

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

NARRATIVE REPORT YEAR 2: MARCH 2024 - FEBRUARY 2025

 **Down to Zero**
Fighting sexual exploitation of children



Down to Zero Alliance



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

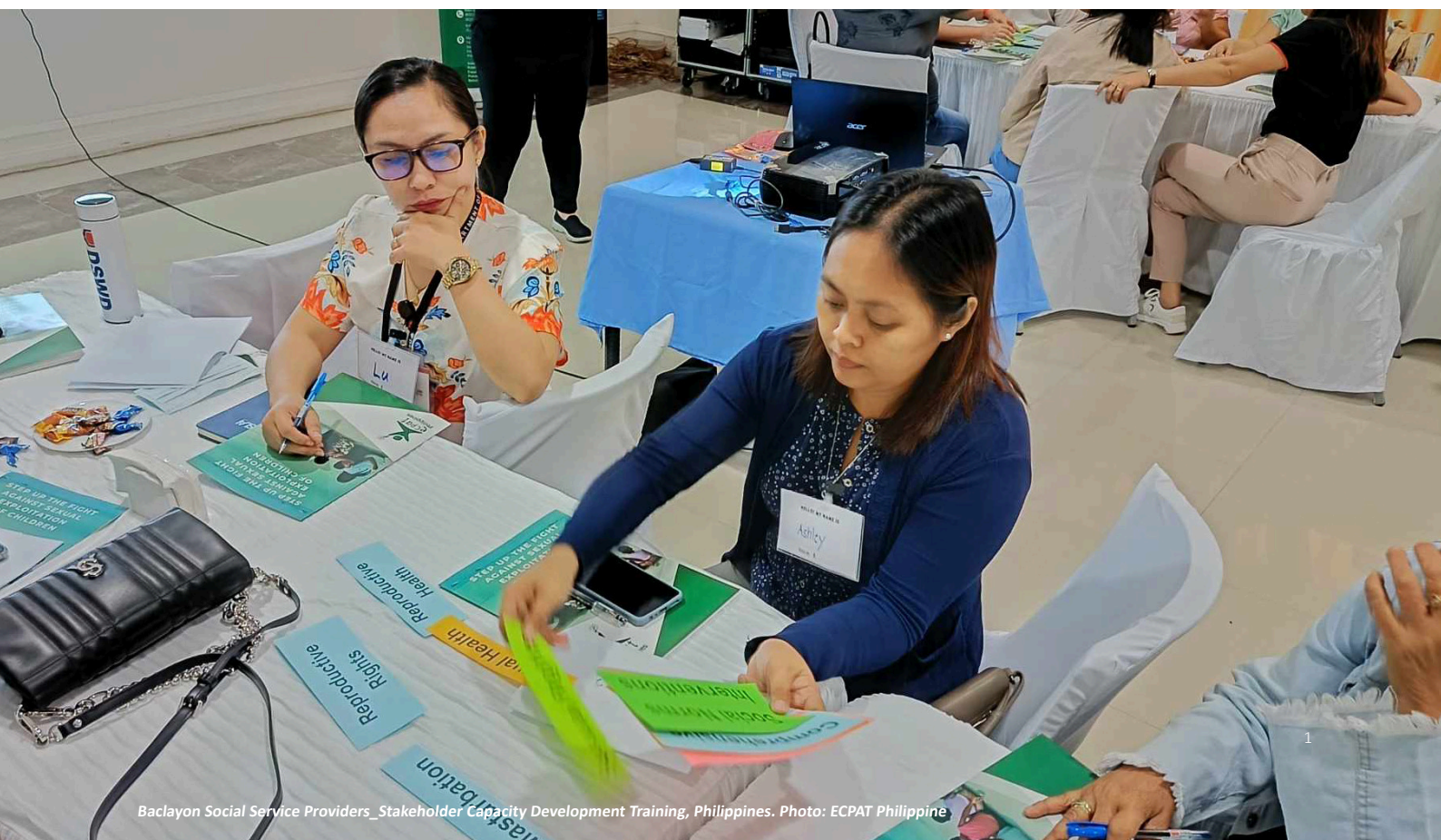


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Abbreviations and acronyms

AI	Artificial intelligence
CP	Child Protection
CSAM	Child sexual abuse material
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil society organisation
DCI-ECPAT	Defence for Children International – End Child Prostitution and Trafficking
DtZ	Down to Zero
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender-based violence
GSC	Global Steering Committee
ICT	Information and communication technology
IEC	Information, education and communication
ISP	Internet service provider
L&A	Lobbying and advocacy
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and other identities
MEAL	Monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning
MoFA	Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OCSE	Online child sexual exploitation
OCSEA	Online child sexual exploitation and abuse
SEC	Sexual exploitation of children
SG	Safeguarding
SID	Safer Internet Day
SOGIESC	Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
SUFASEC	Step Up the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation of Children
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
TdH NL	Terre des Hommes Netherlands
ToC	Theory of Change
YVFC	Youth Voices for Change



