

Confronting a Changing Paradigm

A learning document for philanthropists and changemakers to keep children safe from commercial sexual exploitation



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INTRODUCTION

Worsening climate crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic have dramatically increased the vulnerabilities of children worldwide. Greater online connectivity and anonymity have opened new ways predators are able to groom, recruit and sexually exploit children. This perfect storm means, not only has the pool of potential victims expanded exponentially, but so has the pool of potential opportunistic offenders.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is the commercially facilitated sexual abuse of children. CSEC is when a child engages in sexual activity for payment in money or kind (e.g. food, shelter, drugs, protection) to any person. CSEC can occur physically, for example child sex trafficking, child sex tourism, and depending on the circumstances, early marriage; or online through grooming for sexually explicit pictures; or through a combination of online and offline interactions such as live streaming of child abuse.

The purpose of this document is to bridge the gap between prevailing perspectives, which treat child sexual exploitation as a niche issue, and available data and evidence that demonstrate the universality of the issue and the transformative potential investing in addressing it could have. In the current context, where the climate and economic crisis is posing a serious threat to funding for child protection globally, the role of private philanthropy is even more crucial and there is a distinct opportunity to create a step change and significantly transform child protection worldwide.

The document is divided into three parts to provide a comprehensive overview and assist you in your efforts towards child protection. The first part aims to provide a clear understanding of the current state of CSEC, trends and its impact on individuals, and deep interlinkages with broader society as well as several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The second part identifies promising solutions across the child protection value chain and the main challenges which need support. Finally, the last part highlights the unique role of private philanthropic funding and tools in collaborating to overcome global child protection challenges.

However, the document does have some limitations. CSEC is a huge global challenge, and far too complex to explore from every angle in one guide. While the information in this document is based on extensive secondary research and conversations with more than 15 experts from around the world, we found substantial gaps in the availability of data, including variations in the definition of the term itself. Even when available, the quality was uneven across different forms of CSEC, demographics and geographies. These gaps limit not only our knowledge and understanding of the problem but also efforts towards practical solutions. Our estimates in this report should be treated as directional indicators on the scale and financial implications of CSEC. While the estimates are underpinned by the most recent and reliable evidence available and based on the most conservative figures, we had to rely on certain assumptions about the scale and impact of child sexual abuse and exploitation. Our detailed methodology and assumptions are available in the annexure, and we would be pleased to share additional data or details upon request.

We want to share our gratitude and appreciation for the UBS Optimus Foundation, whose funding support and valuable inputs helped make this work possible. All the insights were critical in helping shape our own perspectives on the issue. We, however, are ultimately responsible for analytical and editorial decisions, as well as any errors in this document.

AT A GLANCE

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is becoming a globally pervasive issue.

This is driven by the digital revolution, with the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change putting more children at risk.



**1 in 5 girls and
1 in 13 boys**
suffer some form
of sexual abuse¹



**On any given day,
2-10 million**
children are estimated to be in
situations of commercial sexual
exploitation²



10x
increase in child sexual abuse
websites³



20 million
children in high drought severity
and conflict zones are at risk of
trafficking from migration⁴

Sexual exploitation impacts the survivors, their family, and undermines other societal investments.

Impact permeates survivors, their families, communities, and society at large with long-lasting effects.



6x
more likely for
survivors to commit
suicide⁵



~80%
survivors find it
difficult to form
emotional bonds⁵



1 in 3
children who face
sexual abuse end up
dropping
out of school⁶

Investment to address CSEC can have an exponential impact on broader development goals, yet there remains a significant child protection funding challenge.

This is despite impact and change that can be realised with minimal investment.



\$800 million
funding gap in child protection⁷

¹ Action To End Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: A Review of The Evidence, UNICEF (2020)

² Child Prostitution: Global Health Burden, Research Needs, and Interventions, Wills & Levy (2002)

³ Fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect; Report to Congress, Sedlak et al. (2010)

⁴ Unless we act now - The impact of climate change on children, UNICEF (2015)

⁵ The impacts of child sexual abuse: A rapid evidence assessment, Fisher et al. (2017)

⁶ Kenya Research program- CSEC Prevalence Estimation, GFEMS (2021)

⁷ Note: Due to unavailability of CSEC specific data, we have highlighted the funding gap for overall child protection in the humanitarian context. Financial Tracking Service, accessed on February 10 (2023)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On any given day, 2–10 million children⁸ are sexually exploited for commercial purposes, a figure that is understood to be grossly underestimated. Globally, one in five girls and one in 13 boys have been sexually exploited or abused, of which commercial exploitation forms a sizable component.⁹ No country or culture is immune to CSEC – it takes place at home, at school, in communities and increasingly online. While CSEC impacts children of all genders, it disproportionately impacts girls¹⁰ and starts pre-puberty. Historically, CSEC has been more prevalent in the Global South but increasing higher rates of online sexual exploitation of children are reported in North America and Europe.¹¹

The negative impact of sexual exploitation undermines all other investments in children – it lasts a lifetime and impacts not only individuals, but also their families and broader society in ways that are inconspicuous. Experiencing childhood sexual violence often results in significant life-long physical and mental health challenges, such as anxiety or depression, for ~70% of survivors.¹² They are also less likely to realise their potential at work – on average, they earn 40% less than other people over their lifetimes.¹³ Sexual violence against children, and the risk of being trafficked, can also reverse advances in broader areas such as gender equity, with caregivers keeping children at home, especially girls, to “keep them safe”. These effects mean that only by addressing sexual exploitation against children can we protect progress and investments in a wide range of development outcomes including gender, education, and health.

Interventions to address commercial sexual exploitation of children are severely underfunded and overlooked in the global development agenda despite increasing need. Data on funding for CSEC as a standalone issue is not readily available, so funding for cross-cutting issues provide an indication. In 2020, less than 0.8%¹⁴ of official development assistance and philanthropic funding went to end violence against children, a figure that has not risen substantially through the pandemic despite the increased need. Conservative estimates indicate a current funding gap of 80% for overall child protection in the humanitarian context.¹⁵

The hidden nature of the issue, compounded by the misconception that child sexual exploitation is a niche and overly complex problem to solve, has resulted in a gap in the SDG discourse on how combatting CSEC contributes to many development goals. Even where there exist direct, compounding and overlapping vulnerabilities and intersectionality of CSEC, they are rarely addressed in wider social and economic issues such as education, health, climate change, or inclusive development strategies. The multi-faceted impact of addressing CSEC, and how prevention strategies serve the poorest children creating opportunities for their advancement, is not clearly understood. The linkages between poverty, social inequality and CSEC are evident (e.g. marginalised families are more at risk of CSEC because they do not have access to dignified employment or income, gained via education, skills development or social protection schemes – so cannot in turn invest in the health and education of their children). Yet, CSEC remains an invisible issue not brought to the fore by communities, because it can act as a solution to their desperate poverty. Additionally, conversations around CSEC have historically been covered up due to its deep association with power structures, culture, and tradition.

However, these misconceptions must be addressed. Fuelled by technology and climate change, CSEC is starting to shift from a niche to a pervasive problem – with children around the world becoming increasingly vulnerable. More children experience online sexual exploitation for the first time every year – a trend that has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. Research indicates that online interaction is now so ubiquitous that it is likely to feature in some form in almost all cases of child sexual

⁸ Child Prostitution: Global Health Burden, Research Needs, and Interventions, Wills & Levy (2002)

⁹ Action To End Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: A Review of The Evidence, UNICEF (2020)

¹⁰ Global report on trafficking in person UNODC (2018)

¹¹ Towards a Global indicator on Unidentified Victims in Child Sexual Exploitation Material – Technical Report, ECPAT International & Interpol (2018)

¹² The impacts of child sexual abuse: A rapid evidence assessment, Fisher et al. (2017)

¹³ The impacts of child sexual abuse: A rapid evidence assessment, Fisher et al. (2017)

¹⁴ Funding for children impacted by violence is at a record low amid a series of ongoing crises, World Vision (2022)

¹⁵ Note: Due to unavailability of CSEC specific data, we have highlighted the funding gap for overall child protection in the humanitarian context. Financial Tracking Service, accessed on February 10 (2023)

exploitation and abuse. The reported number of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) in distribution (~21 million in 2020)¹⁶ increased by more than 700% between 2013 and 2017.¹⁷ This is coupled with the rapidly worsening climate crisis, causing droughts, floods, fires, and other natural events that disrupt the livelihood opportunities of already vulnerable communities. Examples of knock-on effects include children removed from school to support family, girls married off, families migrating for labour or forced to live in refugee shelters. This climate-driven increased vulnerability has resulted in millions of families and children being trapped in CSEC and other forms of modern slavery. While vulnerability to CSEC is increasing, we know that it can be addressed. Decades of community-based work and rigorous research by academics around the world shows that effective interventions exist. Finally, even if the belief is that CSEC cannot be eliminated, its prevalence can be significantly reduced, and justice, rehabilitation, and recovery can be provided for survivors.

The priority now is to scale interventions that work and address gaps across the child protection value chain. Amongst all, *prevention*, which can stop CSEC from occurring at all, is the most cost-effective lever. However, interventions need to go beyond early detection and raising awareness to addressing root causes such as poverty or gender norms such as patriarchy. Several landmark *prosecution* policies have broadened scope, increased penalties, and reformed criminal justice systems. Despite these, lack of resources and capacity to implement policies, corrupt systems, jurisdictional challenges, and limited understanding of problems within law enforcement remain pressing challenges. While *protection and rehabilitation* efforts are being designed across multiple dimensions encompassing physical safe spaces, emotional and mental health care, and re-integration in the society, they continue to operate in silos. Impactful interventions need to provide holistic support and prioritise trauma-informed responses that align with a rights-based approach to care – putting the needs of children at the forefront to restore their sense of safety, dignity, and hope.

There is also a need to create a sense of urgency for technology driven sexual exploitation, where the new methods and modes are constantly and rapidly evolving, making it imperative for interventions to adapt and grow at the same pace. It is critical to harness the power of modern technology including artificial intelligence, blockchain, and machine learning to efficiently detect risks, identify victims, aid investigations, enhance prosecutions and raise awareness. Given the global nature of online exploitation, there is a need for harmonised laws and policies that enhance cross-border prosecution.

To ensure effectiveness of interventions, it is important to strengthen data and evidence on commercial sexual exploitation of children and collaborate on integrated approaches. Understanding the situation and efficacy of interventions across geographies, disaggregated by gender especially for minority groups such as boys, can lead to greater impact. Robust performance metrics and frameworks are needed, to contribute to learning and provide clear accountability to funders and programme participants. The challenge is not to reinvent the wheel, but to multiply the wheels and include a strategic steering mechanism that ensures all wheels work together. Ecosystem players need to move beyond narrow siloes, beyond competing aims and goals, and create collaborative approaches that result in systemic change.

Investing in child protection can transform the lives of children, while unleashing exponential potential for society. Addressing sexual exploitation of children averts major healthcare costs, helps people participate in the workforce and enables children to complete their education while accelerating progress on multiple SDGs.

Private philanthropists can create catalytic change by investing in underfunded areas, compounding the effect of their investments in other development areas, and supporting cross-cutting systemic interventions. Private philanthropists are uniquely placed to complement investments from public institutions to fund innovations in underfunded areas – such as targeted solutions for overlooked groups such as boys, developing localised research and evidence-based solutions to address deep societal root causes, and alternative technology solutions. Identifying and leveraging linkages for intersectionality between child sexual exploitation and other key development sectors such as gender, education, climate, and health can help tackle the issue more comprehensively. Finally, private philanthropists can steer interventions to drive systemic change through a holistic and collaborative approach to create impact ranging from evidence generation to developing robust performance metrics and

¹⁶ Facebook reported more than 20 million child sexual abuse images in 2020, more than any other company, Business Insider (2021)

¹⁷ Ending Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, UNICEF (2021)

frameworks for shared learning and accountability. Collaborative interventions that address systems change, can compound impact by 70-90%.¹⁸

Philanthropic financing tools can amplify impact with quantifiable outcomes. While it is important to attract more capital to address child sexual exploitation, deploying it effectively to achieve better results is equally essential. Tools such as trust-based philanthropy provide flexibility to implementing partners so they can innovate, save time, and achieve the impact they identify as needed. Faith and community-based funding allows pooled capital to address needs for specific local contexts. There are other formats including collectives and blended finance that can spread risk while maximising impact. As more robust outcome measurement evidence develops, there is an opportunity to use blended finance with innovative funding instruments and vehicles to drive synergies between commercial and social value.

Private philanthropists play a crucial role in ensuring children worldwide can pursue a good life for themselves and their communities – even small investments can have magnified impact. Foundations, corporations, High Net-Worth Individuals, and campaigners, all have a unique opportunity to contribute. Targeted investments in CSEC can impact the lives of more than a hundred thousand children online, build capacity for tens of thousands of front-line workers, or even generate evidence to create systemic shifts in global child protection. The growing threat and detriment to human capital, makes it increasingly urgent and the opportunity for pronounced impact makes investment in child protection imperative.

¹⁸ Imperative to Invest, Spotlight Initiative (2022)

1 | Understanding CSEC

It is easy to think of sexual exploitation and abuse as something that happens to someone else, somewhere else. Easier to imagine that it does not happen to children at all.

But 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 13 boys have been sexually exploited or abused, with ~20 million reported child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) online – figures that are known to be severely underestimated.

*While sexual exploitation is more prevalent in the Global South, unsafe access to the internet has meant growing rates of online exploitation in North America and Europe. As the Global South's internet access increases, this trend is likely to follow, indicating **sexual exploitation is becoming a pervasive problem**. Certain groups of children remain more vulnerable. CSEC disproportionately impacts girls and starts early in the lives of children.*

Despite the devastating and lifelong impacts of CSEC on individuals, their families, and broader society, CSEC is considered a niche, intractable and uncomfortable problem — and therefore not a priority.



