ENABLING CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH KNOWLEDGE ACCESS AND SHARING ONLINE

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Since 2019, Cybil, the cyber capacity knowledge portal, supports the GFCE's ambition to provide a neutral and open platform to access and share practical knowledge and best practices in cyber capacity building. As the COVID-19 pandemic spotlights cybersecurity risks, the need for countries to intensify their cyber capacity building efforts has become even more evident. It also changed the way of work due to global lockdowns and the cancellation of physical meetings and conferences. These developments highlight the important role that Cybil can play for knowledge sharing and supporting the effective use of resources by the global community. Owned and curated by the global community, Cybil offers easy access to a comprehensive collection of best practices, guidelines and other resources for actors to plan, implement and coordinate cyber capacity building in the thematic areas covered by the GFCE Working Groups while targeting evolving issues such as COVID-19. With these offerings produced by the GFCE and other key actors in the field on a publicly available online platform, Cybil can help to fill knowledge gaps on the 'what' and 'how' of cyber capacity building but also acts as an important way to disseminate knowledge.

A One-Stop Knowledge Hub for Cyber Capacity Building

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our online experiences has reiterated the pressing need for securing networks and online services. It has also drawn the attention of governments around the world to gaps in countries' capacities, as well as the need for planning and implementing cyber capacity building (CCB) effectively. Besides sufficient resources, this requires knowledge and access to expertise and best practices, as well as the ability to cooperate and coordinate actors in the global community.

Actors in CCB are facing a number of challenges when planning, setting up, or analysing CCB programmes and projects. Beneficiary governments who want to better understand their needs, or who have already identified areas for capacity building with need for assistance, are looking for potential funders and experts in best practices to inform their agenda. On the other hand, funders might seek new opportunities to support countries in their efforts to build capacity, reduce the risks for local users, and strengthen global structures. Implementors of CCB, including GFCE members, knowledge partners, or implementors are also looking for collaborators, existing capacities, and activities to harmonise CCB activities. Last but not least, many researchers need data and resources for examining the impact of CCB and ways to improve it.

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CYBIL PORTAL CATEGORY	What do you find?	What you can do?
Cyber capacity projects from around the world	**Who is doing what and where, and who is funding it?** A repository of over 660 past and present international cyber capacity building projects. This extends from national projects funded by external governments or organisations and implemented by one organisation, to multi-donor projects which cover a region or set of beneficiary countries. Project information is provided by the project owners and/or the beneficiaries or funders of activities, and/or is publicly available.	• Apply one or more filters such as geography, beneficiary group, actor type (beneficiary, funder, implementer or funder), status, GFCE themes and topics, date of update, and title (A-Z); • Export the repository in a single spreadsheet for project planning or research purposes; and • Submit projects online with a single spreadsheet
Tools to help develop your cyber capacity	**How is it done and what is best practice?** A collection of resources to help design and deliver international CCB projects. These are submitted by members of the GFCE community and curated by the GFCE Working Groups and include resources such as toolkits, best practice guides, and online resources – all of which can help in the design and delivery of international CCB projects. Outputs of the GFCE Working Groups can also be found here.	• Apply one or more filters such as GFCE themes and topics, actors, date of update and title (A- Z); • Export the collection in a single spreadsheet.
Lessons and best practices	**What was the outcome and what are lessons learnt?** A library of papers, articles, and reports analysing cyber capacity building activities and providing lessons learnt, outcomes and research for and about international CCB. Also, outputs of the GFCE Working Groups can be found here.	• Apply one or more filters such as GFCE themes and topics, actors, type of publication, year of publication, date of update. and title (A-Z); • Export the library in a single spreadsheet.
Actors and stakeholders to collaborate with	**Who is doing what in cyber capacity building?** Profiles of governments, companies, regional and international organisations, and other actors involved in international CCB as beneficiaries, funders, implementers or analysts of CCB activity.	• Apply one or more filters such as GFCE themes and topics, geography, group membership, actors, date of update, and title (A- Z); • Export the database in a single spreadsheet

Table 1.

Supporting this global CCB community is the main target group of CYBIL. The portal provides easy access to practical knowledge and best practices in CCB, as depicted in *table 1*.

From the Global Community, for the Global Community

Cybil was developed by the GFCE Knowledge Partners, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), DiploFoundation, FIRST, the Global Cyber Security Capacity Centre (GCSCC), and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI). Under the leadership of the GCSCC, these partners worked together to establish a platform which provides access to CCB knowledge to a diverse global community on different levels of capacities and various foci of work. To ensure community members can find content relevant to them, a "Getting Started Guide" on Cybil signposts users to the relevant sections on Cybil.