Executive summary

The **Down to Zero (DtZ) Alliance** is proud to present its second consolidated annual report for the ‘Step Up the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation of Children’ (SUFASEC) programme. Implemented across **12 countries in Asia and Latin America**, led by **6 Alliance members** and over **30 local partners**, united in their commitment to prevent and respond to the **sexual exploitation of children (SEC)** through **community-driven change, institutional strengthening**, and **meaningful child and youth engagement**. Guided by a shared **Theory of Change**, the programme advances three interlinked outcomes: challenging harmful social norms and practices; expanding access to protective assets and environments; and empowering civil society and youth to hold duty-bearers accountable. In its second year, SUFASEC scaled implementation, deepening its emphasis on **system-level influence, sustainability** and **local ownership**. This progress was achieved in the face of complex and shifting realities—including political instability, economic crisis, shrinking civic space and the rise of digital threats, such as abuse material generated by artificial intelligence—requiring agile, adaptive programming and locally rooted solutions.

Under **Outcome 1**, the programme deployed a diverse set of interventions to address social norms, beliefs and practices that perpetuate SEC. Activities included structured positive parenting programmes, peer-led sexuality education, digital safety training, community dialogues, intergenerational forums and creative media campaigns. In countries such as Nepal, Guatemala and Bangladesh, large numbers of caregivers strengthened their protective capacities through parenting sessions, while children and adolescents acquired the knowledge and confidence to protect themselves and others. In Indonesia, peer educators integrated sexuality education into schools and youth spaces, while in Bolivia, community-based campaigns engaged elders and traditional leaders in conversations around gender norms, child marriage, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Youth-led advocacy contributed to tangible outcomes: child marriages were prevented, protection topics were mainstreamed into community and school events, and public discourse around victim-blaming and taboos was successfully challenged through arts-based initiatives and youth-led media. Under **Outcome 2**, the programme significantly enhanced both individual-level protective factors and the quality and reach of institutional services. Survivors of SEC and children at risk benefited from integrated support combining psychosocial care, legal counselling, safe shelter and family reintegration. In Thailand and Nepal, mobile outreach extended youth-friendly SRHR services to adolescents in remote or crisis-affected areas, while partners in Guatemala and India linked vocational training and school reintegration to long-term protection outcomes. Several countries reported stronger and more functional referral systems, with inter-agency protocols formalised across the health, education, social welfare and justice sectors. In Indonesia, collaboration with internet service providers and regulators contributed to improved reporting and removal systems for online abuse content, and front-line professionals across regions were trained in trauma-informed, child-friendly approaches, strengthening survivor trust and the quality of case management. Under **Outcome 3**, the programme invested in the capacities of youth groups, civil society actors and community leaders to influence policies and hold duty bearers accountable. Youth networks engaged in advocacy training, policy dialogue and monitoring efforts, resulting in contributions to national protection policies, municipal planning and budget allocation processes. In Brazil, civil society helped shape a revised national SEC policy and reactivated local protection committees. In Thailand, youth collaborated with the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society on child safety protocols for online platforms. In Guatemala, child and youth advisory groups influenced local child protection frameworks and were recognised by municipal authorities. The Youth Advocacy South Asia initiative fostered cross-border advocacy and elevated youth voices in regional policy spaces, such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. Private sector engagement also intensified: in the Philippines, travel and tourism companies signed new child protection commitments, and businesses across regions participated in awareness-raising campaigns and staff training aligned with national child rights frameworks.