Image Source: Kanenori from Pixabay

1.1 | Defining CSEC

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) refers to a “range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for anything of value (including monetary and non-monetary benefits) given or received by any person, where ‘child’ refers to any person under eighteen years of age”.

CSEC manifests in numerous forms but can be broadly categorised as:



Physical Sexual Exploitation of Children refers to in-person sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for financial or non-financial benefit such as sex trafficking, prostitution, sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism, early marriage, and performance in sexual venues.¹⁹



Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) refers to the usage of the internet or communication technologies as a method to facilitate the sexual abuse of children and adolescents. This can occur directly online or through a combination of offline and online interactions.²¹ This includes grooming, live streaming, viewing content depicting sexual activity and abuse of minors, with coercing and blackmailing children for sexual purposes.²²

The problem of defining CSEC, and the need to define this concept, has been recognised by major policy bodies and leading researchers since the 1970s.

Recent demands for a more theoretically robust, explicit definition of CSEC shows that the problem of defining CSEC **remains urgent.**²⁰

While definitions vary, “children” or “child” generally means any person under 18 years of age. Nomenclature around CSEC is widely inconsistent and despite growing awareness, terms such as “adolescent” or “child prostitute” continue to perpetuate stigma and criminalisation.²³

The Stockholm Declaration defines CSEC as a “contemporary form of slavery”. CSEC forms a major part of modern slavery, where an estimated 12 million children are trapped²⁴, and child violence, which impacts an estimated ~1 billion children.²⁵ Millions of children are trafficked and recruited into exploitative labour or forced sex trade. More than half of the children in forced labour are in commercial sexual exploitation.²⁶

For the purposes of this document, we use various narrow terms (e.g. child sex trafficking or child marriages) or broad terms (e.g. child sexual exploitation and abuse or child sexual violence) to represent commercial sexual exploitation of children. This is primarily due to a scarcity of data specific to CSEC and varied definitions across literature. Broader terms are used conservatively and only where strong links to CSEC have been evidenced in literature and through conversations with experts.

¹⁹ Commercial sexual exploitation of children, ILO (n.d.)

²⁰ Child Sexual Abuse: Toward a Conceptual Model and Definition, Ben Mathews & Delphine Collin-Vezina (2017)

²¹ What is online child sexual exploitation?, INHOPE (2021)

²² What is online child sexual exploitation?, Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (n.d.)

²³ Toward a Global Definition and Understanding of Child Sexual Exploitation: The Development of a Conceptual Model, Laird J., et al. (2022)

²⁴ Child slavery, Anti Slavery (n.d.)

²⁵ Violence against Children, WHO (2022)

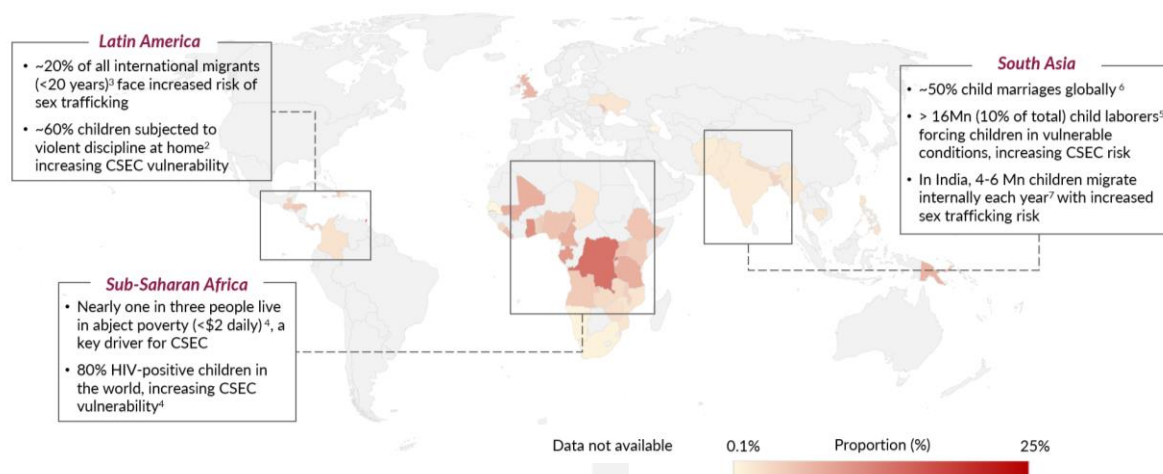
²⁶ Forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking, ILO (n.d.)

1.2 | Prevalence of CSEC

While prevalence of CSEC is observed in all geographical and sociological contexts, the clandestine nature of the activity; lack of resources focussed on identifying and serving victims; reluctance of survivors to come forward due to manipulation, threats, shame, and language barriers; and mistrust of authorities hamper accurate measurement.^{27,28}

1.2.1 | In general, higher rates of exploitation are recorded in some African and South Asian nations

Proportion of young women (age 18-29) who faced sexual exploitation before turning 18
% of total, 2018⁸



Globally, **1 in 5** girls and **1 in 13** boys have been sexually exploited or abused²⁹

On any given day, **2 - 10 million** children are estimated to be in situations of forced commercial sexual exploitation³⁰

Infographic Sources: 1. State of World's Children, UNICEF (2021); 2. Children in Latin America and the Caribbean, UNICEF (2020); 3. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation Of Children In Latin America, ECPAT International (2014); 4. Regional CSEC Overview – Africa, ECPAT (2015); 5. Child Marriage Latest Trends and Future Prospects, UNICEF (2018); 6. Measuring Children's Work in South Asia, ILO (2015); 7. Regional Overview – South Asia, ECPAT International (2018); 8. UN Statistics Division, Our World in Data (2020)

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and South Asia share unique contexts leading to higher CSEC prevalence:

- **Social norms, values and beliefs** that depict men as the higher gender results in harmful attitudes and behaviours leading to increased cases of CSEC.³¹ Countries such as Pakistan in South Asia and Congo in Africa rank as the second- and third-worst countries in terms of gender parity.³²

²⁷ Sex Trafficking and the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Miller-Perrin & Wurtele (2016)

²⁸ Counter Trafficking Data Brief, CTDC (2017)

²⁹ Action To End Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: A Review of the Evidence, UNICEF (2020)

³⁰ Child Prostitution: Global Health Burden, Research Needs, and Interventions, Wills & Levy (2002)

³¹ Gender, Rights and Responsibilities: The need for a global analysis of the sexual exploitation of boys, Valentine Josenhans, et al. (2020)

³² Global Gender Gap Report, World Economic Forum (2022)

- **Chronic poverty or abject poverty** is widely recognised as a key driver of sexual exploitation of children, leading to child marriages or increased migration for better living standards, due to adverse weather conditions which triggered 2.6 million internal displacements in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2021.³³ Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia combined account for more than 80% of the world’s extremely poor.³⁴
- **Inadequate birth registration** results in laws not being able to protect missing or unidentifiable children who are at an increased risk of abduction and sexual trafficking. Only ~40% of children (age <5) have a birth certificate in Sub-Saharan Africa and Pakistan (compared to 73% globally).³⁵ In India, a child goes missing every 7 minutes, and currently there are ~44,000 missing children still untraced.³⁶

On the other hand, higher rates of online child sexual exploitation are reported in North America and Europe



Online sexual exploitation of children occurs everywhere. Almost half of all respondents, in an assessment conducted across 54 countries, reported at least one online sexual harm during childhood.³⁷ According to analyses based on Interpol’s database, >40% of child sexual abuse materials (CSAM), where victims could be identified, have North America or Europe as the recorded place of abuse.³⁸ However, higher rates of online child sexual abuse in certain countries could be a result of better awareness, efficient reporting channels, and internet access.^{39,40}

³³ Global Report on Internal Displacement, IDMC (2022)

³⁴ International Comparisons of Poverty in South Asia, Asian Development Review, Islam et al. (2021)

³⁵ UNICEF State of World’s Children Data, World Bank Database (2017)

³⁶ Crime In India – Statistics Volume I, NCRB (2021)

³⁷ Global Threat Assessment, WeProtect Global Alliance (2021)

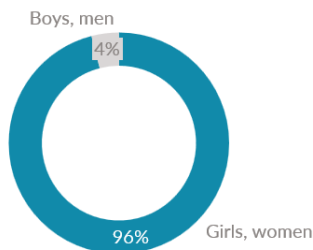
³⁸ Towards a Global indicator on Unidentified Victims in Child Sexual Exploitation Material – Technical Report, ECPAT International & Interpol (2018)

³⁹ Towards a Global indicator on Unidentified Victims in Child Sexual Exploitation Material – Summary Report, ECPAT International & Interpol (2018)

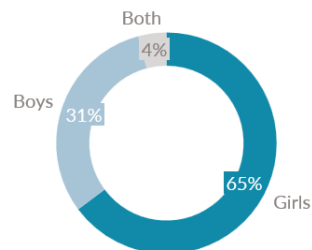
⁴⁰ Dalberg Interviews

1.2.2 | *Child sexual abuse is gendered, disproportionately impacting girls, and starts in early childhood*

Victims of sexual trafficking, by gender
% of total, 2018¹



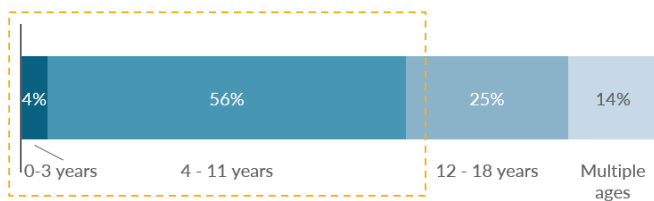
Proportion of online child sexual abuse material, by gender
% of total, 2022²



While both boys and girls are sexually exploited, it remains a gendered crime.

Sex trafficking, a type of commercial child sexual exploitation, disproportionately impacts girls and women which account for >90% of survivors.⁴¹ While online sexual exploitation is also reported for boys, >70% of online abuse is targeted towards girls.⁴² Given this, sexual exploitation of girls rightly continues to be the dominant focus for research and policy discourse. However, boys may be as or more vulnerable in some contexts (e.g. street-connected boys or sexual and gender minorities).⁴³

Percentage of victims in child sexual abuse material, by age
% of total, 2016-18²



More than half of child sexual abuse begins pre-puberty.

Research also indicates a high correlation between age and abuse: the younger the victim, the more severe the abuse is likely to be.⁴⁴ This makes it critical that efforts are also focused on younger children, including infants and toddlers.

Sources: 1. Global report on trafficking in person, UNODC (2018); 2. Towards a Global indicator on Unidentified Victims in Child Sexual Exploitation Material, ECPAT International & Interpol, (2018)

⁴¹ Global report on trafficking in person UNODC (2018)

⁴² Towards a Global indicator on Unidentified Victims in Child Sexual Exploitation Material – Technical Report, ECPAT International & Interpol (2018)

⁴³ Gender, rights and responsibilities: The need for a global analysis of the sexual exploitation of boys, Valentine Josenhans, et al. (2020)

⁴⁴ Towards a Global indicator on Unidentified Victims in Child Sexual Exploitation Material – Summary Report, ECPAT International & Interpol (2018)

1.2.3 | *Children in vulnerable situations or those who are “at risk” are in greater danger of commercial sexual exploitation*

Child sexual exploitation happens in variety of settings, both public and private. It takes place at homes, schools, communities and online,⁴⁵ but global evidence^{46,47} suggests that children in certain contexts are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Vulnerability is a combination of personal, familial, and societal factors.



Personal factors and characteristics, such as gender, age, sexual identity, disabilities, caste, social isolation and drug or alcohol usage, affect a child’s response to stressors and the risk of being targeted.



A child’s direct relationships (e.g. with family or peers) and power imbalances (e.g. male-female) affect their exposure to risks. Perpetrators often target lonely children from broken homes.⁴⁹



Intergenerational exploitation can play a crucial role. Children of sex workers or those in the trade get early exposure, increasing vulnerability.⁵⁰



Community-level circumstances, actors, and services can increase the risk of sexual exploitation or help protect children from it. High levels of crime or unemployment in neighbourhoods, greater non-monitored access to internet, poor quality of schools or social service, and conflict or dire humanitarian contexts all impact vulnerability.



Societies with deeply ingrained norms that govern how a society is run have a strong effect on sexual exploitation. Norms that support male sexual entitlement or implicitly blame survivors heighten vulnerability. India is home to 40% of the world’s child marriages, and girls may be married early to “ensure” chastity or used as compensation to resolve conflict.

Children with disabilities

are 3x more likely to be abused than those without them⁴⁸

Children **living without a parent**

face 10x increased risk compared to living with both biological parents⁵¹

Patriarchal norms

directly contribute to high levels of child marriage in India⁵²

⁴⁵ Commercial sexual exploitation of children, ILO (n.d.)

⁴⁶ Protecting children from sexual exploitation and abuse, UNICEF (n.d.)

⁴⁷ How to spot child sexual exploitation, NHS (2021)

⁴⁸ Sexual Abuse of Children with Disabilities, Vera (2013)

⁴⁹ Child Sexual Abuse Statistics, Darkness to Light (2015)

⁵⁰ Dalberg Interviews

⁵¹ Fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect; Report to Congress, Sedlak et al (2010)

⁵² Social Determinants of Child Marriage in Rural India, Rajeev Seth et al. (2018)

1.2.4 | *The rise of internet has impacted existing and created new forms of child sexual exploitation, compounded by COVID-19 and the climate crisis*

Increased connectivity and the rise of social media have increased the number of children accessible to predators. At the global level, it has been estimated that one in three internet users is a child under 18 years of age⁵³ and almost half of them use social media.⁵⁴ 750,000 individuals, at any one time, are estimated to be looking to use social media to connect with children for sexual purposes.⁵⁵

This enables new modes of sexual exploitation at scale. Online is one of the fastest growing channels for child sexual abuse. Between 2013 and 2019, the number of websites devoted to CSAM increased 10-fold.⁵⁶

COVID-19 exacerbated children's vulnerability to online sexual exploitation due to increased time spent online, social isolation, family stress, and higher levels of domestic violence. Studies show that children's screen time went up by ~285% during COVID-19.⁵⁷ Reports of livestreamed child sexual abuse during quarantine increased by 265% in the Philippines.⁵⁸ In the United Kingdom, a significant (~20%) increase in sexual crimes against children was reported in the six-month period after lockdown.⁵⁹

The boundaries between online and offline exploitation are increasingly blurred.⁶¹ The online ordering of CSAM can lead to physical exploitation when a perpetrator requests to have hands-on access to the child. A study suggests that of the children that were commercially sexually exploited in the Philippines, many had already been involved in live online child sexual exploitation.

