

Country Profile Philippines



STOP CHILD EXPLOITATION!

In the Philippines, children are at risk of sexual exploitation, forced labour and trafficking.

20% of children using the internet are reported to have faced online exploitation, with children from diverse sexual orientations being highly vulnerable.

The Philippines, a nation comprising 7,641 islands¹ is home to nearly 42 million children.² The socio-economic vulnerabilities of the country place children at major risk of sexual exploitation, forced labour and child trafficking. The rate of online child sexual exploitation (OCSE) is alarming. 20% of children using the internet in the Philippines are reported to have faced online sexual abuse and exploitation.³ Children with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual characteristics (SOGIESC) are also highly vulnerable to OCSE. Close to 1.37 million⁴ are engaged in child labour with 61.9%⁵ working in agriculture.

¹National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, Government of the Philippines (2016 survey)

²United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2022).

³"Disrupting Harm in the Philippines", 2022, UNICEF, ECPAT and INTERPOL

^{4&5} "2021 Working Children Situation", Philippine Statistics Authority

Stakeholder Reach
2024

CHILDREN
2939

FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS
4510

CIVIL SOCIETY
REPRESENTATIVES
142

LAW
ENFORCEMENT
AGENTS
73

GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS
841

PRIVATE
SECTOR STAFF
481

Our Projects

Creating a safer Online Environment for every Child (CONEC)

Project locations : Taguig city, Cebu city, Mandaue city, Bohol province

Project CONEC creates a strong and responsive child protection system, increasing awareness and capacity of stakeholders to prevent and respond to online child sexual exploitation (OCSE). It influences local service providers and organisations to address OCSE effectively. It facilitates access to a social protection package that responds to the specific needs and experiences of affected children, children at-risk, and their families.

Co-funded by the European Union

Strengthening the Community-based Protection Systems to eliminate Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) in Visayas Region

Project locations : Iloilo city and Negros Oriental

The project supports government agencies, service providers, and stakeholders in Western and Central Visayas to develop and implement child-centred, comprehensive plans that protect children from the worst forms of labour, including sexual exploitation. It also builds local capacity to monitor, report, and address cases, while strengthening child protection systems and referral pathways.

Funded by the European Union



Our 'Let Children be Children' campaign empowers young people to advocate for child rights and promote inclusion of diverse gender identities in efforts against online child sexual exploitation.

Photo credit : Terre des Hommes



Step Up the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation of Children (SUFASEC)

Project locations : Lapu Lapu city and Cordova municipality in Cebu, Borongan city in Eastern Samar

The SUFASEC Project, under the Down to Zero Alliance,⁶ addresses sexual exploitation by challenging harmful social and gender norms and breaking taboos around sexuality. It ensures children's awareness of and access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, while advocating for systemic changes to strengthen protection and prevention.

“ This [ordinance] will ensure that every child in our *barangay* can grow up in a safe, nurturing environment. ”

Alfie Duran

Barangay (village) councilor speaks of an ordinance his local government was able to draft with support from Terre des Hommes and Children's Legal Bureau to establish a Barangay Council Against Child Trafficking.

Safety for Children and their Rights OnLine (SCROL)

Project locations : North and South of Cebu province

SCROL builds a safe online environment for children by strengthening laws, policies, and the capacity of government, law enforcement, and the private sector. Children and young people are empowered to advocate for change, while survivors of exploitation are supported with referral services, ensuring both protection and systemic progress.



Photo credit : Kirt John Gardose

⁶Down to Zero (DtZ) alliance is a global initiative of a group of INGOs (Terre des Hommes Netherlands, Plan International Netherlands, Defence for Children- ECPAT, Free a Girl, CRC Asia and Conexión) to address sexual exploitation of children.

⁷The Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM) Act is a law of 2022 punishing online sexual exploitation of children at the national level.

⁸A group of adult volunteers who monitor potential violations of child rights, abuse, and exploitation within their communities and collaborate with local agencies to report cases of child rights violations.

Key Figures 2024

20

Children withdrawn from worst forms of child labour

3

Enhanced Children's Codes of local governments incorporate provisions to address online child sexual exploitation

105

Children at risk and survivors of online sexual exploitation were able to access social protection assistance

4

Anti-OSAEC and Anti-CSAEM ordinances⁷ passed by Naga City, Cebu City, Mandaue City, and Bohol Province

105

Adults were trained and became members of the Community Watch Group (CWG)⁸

Our Achievements

We catalysed co-creation strategies together with other duty bearers to address operational bottlenecks in preventing and addressing online sexual abuse and exploitation of children.



Our programme on sexual reproductive health and rights has been successfully embedded across local civil society partners' projects to address sexual exploitation.



We influenced the passage of community and municipal-level ordinances focused on addressing worst forms of child labour.



Implementing Partners

Bidlisiw Foundation, Children's Legal Bureau, Inc., Center for Empowerment and Development in Eastern Visayas, (COPE) Inc, ECPAT Philippines, Philippines Against Child Trafficking (PACT)

Funding Partners

European Union, Dutch Post Loterij, The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Learn more



About Terre des Hommes Netherlands

Terre des Hommes Netherlands is a global child rights organisation that works in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe. We prevent and stop child exploitation, and empower children to make their voices count. We catalyse systemic change with the support of grassroots-level implementing partners. We ensure that children are at the centre of our initiatives.

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