These outcome-level achievements were underpinned by a robust and coordinated **lobbying and advocacy agenda**. In Asia, partners advocated for stronger mechanisms to prevent online SEC, working with ICT actors and digital regulators. In Latin America, efforts focused on risks linked to migration and displacement, contributing to improved protocols for protecting refugee and migrant children. At the global level, Alliance members contributed to United Nations and European Union advocacy platforms, launched a global toolkit to counter harmful myths about SEC, and disseminated findings from the VOICE research to inform international child protection strategies. Throughout all areas of work, SUFASEC upheld a strong commitment to **gender-responsive, intersectional and inclusive approaches**. The programme addressed the specific needs of boys, LGBTQIA+ youth, children with disabilities, and those from ethnic minority or marginalised backgrounds, ensuring they were actively engaged in both programming and advocacy. **Child and youth participation** moved beyond tokenism towards full meaningful child- and youth-led participation, with young people leading awareness-raising campaigns, co-designing interventions, and contributing to monitoring and evaluation processes. The programme’s **monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning** system supported reflection on core assumptions, analysis of contextual shifts, and timely adaptation of strategies, ensuring coherence across countries while responding to local realities. Efforts to embed **sustainability and local ownership** advanced across contexts. In Guatemala, municipal governments formally adopted SUFASEC methodologies; in Bangladesh, schools integrated child protection modules into their curricula; and in multiple countries, youth groups continued independently mobilising their peers and communities after funding ended. Public institutions and cross-sectoral alliances began replicating programme models using domestic resources, signalling a shift from project-based activities to systemic, embedded change. Across all levels, the programme reinforced the leadership of communities, youth and duty bearers as co-owners of the solutions needed to end SEC and uphold children’s rights. SUFASEC continues to demonstrate that **locally led, cross-sectoral and child-centred approaches** are essential to achieving sustainable protection outcomes in diverse and rapidly evolving contexts.

Introduction

DTZ SUFASEC PROGRAMME

The **'Step Up the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation of Children' (SUFASEC) programme** is implemented by the **Down to Zero (DtZ) Alliance**, led by Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdH NL), in close collaboration with the Child Rights Coalition Asia (CRC Asia), Conexión, Defence for Children – ECPAT Netherlands (DCI-ECPAT), Free A Girl Netherlands (FGNL) and Plan International Netherlands, with more than 30 implementing partners/country offices, including the new Lao partner Alliance Anti Trafficking, joining forces under the overarching objective: **"Children in all of their diversity are better protected from sexual exploitation"**. The SUFASEC programme is tailored to respond to the complex and context-specific drivers of sexual exploitation of children (SEC) in **12 countries across Asia and Latin America**: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Thailand, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala. Guided by a common Theory of Change (ToC), the Alliance works collectively towards three interconnected **overarching outcomes**: (1) *children, youth and their communities successfully challenge social norms and harmful practices related to SEC*; (2) *children and youth have access to and are supported by strengthened protective environments*; and (3) *children and civil society meaningfully participate in holding duty bearers, including government and local authorities, accountable to their obligations towards improved implementation of laws, policies and systems*.

READING GUIDE

This **second consolidated SUFASEC Annual Narrative Report** (March 2024 – February 2025) synthesises insights and evidence from **10 comprehensive country reports**, each based on detailed partner submissions. The report captures key **contextual changes, achievements, challenges** and **lessons learned** across the programme. Audited financial reports from each Alliance member have been compiled into the **overarching financial report** submitted alongside this narrative. It is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 1** outlines major **contextual developments**, including elections and government turnover, political instability and communal violence, shrinking civic space, economic downturn and inflation, humanitarian crises and migration, digital technology, gender, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).
- **Chapter 2** presents the programme's analysis of **major risks and mitigation strategies**, addressing issues such as political unrest, staff turnover, restrictive social norms, climate-related risks, emerging technologies and country-specific challenges. An updated risk matrix is provided in [Annex I](#).
- **Chapter 3** details **progress made against the three overarching outcomes**, illustrated by concrete examples, case stories, good practices, and reflections on unintended effects observed by partners.
- **Chapter 4** highlights **cross-country collaboration**, with a focus on three key initiatives that strengthen Alliance cohesion and learning: (1) Youth Voices for Change; (2) Youth Advocacy South Asia; and (3) The Boys Initiative.
- **Chapter 5** outlines advances in **lobbying and advocacy (L&A)** at the national, regional (Asia and Latin America), international and European Union (EU) levels.
- **Chapter 6** explores how the Alliance reflects on and advances the principle of **'shifting the power'**, including internal efforts to localise decision-making. See more elaborate reflections in [Annex II](#).
- **Chapter 7** covers the Alliance's **external communication and visibility** efforts.
- **Chapter 8** elaborates on **monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL)**, including reflections on the ToC and its 10 key assumptions, the Alliance Learning Question and Country Learning Agendas. Elaborate insights, recommendations and learning are consolidated in [Annex III](#), [Annex IV](#), [Annex V](#) and [Annex VI](#).
- **Chapter 9** addresses key **cross-cutting themes**, such as child participation and youth engagement, inclusion and protection of boys and men, intersectionality and safeguarding (SG).
- **Chapter 10** synthesises **good practices, key lessons learned** and **ongoing challenges**.
- **Chapter 11** provides an outlook on **sustainability**, including national ownership, institutional integration and future programming directions.
- **Chapter 12** outlines the **audited financial report**, compiled from member submissions.