Climate-induced devastation and migration has directly trapped millions of families and children into commercial sexual exploitation or modern slavery. Effects of climate change has led to insufficient food and water and loss of livelihood, income and shelter, thereby collectively increasing children's social vulnerability to exploitation. Climate-induced poverty often translates to families pushing their children into exploitative forms of labour including transactional sex.

For example, in the Horn of Africa, multiple underage girls were sold into child marriage in exchange for livestock, as families struggled to survive due to food insecurity triggered by a drought.⁶² A child displaced due to climate-induced disasters is at an even higher risk of sexual exploitation.⁶³ CSEC interlinkages with climate changes means that a worsening climate directly and dramatically increases the number of children who are at risk, making the issue more pervasive.



Excerpts from Interviews

*"Offenders **reach out to millions around the globe**, especially on social media or gaming websites, of which children with higher vulnerabilities get tricked into victimization."*

- Online Sexual Exploitation of Children Expert, International Investigation organization

 **Voices from the ground**

*"I was **sent to be married because of shortage of food** in the house [...] they (my parents) told me that I had to because that would mean one mouth less at the table."*

- 13-year-old girl whose family harvest was wiped out due to floods⁶⁰

⁵³ Growing up in a connected world, UNICEF (2019)

⁵⁴ Safe Online Network Forum Report, GPEV (2022)

⁵⁵ Issue and Purpose, End Violence Against Children (n.d.)

⁵⁶ Child sexual abuse as a global challenge, Beier et al. (2021)

⁵⁷ Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on children and adolescents' lifestyle behaviour larger than expected, Xiang et al. (2020)

⁵⁸ Global Threat Assessment, WeProtect (2021)

⁵⁹ Child sexual abuse and Covid-19: Side effects of changed societies and positive lessons for prevention, Harris et al. (2021)

⁶⁰ How climate change leads to more violence against women, girls, Indian Express (2020)

⁶¹ Mobile phone technology and sexual abuse, McCartand and McAlister (2012)

⁶² Ending violence against children while addressing the global climate crisis, P. Perezniето, J Rivett et al (2020)

⁶³ Unless we act now: The impact of climate change on children, UNICEF (2015)

1.2.5| *Data, where available, remains inaccurate, under-represented and non-disaggregated making any trends difficult to discern*

Much abuse and exploitation is unreported and never comes to the attention of authorities and child protection services. Estimates of the prevalence of child sexual exploitation tend to draw primarily on reported incidents, data gained from agencies such as the police or courts, which are widely accepted to be underestimates of the numbers of children affected.

There is a lack of a common database to collect statistics on reported cases of CSEC and many agencies use their own databases or tracking systems, which leads to both gaps and double counting of identified survivors.

Even for sex trafficking, a type of CSEC and human trafficking which is known as an enterprise in which transnational organised crimes are active, the response, in law, policy, and voluntary action, is hindered by two fundamental challenges:

1. Clear and agreed-upon definition of the crime itself (especially across national jurisdictions)
2. Valid and reliable measurement of its incidence⁶⁴

Typically, statistics related to child protection do not provide information about the forms of sexual abuse and exploitation during legal proceedings.⁶⁵ Reporting and data collection for incidence of online sexual exploitation of children becomes even more complicated with the need to weed out abuse cases from material that may be shared consensually.⁶⁶ Reviews and other studies show that findings on the prevalence of child sexual exploitation present a mixed picture on the extent of the problem, even in the same region, and comparisons are difficult to make. For example, estimates on the prevalence of CSEC ranges from 1,400 to over 2 million in the US, leading scholars to question the merits of these estimates.⁶⁷

Voices from the ground

*Insufficient data makes it **difficult to detect and target high prevalence** of CSEC disallowing effective prevention and law enforcement efforts.⁶⁸*

- Joseph Wesley, head of anti-child trafficking, World Vision India

⁶⁴ Modern slavery meaning and measurement – New approaches, PaCCs Policy briefing (2018)

⁶⁵ Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: Evidence review, Radford et. Al for UNICEF (2015)

⁶⁶ Dalberg Interviews

⁶⁷ Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and the Emergence of Safe Harbor Legislation: Implications for Policy and Practice, Shields and Letourneau (2015)

⁶⁸ Child trafficking: Lack of data is hindering the work of Indian agencies and NGOs, Shreehari Paliath and Chaitanya Mallapur (2019)

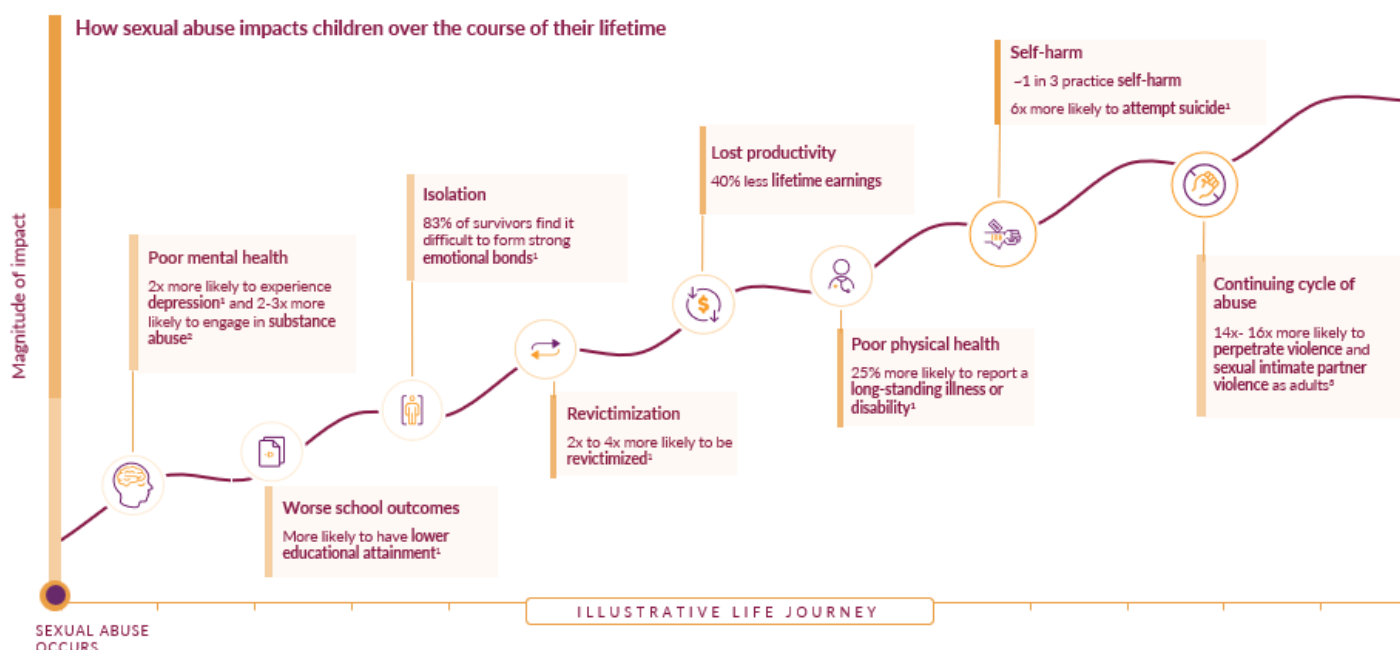
1.3 | Impact of CSEC

Sexual exploitation of children leads to destruction that lasts a lifetime and impacts individuals, their families, friends, and broader society. Sexual abuse often results in significant life-long physical and mental health challenges, such as anxiety or depression, for ~70% of survivors. About 80% of survivors face challenges in maintaining meaningful relationships and 1 in 3 are likely to drop out of school. They are also less likely to realise their potential at work – on average, they earn 40% less than other people over their lifetimes. As a result, sexual exploitation can undermine all other investments in children.

There is compelling evidence that child sexual abuse is associated with an increased risk of adverse outcomes in almost every sphere of survivors' lives, and that this risk can persist across their lifespan.

The harm caused also has secondary effects on the families of survivors, and on society, which can have financial and intangible consequences.⁶⁹ Experts suggest that the issues highlighted for child sexual abuse are exacerbated for children who face this exploitation commercially.

1.3.1 | *Child sexual abuse negatively impacts the trajectory of a child's life*



Sources: 1. The impacts of child sexual abuse: A rapid evidence assessment, Fisher et al. (2017); 2. Child Sexual Abuse Statistics, Darkness to Light (2017); 3. Global status report on preventing violence against children, WHO (2020)

Survivors of CSEC face amplified consequences – with limited access to healthcare and education. CSEC survivors struggle to rebuild their lives and reintegrate into society even if they manage to get out of the system.

⁶⁹ The impacts of child sexual abuse: A rapid evidence assessment, Fisher et al. (2017)

1.3.2 | *The harm caused by CSEC creates a ripple effect on those close to survivors*

Consequences of CSEC not only include difficulty in maintaining existing and building new relationships for the individual but can also translate into potential for abuse for those around them.

- **Mental toll on parents and caregivers:**
Parents of survivors, especially mothers, experienced greater emotional distress, poorer family functioning, and lower satisfaction in their parenting role. The parents' mental health impacts can often mirror the outcomes experienced by survivors.⁷⁰
- **Inter-generational trauma:**
Survivors of child sexual abuse are more likely to perpetrate violence as adults. ~35% of male perpetrators were found to be child sexual abuse survivors.⁷¹
- **Difficulties building relationships:**
Child sexual abuse can have a profound effect on a survivor's ability to form and maintain healthy relationships. Children often get ostracised from society and experience social isolation. ~80% survivors find it difficult to form emotional bonds.⁷²
- **Recruit other family and friends into CSEC:**
A study based in Kenya suggested that CSEC survivors often recruit other children into the trade and financially profit from their involvement. ~40% of CSEC survivors are introduced to the trade by another minor.⁷³

Voices from the ground

*“My mum’s mental health is still really bad [...] we have reconciled but the **long-lasting effects** on her have been significant.”⁷⁴*

*“If the connection between abuse and “love” is made early in life ... [abuse] can become mixed up with sexual feelings, leading to **confusion in the person** who experienced the abuse.”⁷⁵*

*“I’ve never, ever told any of my family...because every time I had sex with my wife, I used to think about [the woman who sexually abused me], and it’s **upset me all my life.**”⁷⁶*

*“Just three years after being trafficked, she **herself became a trafficker.**”⁷⁷*

⁷⁰ Secondary traumatisation in parents following the disclosure of extrafamilial child sexual abuse, I G Manion et al. (1996)

⁷¹ Cycle of child sexual abuse: links between being a victim and becoming a perpetrator, M. Glasser, et al. (2001)

⁷² The impacts of child sexual abuse: A rapid evidence assessment, Fisher et al. (2017)

⁷³ Kenya Research program- CSEC Prevalence Estimation, GFEMS (2021)

⁷⁴ Interim Report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA (2018)

⁷⁵ 9 Reasons the Cycle of Abuse Continues, Hartney et al. (2022)

⁷⁶ Interim Report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA (2018)

⁷⁷ Sex trafficking’s tragic paradox: when victims become perpetrators, The Conversation (2019)

1.3.3 | *Impact of child sexual abuse undermines all other investments in children*

Development sector agendas are often drawn across specific issue areas — such as health, education, or climate — while CSEC or child sexual abuse is perceived as sitting outside these priorities in its own niche.

However, CSEC has overlaps with various global priorities, making it a pertinent issue to address. It has immediate impacts on health, gender equity, and economic prosperity.

- **Health and Wellbeing:** Survivors have mental and physical health outcomes that are substantially worse than average. ~30% of minor survivors attempted self-harm and ~70% developed post-traumatic stress disorder. Survivors are 4x more likely to be out of the labour market due to sickness and/or disability.⁷⁸
- **Education:** Trauma also affects the ability to learn and impacts likelihood to attend school. According to a study conducted in Delhi, India, one in three children who faced sexual abuse, ended up dropping out of school.⁷⁹
- **Gender Equity:** Girls are more likely to experience sexual violence, and 2x more likely to be reported as trafficking victims. This reinforces existing gender inequity.⁸⁰ Worldwide, one in five girls is married before the age of 18.⁸¹
- **Economic Development:** Childhood sexual violence impacts important human capital of countries and significantly reduces GDP, placing a sizable cost burden on economics. Average lifetime cost for survivors of child sexual abuse in USA is as high as ~\$230,000 per survivor.⁸²

CSEC inhibits progress towards a wide array of Sustainable Development Goals



1.3.4 | *Despite impact of CSEC, it is considered a niche and intractable problem — and is therefore, not a priority*

CSEC is labelled as a sensitive and niche topic and hence, people often shy away from the conversation. It is perceived as a large scale and unsolvable issue and lacks the “feel good” element that sectors such as education and health possess. Education and health, especially the former, are seen as aspirational for children and societies, and believed to be directly linked to their advancement. Lack of understanding about intersectionality of CSEC with these focus areas further alienate potential investments in child protection. Moreover, due to the legalities and technicalities involved – people often believe child protection is too murky and that it is not their business to address it.

⁷⁸ The impacts of child sexual abuse: A rapid evidence assessment, Fisher et al. (2017)

⁷⁹ Mapping of Needs and Priorities A Study of Child Rape Victims in Delhi, DCPCR (2019)

⁸⁰ Fight against Child Trafficking, Save the Children (n.d.)