Since its launch at the GFCE Annual Meeting 2019 in Addis Ababa, Cybil has become a valuable resource for actors in the global CCB community to use for project proposals, identify potential partners and funders, and share knowledge and information about their activities. The GFCE community provided a constant flow of new content and updates, which is carefully curated and governed by the GFCE Working Groups and the GFCE Secretariat, who together monitor the relevance and accuracy for the needs of the community (see Cybil Curation Processes):

- GFCE members and partners contributed new project information and updates to the repository: for instance, the World Bank's Global Cybersecurity Capacity Programs I+II used Cybil to share the details of each specific country-level intervention;
- Cybil became a place for organisations analysing and conducting CCB to share reports, lessons learned, and articles. One example is the report Making Gender Visible in Digital ICTs and International Security by Global Affairs Canada;
- Outputs developed by the GFCE Working Groups were published first on Cybil An example is Lessons Learnt on Cyber Incident Management Capacity Building, which was developed by the GFCE WG B Task Force Cyber Incident Management;
- Cybil was instrumental in coordination and clearing house activities of the GFCE. In preparation of the GFCE Regional Meetings in Europe and the Pacific, for example, the Cybil repository was used as the primary source for identifying activity in the regions, and provided a starting point for coordination; and
- the Portal became the hub for documents, tools and publications presented at the GFCE V Meeting April-June 2020, including cybersecurity resources for addressing the consequence of COVID-19.

The overall aim and principle for Cybil's governance is to be as inclusive and comprehensive as possible. Therefore, several channels were introduced to enable more participants to easily submit content. For instance, a special spreadsheet guides what information is relevant for the project repository and can be uploaded easily. All content can also be sent to the GFCE Secretariat on a contact form. . Alternatively, users may email contact@cybilportal.org. These different tools increase the accessibility of the platform.

Fostering and Enabling Knowledge Sharing in COVID-19 and Beyond

The commitments of the Delhi Communiqué on a GFCE Global Agenda for Cyber Capacity Building 2017 are even more crucial in times when CCB and resilience become a higher priority for governments. It demands action from those funding, developing and implementing CCB in areas such as the development and promotion of good practice; identification of knowledge, developing technology and expertise gaps in the community's response; narrowing the gap between nations' CCB needs and the available resources; avoiding duplication of efforts given limited resources; identifying ways for increasing cooperation with the private sector and civil society in CCB; mapping global and regional progress in building the necessary capacities; and sharing information among stakeholders in a timely and effective manner. But during the pandemic, these efforts face increased challenges in the absence of opportunities to engage face-to-faceactivities

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of the CCB community moved online. One of the first examples were the online GFCE V-meetings from April – June 2020, which replaced the GFCE Working Group meetings in The Hague. The Cybil knowledge hub was used to share resources that were presented and mentioned, such as tools for governments' response to the cybersecurity implications of COVID-19. Cybil was able to prove its flexibility and the ability to respond to evolving needs of the GFCE community.

Going forward, Cybil will be developed further by the GFCE, which took over the management of the Portal from the GCSCC in September 2020. The Portal Advisory Group, which has evolved into the Cybil Steering Committee, continues to provide input and strategic advice on the future direction of CYBIL. In 2020, a digital marketing strategy will be implemented to foster CYBIL's reach within but also beyond the GFCE community. New features will be soon introduced such as an interactive map to find projects around the world, visualisations of networks and thematic coverage, an area for webinars, and multi-language access.

These efforts all contribute to the principles set out in Cybil's objectives: providing easy access to practical knowledge and best practices in CCB, neutral and open in all its work, avoiding duplication, owned and curated by the global community, meeting needs of the global community, fostering more effective use of resources among GFCE community and greater harmonisation of efforts.

How to get invovled in Cybil

- Submit your projects – past and ongoing https://cybilportal.org/submit-your-cyber-capacity-building-projects or on the contact form.
- Regularly inform Cybil about any relevant updates and developments (contact form).
- Share your publications and other outputs on Cybil (contact form).
- Let Cybil know about your events (contact form).
- Contact the Portal Steering Committee or participate in its meetings to give feedback (contact form).
- Provide funding to support Cybil (contact form).
- Email contact@cybilportal.org for more information!