Big Adult Socialization about SRHR & Parenting, Indonesia. Photo: SEJIWA Foundation



1. Contextual Changes

Throughout implementation of year 2 of the SUFASEC programme, countries continuously monitored contextual changes and risks, adapting their implementation strategies accordingly.

1.1 ELECTIONS AND GOVERNMENT TURNOVER

Political shifts across SUFASEC programme countries in Asia and Latin America—including Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Brazil—were largely driven by **local and national elections**, resulting in **high turnover of government staff**. Fortunately, these changes had only a minor direct impact on overall programme implementation. In **Indonesia**, the newly elected government prioritised economic growth and national defence, shifting **budget and policy attention away from children's rights**. This deprioritisation created barriers for child rights civil society organisations (CSOs), limiting their ability to sustain and expand initiatives. In **India**, national leadership remained stable post-election, but state-level shifts led to varying political climates, slowing implementation in affected areas. In **Bangladesh**, a student-led anti-discrimination movement led to the **collapse of the previous government**, resulting in institutional turnover and political instability, which disrupted programme continuity. In **Nepal**, both federal and provincial governments changed twice. Still, key discussions on child protection (CP), trafficking and gender-based violence (GBV) advanced. A renewed government focus on **rescue and repatriation** led to the adoption of **Nepal's 16th National Action Plan**—the first to address online child sexual exploitation (OCSE) and digital crime prevention, empowering local governments. In **Brazil**, the new administration offered promising opportunities for child rights. The government renewed its focus on CSO engagement, began revising the **National Plan to Combat Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents** with civil society input, and promoted youth participation through the Youth Advocacy Committee and Adolescent Participation Committee, working directly with municipal authorities. In response to these shifts, partners adopted adaptive strategies to sustain programme momentum, such as **engaging with newly elected officials** to build rapport and foster political support for SEC efforts. They delivered **ongoing training** to new officials to strengthen their understanding of SEC, child trafficking and broader CP issues. Additionally, partners adjusted **advocacy strategies** to align with evolving political priorities, ensuring continued programme relevance, funding and institutional backing.

1.2 POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

Political conflict, instability and communal violence in several SUFASEC countries disrupted programme implementation in affected regions. In **Bangladesh**, the nationwide **student-led anti-discrimination movement**—marked by major protests, blockades, strikes, arrests and street violence—significantly hindered project activities, both locally and in bordering areas of India. In response to rising unrest, the Border Security Force imposed restrictions on access, delaying or temporarily halting certain interventions. The collapse of basic state functions, particularly law and order, also triggered increased **vigilantism and mob violence**, deepening the country's instability. Despite the volatile context, partners delivered all planned activities by implementing a flexible action plan, maintaining regular communication with children, parents, community and religious leaders, and virtual alternatives to ensure the safety of all staff and participants. In the **Philippines**, escalating political tensions have been fuelled by conservative resistance to progressive reforms, particularly the **Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Bill**, which aims to expand adolescents' access to SRHR information and services, providing safe spaces for dialogue and SRHR education. The continued stalling of this bill undermines efforts to address key drivers of SEC and limits young people's opportunities to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to protect themselves, thereby increasing their vulnerabilities, such as to early and unintended pregnancy, and constraining the programme's impact. In **Bolivia**, internal conflict within the ruling Movimiento al Socialismo party led to widespread **demonstrations and road blocks**, with calls for President Luis Arce to be replaced by former President Evo Morales. In **Brazil**, rising political tensions between government and opposition parties, along with growing **social polarisation and conservative influence**—partly linked to external right-wing movements—directly impacted public policies, especially those related to **human and children's rights**. To mitigate challenges, partners employed **flexible strategies and contingency measures** to sustain engagement with children at risk, such as transferring programmes to virtual platforms and revising activity timing, using flexible scheduling to ensure continuity of services and support for programme beneficiaries.