⁸¹ Global Database, Child Marriage, UNICEF (2022)

⁸² The economic burden of child sexual abuse in the United States, E. J. Letourneau, et al. (2018)


**Excerpts from
 Interviews**

*“This challenge has been going on for years – it is too large, and **can it really be solved?**”
 – Potential funder*

*“When a potential funder went to the actual place of (sexual) exploitation, they were horrified [...] they **felt uncomfortable** and scared.”
 - Fundraising team*

*“[Funders] **feel the problem requires technical skills** and involves legal systems – areas that they tend to shy away from and expertise they do not have.”
 – Implementation NGO*

However, as this report shows, CSEC is not niche. It has immediate impacts on several global priorities, such as health, education, and social justice. The universal severity of the issue makes investing in it imperative.⁸³

It is possible to change perception of CSEC with better data, increasing evidence of interventions, highlighting intersectionality and greater advocacy.

Linkages and outcomes of CSEC with other global priorities are sometimes directly visible (e.g. gender inequality and sexual exploitation) but many times invisible (e.g. climate change and impact on CSEC). While specific efforts to tackle issues such as child marriages or sexual trafficking of children need to continue, the work can be tackled more effectively by taking on a cross-cutting comprehensive lens.

Case Study: Gender equity transitioned from a siloed topic to cross-cutting, with greater attention and resources

Challenge: Gender equity was traditionally considered niche, with organisations undertaking specific programmes to address issues such as gender-based violence, female workforce participation, and pay equity

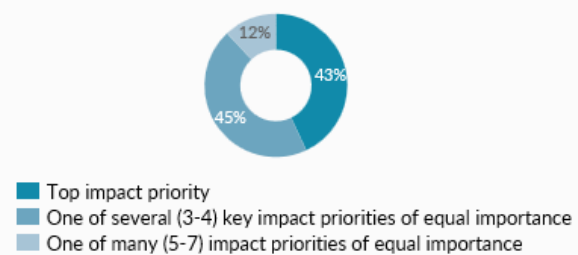
Approach: Gradual increase in data, including intersectional data, evidence and advocacy



- Women's needs broadly invisible; stakeholders limited in design of programs and policies
- **Increased knowledge resources** such as gender analysis (e.g. sex disaggregated data) across sectors helping delineate women's experience and highlighted intersectionality
- **Empowerment** of women to be change-makers improving cross-sectoral outcomes
- **Top-down mandates** and increase in funder-enforced performance outcomes fostering wide adoption of gender work

Impact: >50% funders include gender as one element of their multifaceted impact analysis

Proportion of funders that consider gender at different priority levels (n=138)^{2,3}



Sources: 1. Dalberg's Gender practice, 2. Project SAGE 3.0: Tracking Venture Capital with a Gender Lens, Wharton Social Impact Initiative (2020)

⁸³ Dalberg interviews

2 | Promising solutions and areas for further support



Image Source: Getty Images

Across the child protection value chain of prevention, prosecution, and protection and rehabilitation, there is a strong and increasing evidence base of effective interventions which prove that CSEC can be addressed. Prevention is the most cost-efficient lever, but interventions need to go beyond early detection and raising awareness to address root causes. Despite increasing political action, effective implementation of laws remains a challenge. Impactful protection and rehabilitation interventions use trauma-informed and rights-based approaches, but services need to be holistic.

Across the board, there is a pressing need to increase scale, build capacity, create a sense of urgency, and strengthen evidence base – to include data and outcomes from varied geographies, and for minority groups such as boys. Increased urgent efforts using modern tools are needed to keep pace with rapidly evolving online sexual exploitation. CSEC interventions and ecosystem players need localised tailored approaches that move beyond narrow siloes and co-create integrated approaches for systemic change.

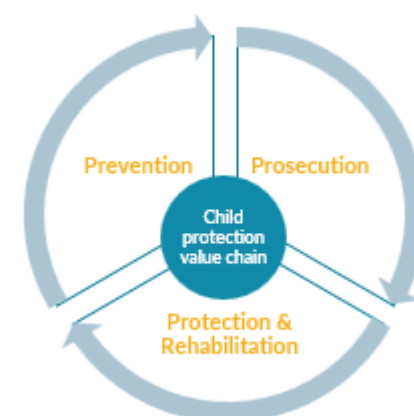
2.1 | Current child protection value chain

Across the child protection value chain there is a strong and increasing evidence base of effective CSEC interventions. Evidence indicates that prevention is the most cost-efficient lever, but interventions need to go beyond early detection and raising awareness to addressing root causes. While increasing political actions have led to more and better protection for survivors, on-ground implementation remains a challenge. Impactful protection interventions use trauma-informed and rights-based approaches but need to be more holistic and integrated.

2.1.1 | *There is sufficient evidence to prove that CSEC can be addressed*

Various reviews⁸⁴ have sought to collect evidence on what works to prevent offline and online child sexual exploitation. Having a strong evidence base on what works in terms of content and delivery platforms is critical to ensuring investments are as effective as possible in protecting children. A singular measure cannot protect children from sexual exploitation over both online and offline channels. Interventions that involve different stages and actors working together to prevent CSEC, prosecute perpetrators, protect, and reintegrate survivors are needed across the child protection value chain.

- **Prevention refers to measures taken to prevent or minimise CSEC.** Focusing on underlying causes and contributing factors, along with awareness raising and early detection are most beneficial in reducing large-scale incidence of CSEC. For example, an intervention by Save the Children addressed root causes such as lack of livelihood options and prevailing social norms, by using grassroots community-led initiatives for anti-trafficking in Indonesia. This led to zero victims since the beginning of the intervention, increase in conversation around sexual exploitation, and 20,000 individuals indirectly benefitting within one year.⁸⁵
- **Prosecution refers to the legal processes and public justice systems that protect CSEC survivors and deter perpetrators.** Broadening scope of offence, harsher penalties, and criminal justice reforms to also include minority groups or tech-enabled exploitation have helped protect survivors and deter perpetrators. For example, broadening scope of offence to include sexual



⁸⁴ What works to prevent online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse? Review of national education strategies in East Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF (2020); What works to prevent sexual violence against children: Evidence Review, Together for girls (2019); What Works to Prevent the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth, Sandy K Wurtele (2017)

⁸⁵ Protecting Children from Exploitation and Trafficking: Using the Positive Deviance Approach in Uganda and Indonesia, Save the Children (2009)

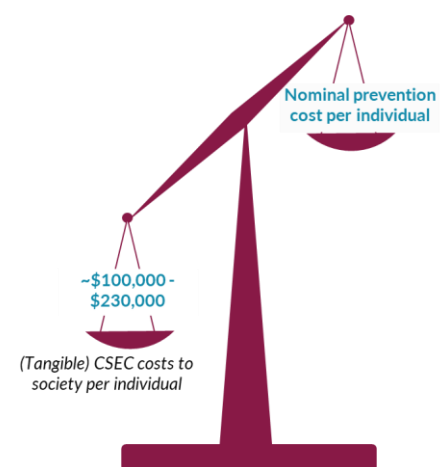
abuse for boys in Vietnam led to a dramatic reduction in child sexual abuse of boys in Hanoi.⁸⁶

- **Protection and rehabilitation ensure survivors have full access to high-quality, comprehensive, rehabilitative trauma-informed reintegration services, communities, and leadership.** Interventions with trained and non-judgemental professionals who are sensitive, build trust-based relationships, prioritise safety and agency combined with access to information and rights of survivors, have been found to be most impactful. For example, Everfree’s trauma-informed support for survivors of trafficking in Uganda reduced chances of revictimisation to less than 5%.⁸⁷

2.1.1.2 | *Prevention is the most cost-effective solution, but most existing interventions do not address the underlying causes and contributing factors*

Cost to prevent children experiencing commercial sexual exploitation is significantly lower than associated costs to society as a result of CSEC.

The lifetime cost for child sexual abuse survivors in the USA is estimated to be ~\$230,000 per child.⁸⁸ More than half of this cost is owed to productivity losses alone and directly impacts the individual and society. The rest of the cost is owed to public purse spending on the provision of health, criminal justice, child social services, etc. Similar costs have been reported for other countries. For example, cost to society because of child sexual abuse in the UK is estimated to be ~\$100,000 per child.⁸⁹ In comparison, the cost-per-child to prevent sexual exploitation, via interventions such as mass media campaigns and community-level awareness raising is minimal.



Current interventions for prevention of CSEC predominantly focus on early detection or raising awareness, as opposed to addressing underlying causes.

Existing prevention efforts broadly consist of: (1) situational prevention to create safe spaces and early identification; and (2) awareness raising. For example, In Colombia, campaigns through television, digital media, and radio were implemented in known CSEC hubs impacting around 3 million people. Tourists and general population were also encouraged to report suspicions and cases of this crime.⁹⁰ The “Worst Abuse” Campaign in Chile promoted commitment of citizens to the detection, denunciation, and arrest of abusive practices against children leading to a 32% increase in phone calls reporting suspicions of abuse.⁹¹ Interpol’s International Child Sexual Exploitation database is a huge step in tackling and identifying cases of online sexual exploitation of children leading to meaningful deterrence. Image and video comparison software enable investigators to make instant connections between victims, abusers, and places.⁹²

⁸⁶ Changing the law to protect boys, Michael Brosowski (2016)

⁸⁷ Factsheet: Together Women Rise, Everfree (n.d.)

⁸⁸ The economic burden of child sexual abuse in the United States, E. J. Letourneau, et al. (2018)

⁸⁹ The economic and social cost of contact child sexual abuse, UK Government (2021)

⁹⁰ Call for contributions: addressing children’s vulnerabilities to sale and sexual exploitation under the Sustainable Development Goals, Columbia Report, UNHRC (2022)

⁹¹ The vulnerability of children to sale and sexual exploitation under the SDGs, Chile Report, UNHRC (2022)

⁹² International Child Sexual Exploitation Database, Interpol (n.d.)

These strategies are a form of prevention and are beneficial to individual children. They do not, however, lead to large-scale reduction in the incidences of CSEC which is the most cost-effective solution. This is possible only through strategies that address the underlying causes and contributing factors. These include addressing behavioural and cultural norms conducive to CSEC, lack of livelihood opportunities, economic hardship, and weak protection or social services for children.

Social norms include beliefs and pressures such as material items that allow young people to gain status or pressure from peers to be sexually active, since this is seen as modern and fashionable. At the same time, cultural norms also stigmatise sex and sexual activity leading to difficulties in seeking help for CSEC.⁹³ All these factors are further exacerbated by the deep-rooted patriarchal norms such as “women/girls are the property of their parents and husbands/in-laws and should rely on them to make decisions”⁹⁴ or “women/girls must be meek and docile while men must be aggressive”.⁹⁵

While such norms are deeply engrained in communities and require longer term interventions, research shows that effective programmes can create sustainable and measurable impact in changing such attitudes and in turn reducing the likelihood of abuse.



Excerpts from Interviews

“Prevention is the key to combat CSEC, but funding is difficult with majority of funds being directed to prosecution and protection.”

- ECPAT

“Prevention initiatives in the form of identification and awareness are not enough. Targeting root cause of CSEC (poverty, lack of education) should be the long-term strategy.”

- Large NGO



Young Men Initiative’s Program Y in Bosnia and Herzegovina increased the uptake of healthy, non-violent and gender-equitable lifestyles among ~10,000 young people who participated in comprehensive programmes to address prevailing patriarchal norms around gender and masculinity. Post the two-year intervention, ~20% progress was observed across all fronts, with a significantly more tolerant attitude to gender roles, gender norms and persons with homosexual orientation.⁹⁶

⁹³ Systematic review of social norms linked to the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, M. Pichon, A.M. Buller et al.

⁹⁴ Daughter vs. Daughter-in-Law: Kinship Roles and Women’s Time Use in India, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai (2021)

⁹⁵ Shifting Social Norms to Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), Alexander-Scott, M. Bell, E. and Holden, J., Guidance Note (2016)

⁹⁶ Endline Evaluation Report- Promoting Healthier Lifestyles among Youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina by Challenging Gender Stereotypes II, Young Men Initiative II (2020)

Case Study: Addressing root causes for CSEC by combatting challenges with livelihoods and cultural norms



Indonesia

Challenge: 30-40% of all commercial workers were children (<18 years) in 2000. Driven by poverty, young girls left their villages to seek employment in the entertainment industry with better prospects of earning and tacit acceptance of sex work as a viable form of employment



Save the Children

Approach: Used grassroots community-led anti-trafficking initiatives to address root causes

- Address social acceptance of sex work via education leading to an increased awareness about the risks
- Explore alternatives for income-generation in various ways, including helping establish businesses
- Community vigilance decreases vulnerability via employer inspection, regular communication, etc.
- Supplemented prevention interventions with other broader efforts, e.g. via political advocacy
- Community empowerment via shared experiences between families leading to motivation to act because of social proof

Impact:

- 0 victims since intervention began
- Increase in conversations around sexual exploitation
- ~20,000 individuals indirectly benefited within 1 year



I see my life as a career woman - a dress designer. I will establish a designer's company and make clothes with my friends.



It is important to stay in school. Although our family is poor, we have the commitment to continue our studies.

Notes: All quotes are from young women (age <18 years) identified as "at-risk"

Source: Protecting Children from Exploitation and Trafficking: Using the Positive Deviance Approach in Uganda and Indonesia, Save the Children (2009)



2.1.3 | *Prosecution: While national and political action is on the rise, actual on-ground implementation of these remains a challenge*

Around the world, there has been unprecedented political commitment from leaders. A growing number of governments are showing intent to prioritise the fight against various forms of child sexual exploitation. Model Nations Response framework (MNR) is built upon the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, to develop coordinated multi-stakeholder responses to tackle online child sexual exploitation and abuse. Irrespective of political contexts, institutional setup, approaches, resource capacities and priorities, >80% of countries surveyed have used the MNR as a reference for good practice.⁹⁷

This has led to the introduction of several landmark policies, including ones that address online exploitation. These have strengthened scope of the offense (e.g. Australia criminalised the failing of reporting child sexual violence in 2018),⁹⁸ increased penalties for sexual crimes against children (e.g. India included death penalty as a punishment for committing sexual crimes against children in 2019),⁹⁹ and led to broader criminal justice system reforms across countries (e.g. the UK released its first strategy for tackling child sexual abuse in 2021).¹⁰⁰ These changes offer survivors more and better protections under the law and can deter potential perpetrators from committing these crimes. Crucially, they show that vulnerability and power dynamics matter in sexual abuse of children.

