently, they continue to suffer, exhibiting signs of depression, extreme introversion, low self esteem, and ultimately affecting their overall wellbeing and performance in school. The talk boxes in school provide a channel where such children can express their needs/concerns anonymously. They are strategically placed in an area easily accessible by all children in school and where they can drop concerns without fear of being seen by the teachers or fellow children. A Talk Box committee made of 8 members is selected to be responsible for placement, safety, opening and responding to the concerns raised in the Talk Box. The Talk Box provides an opportunity to the school management to understand children's issues and address them internally or through the support of other service providers. Moreover, understanding the main child protection concerns in a certain school and its community may inform the prevention and response plans of the school.