1.3 SHRINKING CIVIL SPACE

Shrinking civic space in countries such as India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala posed significant challenges for both local and international non-governmental organisation (NGOs). **Restrictive laws and burdensome bureaucracy** limited civil society's ability to advocate for and implement human and children's rights interventions, diverting valuable time and resources away from core programme activities. In **India**, **thousands of NGO licences were revoked** under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, such as for the previous DtZ partner Equations, whose activities had to be suspended, alongside a rise in **sedition cases** targeting individuals and organisations that challenged government policies. In **Indonesia**, the government's intensified focus on **economic growth** and **national defence** further detracted from addressing children's rights, including issues related to SEC and SRHR. In **Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala**, ongoing **political and economic instability** continued to erode the enabling environment for civil society operations. These challenges were exacerbated by **international funding cuts**—notably shifts in US foreign economic policy, particularly **aid cuts under the Trump administration's 'America First' approach**, which worsened the economic situation and increased inflation in several SUFASEC countries—most notably Brazil, Bolivia, Guatemala, Colombia, Lao PDR, Indonesia and Thailand. The suspension of foreign aid disrupted partners' ability to deliver key support to SEC and GBV victims, **weakening service continuity and outreach capacity**. In response, partners implemented a range of short- and long-term strategies to sustain their efforts. These included **prioritising**



YVFC in Technical Municipal Youth Board, Guatemala. Photo: Refugio de la Niñez

research-based advocacy to generate evidence and legitimacy, and **strengthening government collaboration** to secure national and local support for SEC prevention and response. To offset funding gaps, partners also worked to **diversify funding channels**, **activate emergency budgets** and **optimise resource allocation** to maintain essential programme activities. In Colombia and Guatemala in particular, this included the difficult decision taken by implementing partners to **lay off 80–90 staff members** and close some local offices and outreach services to preserve funding for core programme components.

1.4 ECONOMIC RECESSION, RESTRICTIONS AND INFLATION

Economic recession and rising inflation in Nepal, Brazil, Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala severely affected daily life, limiting access to basic needs such as **food, water and shelter**. This led to increased **school dropout rates**, particularly among girls, as many children were forced into work to support their families. Greater **economic hardship** heightened risks of child trafficking and SEC, including OCSE, in exchange for financial gains. In response, **rural-to-urban and cross-border migration** intensified in several countries, with many children migrating under pressure to contribute economically—further exposing them to trafficking and exploitation. In **Nepal**, **youth migration** to cities increased, as young people sought jobs to support their families. In **Bolivia**, 427 reports of missing persons were filed in 2024¹ [Special Force for the Fight against Crime (FELCC) 2024]—mostly adolescents aged 13–18—linked to internal migration for work. In **Lao PDR**, a sharp rise in **cross-border migration of girls**—particularly to China—has been reported, where many were forced into **child marriage** to alleviate household financial burdens. Recognising the strong link between economic vulnerability and SEC, partners scaled up **advocacy efforts** and expanded **economic empowerment initiatives**, focusing on support for **vulnerable families and children** most at risk of **unsafe migration** and **SEC**, including provision of comprehensive care for migrant children in foster homes, such as in Bolivia and Colombia.

1.5 HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND MIGRATION

Humanitarian crises and migration significantly increased children’s vulnerability to exploitation, including SEC and trafficking. These crises often dismantle **protective family and community structures**, increase **displacement** and **forced unsafe child migration**, weaken the rule of law, and allow greater **impunity for offenders**. These factors compound and escalate risks of **SEC**. In response, partners worked to **develop disaster-preparedness plans**, **raise awareness of early warning signs**, and implement **context-specific mitigation strategies**. **Climate change accelerated** the frequency and severity of **natural disasters**, which in turn fuelled **internal and cross-border migration**. Multiple SUFASEC countries experienced a **rise in natural disasters and (climate-driven) emergencies**—including floods, landslides and severe storms in India; earthquakes, floods, fires and cyclones in Bangladesh; floods, droughts and earthquakes in Lao PDR; and hurricanes, floods, fires, storms and earthquakes in Guatemala. These disasters disrupted programme implementation and undermined **CP efforts** in affected areas.