⁹⁷ Framing the future: How the Model National Response framework is supporting national efforts to end child sexual exploitation and abuse online, WeProtect Global Alliance (2022)

⁹⁸ New legislation to strengthen child sexual abuse laws, NSW government (2018)

⁹⁹ Government takes several initiatives to ensure women safety and proper implementation of POCSO Act, Press Information Bureau Gol (2019)

¹⁰⁰ Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy, Govt. of UK website (2021)

Stringent laws for technology-enabled sexual offences, including seeking and distributing CSAM, are also coming into place. There are many ways to enable sexual violence, whether directly or indirectly, and the law increasingly recognises them as important and worth addressing. In 2012, 54 countries from around the world committed to key policy targets that aim at a larger number of rescued survivors, more effective prosecution, and an overall reduction in the number of child sexual abuse images available online.¹⁰¹

Case Study: Comprehensive strategy with a core focus on policy resulted in stricter mandates and prohibition of minors at adult entertainment venues



Nepal

Challenge: In 2015, ~4,000 children (girls) were working in the adult entertainment sector, majority of whom were sexually exploited



Approach: 14 local NGOs partnered to implement a comprehensive strategy with prosecution or policy being a core objective

- Facilitated government inspections at adult entertainment venues and increased frequency of inspections
- Advocated to government officials, resulting in stricter provisions in the Children's Act (2018) and Labour Act (2017)
 - Directly engaged them by taking them to the venue
 - Contribution to reports on trafficking and CSEC memorandum
- Sensitised employers to stricter laws, limiting exploitation
- Community-led intervention that built on the work of existing NGOs in the space



When the government created the policy, it 'hit' them [the venue owners] that the police are now monitoring better, and they are realising that children in these venues is an issue to be concerned about."

- Local NGO in Nepal

Impact:

- ~60% reduction in the number of minors working at adult entertainment venues over three years (by 2018)
- ~2,000 at-risk children supported to attend school

Source: Evaluation of the Central Nepal hotspot project using the process tracing methodology, Freedom Fund (2020)



But laws alone are not enough to protect children.

Despite the existence of laws and policies, rates for prosecution and conviction for crimes related to child sexual abuse and exploitation remains low. Investigations, prosecutions, and convictions for CSEC remain inadequate compared to the scale of the problem. For example, in Bangladesh, >20,000 children are estimated to be exploited in commercial sex or trafficked each year.¹⁰² But in 2022, the government investigated ~1,000 sex trafficking cases, of which <2% of individuals were convicted.¹⁰³

Lack of resources and capacity to implement policies, corrupt systems, jurisdictional challenges, and limited understanding of problems within law enforcement remain pressing challenges.

On the flip side, effective on-ground implementation of policies can result in higher numbers of cases that get reported. In various countries, this has resulted in the criticism of organisations working on the ground, for giving the country a “bad name”.



Excerpts from Interviews

“Sufficient laws exist to tackle CSEC but ensuring effective implementation of these laws on ground is a major challenge across most countries.”

- Implementation NGO

¹⁰¹ Prevention, disruption and deterrence of online child sexual exploitation and abuse, E. Quayle (2020)

¹⁰² Bangladesh: Interview with Prof. Zakir Hossain on Human Trafficking, UNODC website (n.d.)

¹⁰³ Trafficking in Persons Report, US (2022)

2.1.4 | *Impactful protection and rehabilitation interventions are sensitive to survivors' trauma, but these services need to be integrated*

Every child who experiences sexual abuse deserves comprehensive support to heal and reclaim their childhood.

Frequently they are disconnected from social tethers and support systems.¹⁰⁸ Protecting their well-being must be a top priority, encompassing physical, emotional, and mental health care, as well as access to justice and empowerment. Successful interventions and programmes prioritise trauma-informed responses that align with a rights-based approach to care, such as building safe trust-based relationships, promoting agency and acceptance, and ensuring confidentiality among others, putting the needs of children at the forefront to restore their sense of safety, dignity, and hope.

- **Medical and Health:** Providing trauma-informed care by trained professionals is essential for long-term mental healing besides physical treatment.¹⁰⁹ To ensure survivors seek care, they need to be made comfortable to share their ordeal. Successful programmes are non-discriminatory, affordable, and confidential.
- **Safe Spaces and Refuge:** Safe spaces can help survivors dissociate from vulnerable environments. They provide access to adequate standard of living (fresh and familiar food, appropriate clothing, bedding, etc) with caring, non-judgemental professionals, allowing children to constructively express themselves in a community.¹¹⁰
- **Legal support:** Effective programmes adopt a rights-based approach by generating awareness and appraising children of their rights. Forging a consistent relationship and providing contextual legal representation, has seen increased traction from survivors.¹¹¹
- **Reintegration:** Reintegration includes multiple forms of support and is dependent on survivor-specific needs, but also includes community mobilisation and addressing underlying causes for CSEC vulnerability. Most crucial are information and access to educational, vocational training and work experience to secure livelihoods, life skills and peer-support networks as well as family and community reunification, where applicable.¹¹²



Voices from the ground

*“I went through psychosocial support and general therapy, and this **gave me a ray of hope for the future**, gradually I was able to gain trust in myself and others.”*
- Child trafficking survivor supported by Everfree¹⁰⁴

“It is so nice [...] I go to school, I play guitar, I play basketball, I dance with my friends.”
– Survivor living at relief centre, supported by Free a Girl movement¹⁰⁵

“We know that [...] there should be no touching without permission, otherwise it counts as harassment even if it is just hand holding. We don't have to go with anyone, even if the owner says so.”
– Adult entertainment sector employee, supported by the Freedom Fund¹⁰⁶

*“My determination for higher education and hard work always **saved me from joining the brothel business.**”*
- Child at risk, supported by Save the Children¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁴ An empowered survivor who empowers her community, Everfree.org (2023)

¹⁰⁵ Documentary – Wings, Free a girl (2018)

¹⁰⁶ Evaluation of the Central Nepal hotspot project using the process tracing methodology, Freedom Fund (2020)

¹⁰⁷ Our Home, Our Safe Home, Save the Children (2015)

¹⁰⁸ Adapting a family intervention to reduce risk factors for sexual exploitation, Bounds et al. (2020)

¹⁰⁹ Responding to the health needs of survivors of human trafficking: a systematic review, Hemmings et al. (2016)

¹¹⁰ Connecting the Dots: Supporting the Recovery and Reintegration of Children Affected by Sexual Exploitation, ECPAT International (2017)

¹¹¹ Policy on Integrating a Human Rights-Based Approach to United Nations efforts to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, UN (2021)

¹¹² Rehabilitation of the victims of Child Trafficking: A multidisciplinary approach, ILO (n.d.)

A comprehensive approach to safeguarding survivors is indispensable in ensuring the most impactful outcome. Although research has identified examples of service providers promoting trauma-informed and rights-based approaches in their practice, there are, more examples that detail experiences where these were disregarded. Traditionally, the focus of protection and reintegration has been on the child or the child’s family. However, programmes need to consider the wider contexts children inhabit and how those within these shared spaces can be trained and supported to contribute to a positive environment for promoting successful rehabilitation. All actors involved in the protection and rehabilitation of survivors must work together to provide holistic support that ranges from addressing specific needs of the survivor to community mobilisation for effective reintegration.

Justice and Care’s work in Romania supported 36 survivors in a span of six months with **tailored support for each** through provision of basic supplies, access to medical services, assistance on finding employment, and keeping survivors engaged in ongoing police investigations¹¹³

The unique and rapidly evolving nature of online sexual exploitation demands tailored and resilient interventions.



Online sexual exploitation has surged dramatically with an increased number of children on the internet, making the playing ground for perpetrators even larger.¹¹⁴ While CSEC was initially limited to certain hotspots with vulnerabilities such as economic hardships – online exploitation makes the problem pervasive with perpetrators targeting the child’s social and mental vulnerabilities. The methods for tech-enabled exploitation are also constantly evolving, making it imperative for interventions to adapt and grow at the same pace.¹¹⁵

- While efforts are being made to detect existing CSAM online, **artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies can be leveraged** to scan new material that is emerging.¹¹⁶ For example, Thorn’s, an international child protection organisation, identifies known and unknown CSAM with cryptographic, perceptual hashing and machine learning algorithms with a 99% precision rate.¹¹⁷ Additionally, building more **educational programmes for children** around the risks of the internet, sextortion on social media and reporting mechanisms can help tackle the issue at its core.¹¹⁸ For example, Malaysia’s ‘CyberSAFE in schools’ programme educates and enhances awareness on the dangers of the internet.¹¹⁹
- Despite multiple treaties being signed across the world, there is a need for increased acknowledgement of the constantly evolving nature of online exploitation requiring **adaptive policies**. Currently, differing evidence requirements, insufficient legal provisions, red tape, and weak coordination often makes cross-border prosecution slow.¹²⁰ For example, the Earn It Act introduced in the United States in 2020 can be game changing by allowing online service providers to remove user-posted content that they deem inappropriate and providing them immunity against civil lawsuits.¹²¹
- Protection and rehabilitation needs for each child may differ based on the extent of abuse. A rights-based approach as well as an **increased understanding of linkages with physical CSEC** become integral in such a case. For example, In Namibia, a survivor-focused training manual was developed to equip those dealing with child survivors and included a special focus on tech-facilitated child sexual exploitation. Rehabilitation support systems for child sex offenders also need to be developed to prevent re-offending, such as those in Colombia, which has targeted programmes working with adolescents found guilty of sex offenses.¹²²

¹¹³ Six Month Impact Report, Justice and Care (2022)

¹¹⁴ Growing up in a connected world, UNICEF (2019)

¹¹⁵ Dalberg Interviews

¹¹⁶ Safer Internet Day 2023 – bolstering the fight to protect children online, World Economic Forum (2023)

¹¹⁷ Safer website

¹¹⁸ What works to prevent online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse? Review of national education strategies in East Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF (2020)

¹¹⁹ CyberSAFE Brief on Child Online Protection

¹²⁰ Ending online child sexual exploitation and abuse, UNICEF (2021)

¹²¹ End-to-End Encryption, Understanding the impacts of child safety online, NSPCC (2021)

¹²² Ending online child sexual exploitation and abuse, UNICEF (2021)

2.2 | Areas in need of further support

Despite progress, research suggests that there is still a relatively weak response to child sexual exploitation, including technology-facilitated exploitation. Across the value chain not only is there a need to scale, build capacity and expand evidence base, but also create a sense of urgency with tailored targeted interventions that take an integrated approach.

2.2.1 | *Across the value chain, there remains a pressing need to scale impactful interventions, build capacity and urgency, and expand the evidence base for prevalence and outcomes*

- **Limited awareness and lack of a sense of urgency in addressing CSEC, especially online sexual exploitation.** Ranging from officials dismissing the importance of addressing CSEC due to unfamiliarity or discomfort to CSEC being an ingrained community practice, there is a severe dearth of collective urgency to address the issue. With the dark web growing faster and faster, perpetrators carve out unique ways of covering their tracks. They collectively learn from each other to improve their predatory work through forums, making it even more pertinent for law enforcement to keep up with the pace to track them down. However, officials often actively turn a blind eye to CSEC prevalence in their communities. Corruption and bribery can further undermine effective implementation of policies; it decreases survivors' confidence in the system leading to unwillingness to seek help in fear of further complications.¹²³ For example, law enforcement institutions may rely only on anecdotal evidence, which leaves room for discretion by officials and therefore corruption such as bribe-seeking and extortion.¹²⁴
- **Significantly understaffed social welfare and criminal workforce.** Units responsible for crimes against children and organisations that focus on child welfare tend to be understaffed. This is compounded by high staff turnover, sometimes due to rotation in public service or lack of professional recognition, as well as a tendency to roll out ad-hoc training. At its worst, a lack of sufficient knowledge and skills can contribute to secondary victimisation and under-reporting by survivors.¹²⁵



Excerpts from Interviews

“Training of on-ground local staff becomes a challenge due to constant rotation.”

- Justice and Care

“Needs of each child survivor are extremely varied. After-care services need to cater to each child's individual needs.”

- Online Sexual Exploitation of Children Expert

“Officials travel the roads of CSEC hotspots and decide to turn a blind eye.”

- CSEC NGO, India

¹²³ Dalberg Interviews

¹²⁴ Corruption, Accountability and Gender: Understanding the Connections, Hussain, Musembi and Hughes, UNDP (2010)

¹²⁵ Framing the Future, UNICEF (2022)

- **Lack of trained professionals in child protection systems.** Across the value chain of child protection, there is a severe capacity challenge. More than half of health care providers surveyed reported a lack of training on identification and responding to the needs of sexually trafficked victims or rated training to be of inadequate quality. In India, around 3,000 child sexual abuse cases fail to reach court for a fair trial every year due to inadequate capabilities of officials, such as improper evidence collection and weak investigation.
- **A need to expand evidence base to include low- and medium- income countries, alternate interventions, overlooked segments, and outcome frameworks**
 - **Geographies:** While the highlighted interventions, amongst several others,¹²⁶ provide evidence-based strategies to proactively protect and support CSEC survivors, majority of evidence has focused on interventions in high-income countries. There is a need for more robust prevalence data and evidence from low- and middle-income countries for a comprehensive understanding of CSEC interventions.¹²⁷
 - **Overlooked segments:** Higher priority also needs to be given to groups that have not been the area of focus traditionally. Robust and regular data is needed to understand which segments are left behind. For example, most of the current literature focuses on girls and women but often excludes and overlooks boys and survivors who identify as LGBTIQI+.¹²⁸
 - **Alternate Interventions:** There is also a clear need to prioritise and scale alternate evidence-backed interventions such as forms of shelter and foster and community-based models of holistic care.¹²⁹
 - **Monitoring and evaluation frameworks:** In the absence of established tangible outcomes, there is also a gap for performance metrics and frameworks to track the progress and impact of CSEC interventions.¹³⁰ Additional research may be needed to improve existing programmes, contribute to learning and provide clear accountability to funders and programme participants.



Excerpts from Interviews

“Lack of data and evidence-based strategies are major roadblocks in scaling effective and impactful interventions to combat CSEC.”

- Fundraising team

¹²⁶ Fast Facts: Preventing Child Sexual Abuse, CDC website (n.d.)

¹²⁷ The state of prevention research in low and middle-income countries, Preventing violence against women and children workshop (n.d.)

¹²⁸ The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Boys & LGBTQ+ Youth: A Systematic Literature Review, R. Hernandez (2021)

¹²⁹ Connecting the Dots: Supporting the Recovery and Reintegration of Children Affected by Sexual Exploitation, ECPAT International (2017)

¹³⁰ Dalberg Interviews

2.2.2 | CSEC requires tailored interventions across diverse geographies, demographics, and cultures

While the impact of CSEC around the globe is broadly consistent, manifestation of CSEC across geographies, demographics, and cultures is shaped by diverse catalysts such as norms and traditions, economic opportunity, geopolitical situation, law enforcement and judicial systems. Interventions necessitate tailoring to the local context and being informed by the needs of survivors as well as expertise of local grassroots organisations. While no single approach can address CSEC by itself, understanding the specific context can inform which component of the child protection value chain to prioritise in which region. For example:

- **Interventions in geographies with strong legal systems, can leverage these to prioritise solutions that focus on prosecution.** Large cities in Vietnam generally have a capable police force, supported by culture and norms that discourage sexual exploitation. Solutions with an emphasis on advocacy can result in high impact.¹³¹
- **CSEC driven by traditions need interventions that can address underlying causes and prevent exploitation from occurring.** Despite increasing awareness about CSEC, children from certain marginalised groups continue to be exploited due to laws that prohibit resistance from children themselves and cultural beliefs.
- **Geopolitical situations and tensions call for emergency interventions that can protect victims and address their needs.** For example, 7 million children displaced by conflict in Ukraine face higher risk of exploitation, isolation, and trafficking. Impactful holistic interventions need to centre on protection to create safe spaces, accessible reporting channels, refuge for social cohesion with mental health and physical support, and digital learning spaces.¹³²



Excerpts from Interviews

*“The **onus of protecting a girl must not be put on elder males** in the family, as it may lead to restrictive norms to ensure prevention at the **cost of female empowerment.**”*

- Anti Child-Trafficking Organisation

2.2.3 | CSEC interventions and ecosystem players need to move beyond narrow siloes and co-create integrated approaches for systems change

Cutting across the shortcomings of existing responses are some broader challenges.

Multilateral efforts against CSEC are highly fragmented. Each silo has its own focus, governance arrangements, resources, and political coalitions. As a result, the current ecosystem’s efforts to combat CSEC are not systematic. They are, on the contrary, fragmented, at times overlapping, and perhaps even competing.¹³⁴ For example, on-ground efforts can aim to support survivors of sexual exploitation while other efforts might result in their criminalisation.

70 – 90%

higher effectiveness of interventions was observed when working with civil society partners across multiple pillars, compared to single-pillar interventions¹³³

scale. The challenge here is not to reinvent the wheel, but rather to multiply the wheels with a strategic steering mechanism that ensures the wheels all work together.



¹³¹ Case Example: Legal Advocacy work at Blue Dragon Children’s Foundation, BDCF Website (2023)

¹³² Help Save Children in Ukraine, Save the Children (2022)


¹³³ Imperative to Invest, Spotlight Initiative (2022)

¹³⁴ Why we need a global partnership to end modern slavery, Dr. James Cockayne (2015)

Case Study: Leveraging effective collaboration between stakeholders to strengthen the anti-trafficking network








India



Challenge: As a small organisation in early 2000, Impulse Network lacked resources to tackle the problem of trafficking in North East India in a holistic manner

Approach: Created the Impulse Model to provide holistic support to victims leveraging strengths of diverse stakeholders

-  • **Training and capacity building of law enforcement officials** via a trafficking handbook, advocacy and database support, resulting in improved prosecutions
-  • **Rehabilitation support** for victims, where applicable, via ministry of social welfare
-  • **Learning and participation** in conferences to bring varied stakeholders together, including international agencies
-  • **Prevention efforts** through sustainable livelihood initiatives carried out by various grassroots partner organisations
-  • **Engages media** to raise awareness and bring sensitivity to the issue

Impact:

- ~73,000 human trafficking victims supported
- Model replicated in Bangladesh, Myanmar and other states in India

Source: Impulse NGO Network

”

As organisations working with minor victims of CSE, there are multiple challenges we have faced and continue to on field.

It is necessary that we share and learn from each other's experiences and contribute better towards prevention of CSEC.

- Prerana NGO

Across the globe, collaborative action can deliver multi-fold impact. The importance of such collective action has been recognised by key stakeholders resulting in the creation of multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and even a new Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. Even within a smaller geography, an integrated approach can result in multi-fold impact.

To ensure that child exploitation is addressed effectively we need to place children at the core.



Urgent change is needed and possible, but requires deliberate, concrete, and holistic engagement. There is a need to work together across the three key levers of combatting CSEC – prevention, prosecution, and protection and rehabilitation, so that efforts can complement each other to enable us to keep children safe and protected - in our homes, communities, societies and online.

3 | Looking forward

Investing in child protection can transform the lives of children and unleash exponential benefits to society.

With a \$800-million funding gap, we can only solve CSEC if philanthropists, private sector players, governments, and organisations work together.

Private philanthropists and influential private players can create catalytic change to significantly shift the needle in CSEC globally – by leveraging intersectionality with other SDGs, focusing on innovations in overlooked areas and taking the helm to create systemic change, especially in Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC).

Tools such as trust-based philanthropy and tech-enabled, community-based financing can expand funding pools while amplifying impact. New models such as collective philanthropy, offers philanthropists the opportunity to create funding communities, share learnings, collaborate on common goals, and drive systemic change together.

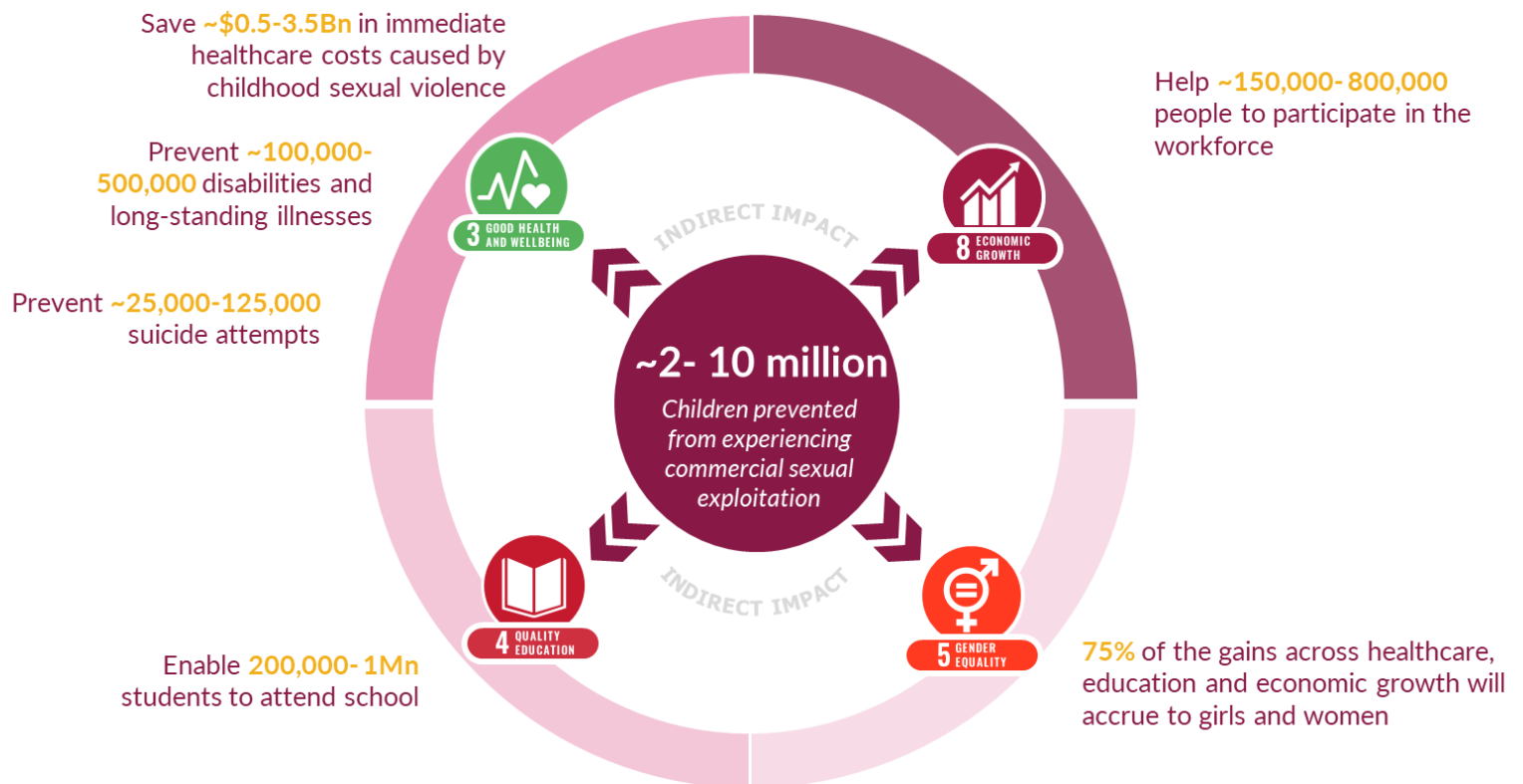


Image Source: Shutterstock

3.1 | Investing in CSEC can create exponential impact

Estimates suggest that investing in CSEC can save millions in healthcare spending and enable thousands to go to school and participate in the workforce while closing gender gaps.

When a child is protected from sexual exploitation, rippling impacts are felt across multiple SDGs. While it is difficult to put a cost to a grave human rights violation like CSEC, estimates based on current prevalence indicate that eradicating the issue could result in high monetary savings for society primarily driven by increased labour market participation. Effectively addressing CSEC has the potential of helping ~150,000-800,000 people participate in the workforce.¹³⁵



*Supporting children who are already victims of this crime through prosecution and rehabilitation efforts could cost **as little as ~\$25 or more than \$1800 per child**. This is largely dependent on different geographies and the individual needs of the child.¹³⁶*

¹³⁵ Dalberg Analysis- These are directional estimates and should be treated with caution. (See Annexure C for detailed calculations)

¹³⁶ Dalberg Interviews

Research has also attempted to monetise the human and emotional costs of child sexual abuse on individuals. Although it is debatable whether any methodology can meaningfully put a price on human pain and suffering, this figure is useful for emphasising how substantial the impacts of child sexual abuse are at both a personal and a societal level.¹³⁷

These cost and benefit estimates, although valuable, should be treated with caution. While the estimates are underpinned by the best evidence available today, it nonetheless relies on certain assumptions about the scale and impact of child sexual abuse. We have also assumed that all survivors are receiving the support they need. This is unlikely to be the case. However, the overall estimate is based using the most conservative figures and only considers a limited number of outcomes on which there was reasonably robust evidence. In fact, the figures generated may well substantially underestimate the true financial costs of CSEC globally.

In UK alone,

£38 billion

is the estimated human and emotional cost of child sexual abuse¹³⁸

¹³⁷ Estimating the costs of child sexual abuse in the UK, Aliya Saied-Tessier (2014)

¹³⁸ At 2012-13 prices - The impacts of child sexual abuse: A rapid evidence assessment, Fisher et al. (2017)

3.2 | Current funding for sexual exploitation of children

Trends estimate increased funding across development sectors. However, investment for child protection broadly remains limited with an estimated ~80% funding gap. Currently, majority of funding for child protection comes from government agencies and multilateral aid.

3.2.1 | *The estimated funding gap for child protection is ~80% – an increase from a gap of ~60% pre-pandemic*

Despite a series of global commitments to various developmental issues, only ~0.8% Official Development Assistance went towards ending violence against children in 2020. This translates to a spend of less than \$0.6 per child per year to combat violence against children.¹³⁹

Even though there has been a gradual increase in absolute funding for child protection, especially in humanitarian settings, the gap between child protection needs and funding received has grown alarmingly. Resources are not meeting the increasing needs of child protection, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, effects of climate change and access to the internet. In comparison to other global developmental priorities, funding for child protection has been disproportionately affected. In the past year, while the funding gaps for health and education shrunk by ~11% and ~9% respectively, the gap for child protection continued to widen. It has risen from ~60% in 2019 to ~81% in 2022 with total funding received being only ~\$200 million, compared to the ~\$1 billion global sector requirement.^{140, 141}

\$800 million

is the conservative estimated funding gap for child protection. Actual amount of funds needed are believed to be higher¹⁴¹

**Excerpts from
Interviews**



*“Child protection as a sector is already **severely cash-strapped** [...] you can only imagine the state of CSEC within it.”*

– ECPAT International

¹³⁹ Funding for children impacted by violence is at a record low amid a series of ongoing crises, World Vision (2022)

¹⁴⁰ The Unprotected: Annual spotlight on child protection funding in humanitarian action, Margot Thierry, Amanda Brydon (2022)

¹⁴¹ Note: Due to unavailability of CSEC specific data, we have highlighted the funding gap for overall child protection in the humanitarian context. Financial Tracking Service, accessed on February 10 (2023)

3.2.2 | *Despite the rise of private philanthropy globally, the majority of support for child protection comes from public institutions, international aid, and multilateral organisations*

The distribution of funds across different types of investors for child protection initiatives vary greatly depending on the specific country, region, and issue.

In general, government agencies, (such as USAID and ministries of foreign affairs) and international organisations (such as UNICEF, World Bank and European Union) are major funders of the child protection initiative, especially in a humanitarian context. For example, the US federal department and international agencies contributed 95% of the funding in child welfare research, as compared to only 5% by foundations.¹⁴²

Public sector partners contributed the largest share of funds, with USA, Canada, Japan, Sweden, Netherlands, Denmark and Switzerland leading more than 40% of investments in the space. This was followed by three international organisations —ECHO, UNICEF and CERF — which contributed more than 20% investment towards child protection specific funding in 2020.¹⁴³

Excerpts from Interviews



“Public sector grants can be extremely effective since they have a larger impact orientation right from the beginning and it facilitates government collaboration across the value chain.”

– Child Protection Expert

Simultaneously, around the globe, private philanthropy is on the rise. While more than half of all philanthropic institutions seek to align programmes with SDGs, more than 50% focus on education or health as their top priority. For example, in India, between 2013 and 2018, child protection received 45-160x less philanthropic funding than other development sectors such as livelihoods, environment, health or education.¹⁴⁴

Majority of philanthropists who fund child protection have a direct child welfare mandate. Data collection and construction of data systems/evidence, advocacy, capacity building, and strengthening legal frameworks and justice systems are some of the priority areas for investment. These areas also align with top priorities for government and international organisations for key investments in this space.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴² An Examination of Recent Federal and Philanthropic Funding for Child Welfare Research in the United States, June Simon et al. (2022)

¹⁴³ The Unprotected: Annual spotlight on child protection funding in humanitarian action, The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, UNHCR et al. (2021)

¹⁴⁴ Dalberg analysis on data from Candid.in. Data includes all private (from foundations, corporate/CSR donors, public charities, and individuals) and multi-/bi-lateral funding disbursed between 2015 and 2018

¹⁴⁵ An Examination of Recent Federal and Philanthropic Funding for Child Welfare Research in the United States, June Simon et al. (2022)

3.3 | Role of private philanthropy

Identifying and leveraging linkages for intersectionality between CSEC and other key development sectors such as gender, education, climate, and health can help tackle the issue more comprehensively. Private philanthropies are uniquely placed to complement investments from public institutions to fund catalytic innovations in overlooked areas of child protection. Bringing together philanthropy, social sectors and public institutions, influential private sector players can helm systemic change, especially in the online sphere of child protection.

Private philanthropists and private sector players are uniquely positioned to powerfully confront CSEC and shift the needle in child protection worldwide. Depending on the risk appetite, strength of networks, resources, vision and mandates, private sector and private philanthropy can fund catalytic interventions to create a step change in child protection globally.



**Excerpts from
Interviews**

*“Philanthropic investments have the potential to create **multi-generational impact.**”*

– CSEC Expert

3.3.1 | *Funding CSEC interventions has direct impact on driving positive outcomes in other development areas*

Funding CSEC interventions has direct and compounding effects on positive development outcomes across multiple domains. Addressing underlying root causes can help reduce vulnerability of children towards sexual exploitation, creating safer and inclusive environments and positively impacting education, health, and economic development of children. For example, recognising that children are a critically vulnerable group that is most affected by climate change, UNICEF launched the Today and Tomorrow initiative, raising \$30 million and calling for additional private partners in the world’s first child-focused climate risk financing solution.¹⁴⁶ The benefits of investing in combatting CSEC can manifest in numerous ways.

- **Investments in CSEC can have a significant impact on gender goals:** The BARC’s Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents project in Uganda led to 72% increase in the likelihood of girls engaging in income-generating activities.¹⁴⁷
- **Education outcomes cannot be met for children who are being exploited and not in school:** The ‘No Means No’ worldwide programme, aiming to combat sexual assault and abuse, resulted in 46% decrease in pregnancy-related school dropouts in targeted regions.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁶ Press Release: UNICEF calls for investment in world’s first child-focused climate risk financing solution, UNICEF (2022)

¹⁴⁷ Action to end child sexual exploitation and abuse, UNICEF (2020)

¹⁴⁸ Our results, No Means No Website (n.d.)

- **CSEC linked interventions such as awareness raising campaigns, directly improve health outcomes.** The Spotlight Initiative’s Safe Space Mentorship Program in Malawi led to avoidance of 1,600 unwanted pregnancies and 28% increase in health-seeking behaviour and awareness among children.¹⁴⁹

The intersectionality of impact is not just limited to sectors above but encompasses various SDGs whose progress can be accelerated by using a more exhaustive lens towards CSEC.

3.3.2 | *Private philanthropists are uniquely placed to fund catalytic innovations in overlooked areas of child protection*

Private philanthropists can take the lead on funding bold, innovative solutions with long-term impact that can be scaled using public funds. They have more flexibility and higher risk tolerance, compared to traditional investors and funding sources such as governments and corporations. They are driven by desire to achieve social impact and are willing to take calculated risks on new untested ideas that have the potential to create significant positive change in the world. Private philanthropies can fund pilot programmes to test new solutions, which can then inform government decision-making about whether to scale up these initiatives. This can encourage development of novel approaches, ensure that government resources are directed towards initiatives that are backed by credible impact, and expand the evidence base.¹⁵⁰

There is a need for catalytic innovations in prevention, in alternate interventions, and for marginalised groups to address some of the underlying causes that have been neglected over the years. These solutions could include:

- *Developing localised research and evidence-based solutions* that help understand risk factors for CSEC in each context and scale robust solutions to address long-term and deep-rooted effects of the issue.
- *Funding research and development of alternative technology solutions* that can keep pace with rapidly evolving online sexual exploitation of children and help tackle this issue effectively across different contexts and regions.
- *Encouraging targeted solutions for overlooked groups*, such as boys, LGBTQI+ youth, children with disabilities and those belonging to marginalised sections of society to address their specific needs and make use of evidence-based solutions that can be leveraged easily.

Investing in these solutions can supplement efforts by other stakeholders, leading to comprehensive and effective interventions from various angles. This can help reduce the burden on public financing and ensure that important programmes and services receive resources.

National Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) **founded by private philanthropists** John and Reve Walsh is now widely recognised as a leading organisation that serves as a national resource centre for information about missing and exploited children.

Since then, it has **inspired many organisations**¹⁵¹ to come forward and respond to cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse online.


¹⁴⁹ Annual Report, Spotlight Initiative (2021)

¹⁵⁰ The role of philanthropy in financing for development, OECD (2015)

¹⁵¹ ICMEC: International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, CEOP: Children Exploitation and Online Protection

3.3.3 | *Private sector players can act as influential changemakers and steer the fight against tech-enabled exploitation*

Evidence increasingly shows that combating online sexual exploitation of children requires a global solution based on an integrated systems approach that leverages technology and international coordination. While various international and national stakeholders are continuing to adopt policies and practices to combat the technology-facilitated sexual abuse and exploitation of children, groups of influential private sector players such as those in social media, telecom and internet service providers, financial institutions, or cyber security can leverage their resources to create a step change.



**Excerpts from
Interviews**

*“Prevention and law enforcement of online sexual exploitation are interlinked. **If the private sector detected and reported child sexual abuse material effectively**, it would lead to effective prosecution of offenders.”*

– Online Sexual Exploitation of Children Expert, International Investigation Organisation

The private sector can do much for combatting online sexual exploitation of children by providing financial resources and knowledge, asserting their influence, and strengthening tech-enabled platforms. While companies are increasingly using matching technologies to detect existing CSAM, fewer providers are detecting new material. Artificial intelligence classifiers can bridge this gap, by identifying key markers and potential new content that is likely to depict abuse and violative content in videos.¹⁵² For example, a large NGO developed ‘Safer’, a tool designed for smaller tech companies that lack the resources to filter their content themselves. The tool provides companies with a large dataset of CSAM reviewed by National Centre for Missing & Exploited Children NCMEC. If someone tries to upload these images on the tech platform, it is automatically deleted and reported to NCMEC. The tool also uses machine learning to proactively search for suspected CSAM and flag it for human review.¹⁵³ However, current tools used to detect CSAM by the law enforcement agencies do not work in end-to-end encrypted environments. In 2018, NCMEC estimated more than half of its CyberTipline reports would vanish once end-to-end encryption was implemented.¹⁵⁴

Working groups and multi-agency partnerships sponsored by private entities, individual states, and regional and international coalitions constitute important opportunities for detailed technical information exchange. For example, the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children’s (ICMEC) Technology Coalition is a voluntary collaboration of nine major Internet companies to develop technology-based solutions to disrupt child exploitation criminal enterprises. The companies provide technological expertise and resources for preventative measures, detection, and documentation of offences. The ICMEC Financial Coalition is a large-scale coalition, bringing together 34 leading banks, credit card companies, electronic payment networks, third-party payments companies, and internet services companies, which focuses on curbing money-flows to CSAM-ventures and coordination of efforts to eradicate commercial child abuse material.¹⁵⁵

Technology players across the world are also working regionally to support the cause. For example, in Albania, the three biggest internet service providers rolled out dedicated communication tools and solutions to make their services safe for children and adolescents. In the Dominican Republic, a collaboration agreement was signed between the Dominican Institute of Telecommunications and four internet service providers to establish a cooperation framework to identify and implement joint actions for the online protection of children and adolescents.¹⁵⁶

¹⁵² Safer Internet Day 2023 – bolstering the fight to protect children online, World Economic Forum (2023)

¹⁵³ To fight online child sexual abuse, tech companies turn to a non-profit start-up, NBC News (2020)

¹⁵⁴ International Statement: End-To-End Encryption and Public Safety, US Department of Justice (2020)

¹⁵⁵ Study on the Effects of New Information Technologies on the Abuse and Exploitation of Children, UNODC (2015)

¹⁵⁶ Ending online child sexual exploitation and abuse, UNICEF (2021)

Verizon has employed several extensive resources in the fight against online sexual exploitation of children¹⁵⁷



- *Cutting-edge technology:* Using PhotoDNA to scan images and videos uploaded on their platform against known databases of CSAM.
- *Expert human reviewers:* A dedicated team to flag content missed by the automated software and investigate user reports of CSAM to report to NCMEC.
- *Proactive investigation:* Reporting attribution information about offenders to NCMEC leading to arrests.
- *Strong partnerships:* Financial support and media donation to NCMEC to help find missing children. Verizon is also a member of the Family Online Safety Institute, collaborating and innovating new solutions and policies in the field of online safety.

3.3.4 | *Philanthropic investments in CSEC can have compounding impact with measurable, quantifiable outcomes*

Targeted investments in preventing CSEC can have lasting impact that inevitably goes beyond the narrow walls of child protection to health, education, gender, and future generational livelihoods. Given the enormous funding gap, even small investments can have amplified impact on children and societies worldwide.

What impact can you achieve with targeted investments in a short term?



Vulnerable children stopped from being victimised, online and offline



Evidence generation for prevalence, intervention programmes and systems for multiple countries¹⁵⁹



Law enforcement, health and social service workers sensitised and trained to support survivors



Significant **expansion of funding pool** for child protection, by using investment to focus on fundraising efforts



Reduction of CSEC in targeted communities by collaborating with ecosystem players¹⁵⁸



Multiple images of CSAM detected yearly by deploying modern artificial intelligence and machine learning tools¹⁶⁰



Survivors provided with deep and holistic support for rehabilitation

¹⁵⁷ Environmental, Social and Governance Report, Verizon (2020)





¹⁵⁸ Hotspot Projects: Central Nepal, The Freedom Fund (2021)

¹⁵⁹ Based on findings from Disrupting Harm – evidence-based study for online sexual exploitation of children, ECPAT and End Violence against children (2022)

¹⁶⁰ Impact Report, Safer (2021)

Historically, measuring the impact of CSEC interventions has been assumed to be difficult due to lack of measurable outcomes, unavailability of data, or minimal evidence-based body of work. However, increasing research and evidence are being dedicated to understanding the monitoring and evaluation of these initiatives. For example, it is possible to measure gender norms by assessing changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices or behaviours.^{161,162} The advantages of measuring the impact of such interventions are multi-fold and go beyond specific developmental agendas. For example, the UN's Spotlight initiative postulates that 90 million children can benefit from on-ground gender equity initiatives.¹⁶³

Some select indicators to measure impact of gender equity initiatives that can address CSEC are shown in the table below.

Measurement for	Individual (child)	Family and Community	Systems and Services
 Activities	# adolescent who participate in sex-educational training activity	# parents, caregivers and family members who participate in sex-ed workshops	# ministry of health nurses trained to identify sexual abuse in children
 Knowledge or understanding	% children who understand that child marriage is a crime	% adults who report exposure to media campaigns to end child marriage	% nurses who demonstrate awareness of gender inequality in parenting
 Attitude, Norms, Behaviours	% children who think community expects themselves or others to be married before legal age	% communities reporting actions to address gender-based violence	% of kindergarten teachers who disagree that certain toys are only for girls or boys
 Population Level	% children who finish school (by gender)	% split of assets between man and woman	% women who were married before age 18

Note: # = Absolute Number % = Proportion

¹⁶¹ Quantitative measurement of gendered social norms, Samman (2019)

¹⁶² Advancing Positive Gender Norms and Socialisation through UNICEF Programmes: Monitoring and Documenting Change, UNICEF (2020)

¹⁶³ Dalberg analysis for UN Spotlight initiative

3.4 | Funding mechanisms and tools for greater impact

While it is important to attract more capital to address CSEC, deploying it effectively to achieve better results is equally essential. Leveraging technologies and communities can result in greater impact. Collectives, in particular, enable philanthropists to be more than passive investors by empowering them to work alongside peers and experts to learn and drive systemic change.

3.4.1 | Leveraging philanthropic capital to structure transactions can help the private sector create an impact in CSEC

Philanthropists can do much to help protect the world’s children, but with a \$2.5 trillion annual funding gap to achieve the SDGs, philanthropy does not reach the required funding scale. Bringing together philanthropy, private markets and the social sector can provide a route to achieving financing solutions that work at scale to ensure that every child can live a safe and fulfilling life.

- **Collectives Based Models:**

Collectives bring together players from diverse expertise such as on-ground implementers, public departments, and advocacy leaders, and provides access to a common pool of funding resources to realise systemic change (including funds sourced from global private pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, development finance institutions and multilateral investment). This is critical for areas such as child protection, which requires a mix of on-ground experts, with strategic funders that can bring scale, large networks and provide scope for vertical integration.¹⁶⁴ Pooled funding also improves influence and provides greater accountability, which further motivates investors to experiment with multiple instruments.

Case Study: The Transform Collective brings together diverse stakeholders to work together to support children thriving in families

The Transform Collective is a global philanthropic initiative of UBS Optimus Foundation to drive efforts to support children growing up in safe and protective families. The Collective aims to engage philanthropists, governments, best-in-class NGOs, communities, and key stakeholders to reform policies and practices, gather data, and direct funding so that children growing up in families are prioritised



Challenge

- Need to mobilise capital towards pressing social issues and SDGs
- Increasing number of private philanthropists are dissatisfied with their impact
- Funders want to be more involved in their giving
- Evidence shows that family-based care is more impactful than institutional care

Guiding Principles and Proposed Intervention

- **Systems change approach:** to support multiple groups working on different angles of the same problem to achieve greater impact
- **Collective giving:** with other like-minded philanthropists, governments, local organisations, and experts
- **Adaptive resources and knowledge sharing:** that leverages funders and stakeholder expertise, while simultaneously engaging in a learning opportunity to co-create effective solutions
- **Catalytic sustainable solutions:** that can be then be replicated nationally and globally

Intended Impact

- **Increased public and private funding** towards children in families
- **Children prevented from being separated from their families** and well supported in their communities
- **Informed, knowledgeable philanthropists** who see greater impact

¹⁶⁴ Note: Vertical Integration is when an organisation owns various parts of the value chain to create differentiation and holistically serve customers. In this context, it is essential that organisations involved in child protection provide complete care in-house, to prevent re-traumatisation caused by interacting with disjointed actors.

Voices from the ground

- **Trust-based philanthropy:**

This mechanism aims to redistribute power at systemic, institutional, and interpersonal levels to foster a healthier and more equitable non-profit sector.¹⁶⁵

Augmenting a more patient form of capital that has limited expectation of return, with multi-year unrestricted funding, providing expedited access to funders' resources and expertise, and removing barriers within communication, this mechanism provides the flexibility and accountability to implementing partners to realise multi-fold impact.¹⁶⁶ Investors can provide a flexible extended line of credit, or leverage grant-giving that allows singular or a pool of implementing partners to draw funds, without the pressure of immediate impact realising and performance metrics, which is critical for CSEC.

- **Technology for Impact Investments and Crowd Funding:**

The integration of technology in development is crucial for achieving the SDGs.¹⁶⁸ In the context of online sexual exploitation of children there is immense scope to utilise disruptive technologies for transaction tracing, suspicious activity monitoring, and stop the flow of disputable material through alternate sharing channels, to make the internet safer for children. There is also scope to expand the funding scale by democratising participation in allowing small-scale investors to participate with crowdsourcing.

This allows members of impacted communities to be involved in the solution design process by sourcing ideas from target areas, adopt verification agents from community members, and for donors to see the impact of their contributions to outcome funds. This in-turn can also have the spillover effects of generating higher awareness, mobilisation, and societal acceptance for successful reintegration of survivors.

- **Faith-based Philanthropy and Community funding:**

Faith and community leaders are ably positioned to not only act as lead change-makers but also provide funding with a better understanding to support peers to tackle challenges with CSEC. This also helps diversify funding pools (e.g. funding from and for the Marwari community in India vs from international aid) and bring nuanced cultural understanding and sensitivity to address root causes.^{178,170}

LGT Venture Philanthropy Foundation provided USD 3.4 million grant to Aangan Trust in India, to work on system strengthening in child protection and help scale it nationally.

*"From the start, LGT VP showed us **that they trusted us as people**, and they believed in our model. It felt like a **partnership of equals**, in which each brought a different expertise."¹⁶⁷*

Suparna Gupta, Founder,
Aangan Trust

Voices from the ground

*"We are asked all the time why we invest in social impact projects. It is a **wonderful way of telling people about our faith**. People are very sympathetic to our investment work."*

*"I am not particularly interested in power except in the sense that **we can really do whatever we need to make a difference**."*

- Representatives from various faith-based organisations¹⁶⁹

¹⁶⁵ The Trust-Based Philanthropy Project Website, Trust Based Philanthropy Project (2023)

¹⁶⁶ Fact Sheet: Trust Based Philanthropy, Community Foundations of Canada (2021)

¹⁶⁷ Aangan's evolution in institutionalising child protection in India – A case study about long-term philanthropic support and a planned phase-out, LGTVP (2022)

¹⁶⁸ Innovative Financing Mechanisms For Child-Friendly Infrastructure, Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation (2020)

¹⁶⁹ From Stewardship to Power Religious Organisations and their Investment Potentials, Cranenburgh et al. (2014)

¹⁷⁰ Dalberg Interviews

The Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund, appeals to the power of doing good in Islam to help children in danger¹⁷¹



A joint initiative of UNICEF and the Islamic Development Bank Group, the fund seeks to raise US \$250 million and offer a unique platform that caters to Islamic philanthropy, including Zakat and Sadaqah, in a Shariah-compliant manner. Partnering with the state humanitarian funds from United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, the fund will augment emergency programmes to support at-risk children in the 57 countries that are part of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) by reducing preventable deaths, providing humanitarian assistance to refugee children, and fostering positive transition to their adulthood with improved learning outcomes.

- **Blended finance** provides the opportunity to combat CSEC by creating synergies between commercial and social value. Given the potential to innovate the funding instruments and vehicles themselves, blended finance can offer various effective alternatives. These include grants with technical assistance to help small organisations scale, guaranteed loans that minimise risk besides securing multi-year investment, and project financing to comprehensively target issues without focussing on one entity. For example, Women Livelihood Bond is a social sustainability financial instrument launched in 2017 that leverages both public and private sector capital to support women's economic empowerment in Cambodia, Philippines, and Vietnam.¹⁷²

¹⁷¹ The Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children, UNICEF (n.d.)

¹⁷² Blended finance for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, OECD (2022)

3.4.2 | *There are certain guiding principles when engaging in funding for CSEC*

Whether you are an experienced philanthropist or preparing to make your first philanthropic investment, it is useful to consider that effective giving is based on a few essential principles. Specifically, for CSEC:

- ***Be ambitious and investigate the critical-yet-underexplored:***
Philanthropists are uniquely placed to “shift the curve” in social impact, with higher risk appetite to cater to sectors ignored by public and multilateral funding. Innovative philanthropy leads to sustainable change and greater impact by constantly seeking better solutions to societal challenges. Further, innovation can help discover synergies. For example, making the internet safer for seamless interactions can expand the digital economy.
- ***Shift power and resources to local decision makers and grassroots organisations:***
Shifting existing inequitable power dynamics is fundamental to effectively shifting systems and addressing complex global challenges such as CSEC. Therefore, put funds and decision-making in the hands of local organisations that have close links with the communities they hope to serve and influence. Flexible practices, including streamlining and culturally responsive and equitable reporting processes can build mutually accountable relationships.
- ***Strengthen the focus on the integration and mainstreaming of child protection across sectors:***
Child protection needs to be at the core of development programming due to the large impact it has on other social support sectors, such as health and education. All actors need to work in synergy to ensure reintegration and prevent future instances of child abuse.
- ***Measure, learn, and adapt:***
It is essential to measure impact to discover the quality of your investment in terms of real on-ground output. It is equally important to understand and find a balance between breadth of impact (e.g., total outreach due to mass media campaign) and depth of impact (e.g., decrease in re-victimisation rate for supported survivors). For certain geographies, the former might be a pressing need and for others, the latter.
- ***Collaborate to multiply impact and make your funds work more:***
Being a severely cash-strapped sector, pooling resources, sharing expertise, and exerting combined influence can make your giving work harder. Large networks can also nudge government response into action, enabling a self-sustaining funding cycle.
- ***Go back to your values:***
Effective philanthropic giving is rooted in a deep understanding of your own motivations, goals, and objectives from giving. This helps you to make a true connection with the programmes and emerge as a champion of the cause.

Annexures

Annexure A | *Abbreviations*

CSA	Child Sexual Abuse
CSAM	Child Sexual Abuse Material
CSEC	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
DFIs	Development Finance Institutions
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ISPs	Internet Service Providers
MNR	Model Nation's Response
NCMEC	National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children
OSEC	Online Sexual Exploitation of Children

Annexure B | *List of experts*

We would like to thank more than 20 individuals who invested their time, knowledge, and energy into guiding this report. We value the critical feedback, insights, and suggestions you shared with us at crucial stages of the work.

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- Prerana
- The Global Development Incubator
- Transparentem

Assumptions

- 1) Adequate prevention interventions and rehabilitation support protect *all* survivors of CSEC.
- 2) Impact and cost to society due to child sexual abuse can be extrapolated for children who have experienced sexual exploitation for *commercial* purposes.
- 3) In the absence of reliable data, we have made a *conservative assumption* that prevalence of CSEC is least in high-income countries, followed by an equal split between middle- and low-income countries: ~5% in HICs, ~47% in MICs and ~47% in LICs.
- 4) Current CSEC prevalence = 2-10 million children globally. This is understood to be a conservative and under-represented figure.¹⁷³
- 5) Girls are 2-3x more likely to experience sexual violence than boys.¹⁷⁴

Calculation

Metric 1: Economic development/ Employment

Metric	Formula	Calculation
People added to the workforce = ~150,000 to 800,000	Number of children prevented from experiencing CSEC x Additional likelihood of CSA survivors being out of labour force due to sickness or disability ¹⁷⁵	(2 million to 10 million) x 8%

Metric 2: Healthcare

Metric	Formula	Calculation
Saving in child sexual violence related healthcare costs = ~\$0.7 billion to 3.5 billion	Number of children prevented from experiencing CSEC x Average healthcare cost per person adjusted for the expected allocation of funds across HIC/MIC/LICs	(2 million to 10 million) x \$367

¹⁷³ Child Prostitution: Global Health Burden, Research Needs, and Interventions, Wills & Levy (2002)

¹⁷⁴ Action to end Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, UNICEF (2020)

¹⁷⁵ Average likelihood of female and male CSA victims being out of the workforce due to sickness and disability based on gendered impact calculated from 'The impacts of child sexual abuse: A rapid evidence assessment, C. Fisher, A. Goldsmith et al

<p>Number of people who avoid long-standing illnesses and disabilities =</p> <p>100,000 to 500,000</p>	<p>(Number of children prevented from experiencing CSEC x Proportion of population that traditionally report long-standing illness or disability x Additional likelihood of reporting long-standing illness or disability after experiencing CSA¹⁷⁶) – (Number of children reporting long standing illness and disability for reasons other than CSA)</p>	<p>([2 million to 10 million] x 20% X 1.25) – ([2 million to 10 million] x 20%)</p>
<p>Number of people who avoid suicide attempts each year =</p> <p>25000 to 125,000</p>	<p>(Number of children prevented from experiencing CSEC x Average suicide attempt rate per annum as a percentage of population¹⁷⁷ x Average suicide attempt rate of CSA survivors vs. general population¹⁷⁸) – (Number of children attempting suicide for reasons other than CSA)</p>	<p>([2 million to 10 million] x 0.25% X 6) – ([2 million to 10 million] x 0.25%)</p>

Metric 3: Education

Metric	Formula	Calculation
<p>Number of children enabled to attend school =</p> <p>~200,000 to 1 million</p>	<p>Number of children prevented from experiencing CSEC x Proportion of children not currently attending school due to CSA¹⁷⁹</p>	<p>(2 million to 10 million) x 10.5%</p>

¹⁷⁶ The impacts of child sexual abuse: A rapid evidence assessment, C. Fisher, A. Goldsmith et al.

¹⁷⁷ Suicide Factsheet

¹⁷⁸ The impacts of child sexual abuse: A rapid evidence assessment, C. Fisher, A. Goldsmith et al.

¹⁷⁹ Ending Violence in Schools: An Investment Case, World Bank (2021)

Metric 4: Gender

Metric	Formula	Calculation
Number of girls prevented from experiencing CSA = ~1.5 million to 7.5 million	Number of children prevented from experiencing CSEC x Percentage of survivors who are females	(2 million to 10 million) x 75%
Number of women added to the labour force = ~120,000 to 620,000	Number of people added to the labour force x Percentage of survivors who are females	(~150,000 to 800,000) x 75%
Number of girl suicide attempts avoided each year = ~18,000 to 95,000	Number of suicide attempts avoided per annum x Percentage of survivors who are females	(~25,000 to 125,000) x 75%
Number of girls supported to attend school = ~160,000 to 800,000	Number of children enabled to attend school x Percentage of survivors who are females	(~200,000 to 1 million) x 75%

Annexure D | *Credits*

This study was authored by Dalberg Advisors, with funding support from UBS Optimus Foundation.

From Dalberg:

- Naoko Koyama, Puja Bhojnarwala, Shruti Goyal and Swetha Totapally led the study and authored this report.
- Priyal Jain, Shobhit Johri, and Yash Goyal contributed to the research, analysis, and writing of this report.

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About us

Dalberg is a leading, global social impact advisory group that brings together - strategy consulting, design thinking, big data analytics, and research to inform and address complex social and environmental challenges. We work collaboratively with communities, institutions, governments, and corporations to develop solutions that create impact at scale.

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Annexure E | *Disclaimers*

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