Armed conflict also contributed to humanitarian crises that heighten the risk of exploitation and trafficking. In Colombia, an escalation of conflict in 2024 led to increased **violence, abductions, extortion, displacement and massive forced child migration**, with 56,500 displacements in January 2025 alone—all of which severely impacted children’s safety and well-being. The ongoing **migration crisis** across Latin America and the Caribbean continued to intensify children’s exposure to abuse and exploitation. In response to the crisis in Haiti, many fled to the **Dominican Republic**, where stricter migration policies have resulted in mass deportations and rights violations. This left countless children in **precarious, undocumented situations**, outside any state protection mechanisms. Simultaneously, the number of **US mass deportations** surged, pushing rising numbers of returnees into fragile systems in the region. In Guatemala, over 61,000 returnees were recorded in 2024, many of them children. These dynamics worsened food insecurity, poverty and displacement, all of which further elevated the risk of **human rights violations for migrant children and adolescents**, including a high number of unaccompanied minors. In response, partners strengthened **cross-border coordination and information-sharing**, improved **referral systems**, and provided **enhanced protection and support for at-risk and affected children**.

1.6 DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

The rapid expansion of digital technology and widespread internet access significantly **intensified online risks for children** in countries such as India, Nepal, Indonesia and the Philippines. Offenders gained new avenues to reach child victims, exploiting digital platforms for **OCSE**, including **grooming**, **sexual extortion**, the production and distribution of **child sexual abuse material (CSAM)**, and **live-streamed child sexual abuse**, as well as facilitating **offline exploitation** such as **child trafficking** and **child marriage**, including via **gaming platforms** to identify and groom children, often as a result of poor safety by design features and weak age verification. In Indonesia, the Financial Action Task Force identified two major OCSE forms: **live-streamed child sexual abuse for profit** and **financial sextortion**, where perpetrators threatened to release explicit material unless payments were made. Advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) further amplified risks of SEC, with offenders generating AI-produced CSAM at scale—depicting both real and fake children—causing severe emotional and psychological harm and fuelling a harmful culture that normalises OCSE, as this content increasingly floods the internet. AI tools enable offenders to scale grooming, sexual extortion and trafficking tactics, craft convincing fake profiles, and coerce children into non-consensual acts using manipulated imagery.

1.7 GENDER AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Across SUFASEC programme countries, partners observed both advances and setbacks in **gender rights**, particularly affecting **women, girls** and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and other identities (**LGBTQIA+**) **individuals**, impacting the state of SRHR, GBV and SEC. In Latin America, gender and women's rights regressed in several countries due to **financial dependence on the USA** and other conservative donors, whose support was often conditioned by conservative and **patriarchal values and restrictive policy agendas**. These conditions limited funding for gender-related initiatives, including SRHR and GBV. Even where there was internal political will, financial constraints limited progress and contributed to **rising rates of GBV and SEC**, with women and girls disproportionately affected. **Child marriage** remained prevalent in countries such as Nepal, Lao PDR, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala, with approximately one in three girls married underage. Bangladesh continued to face the highest rate in South Asia, with **51% of girls married before turning 18**. In Colombia, GBV crimes increased by 22% in 2024 [National Institute of Health], with 76.9% of 47,757 domestic violence cases involving women and girls [Attorney General's Office]. Additionally, **745 cases of femicide** were reported to the Ombudsman's Office, including 44 girls and 11 trans women. In Guatemala, the Public Prosecutor's Office registered 15,523 complaints of GBV against minors, including SEC, child trafficking and sexual assault. Some governments in the region, such as in Guatemala and Brazil, aligned with **conservative geopolitical standpoints**. For example, Brazil's proposed **Bill 1904/2024** aims to **criminalise abortion** after 22 weeks even in cases of rape or risk to the woman's life, threatening the health and safety of women and girls. In contrast, some Asian SUFASEC countries reported progress: national protests following the assault of a female doctor in Kolkata led to **stronger women's safety measures** in India, including expanded helplines and **legal reforms**. In Tamil Nadu, there was growing recognition of **LGBTQIA+ rights**, supported by civic youth engagement, particularly Gen Z, showing a shift in cultural norms. In Nepal, the government increased **budget allocations for gender rights and SRHR**, passed protections for LGBTQIA+ individuals, and revised the **national health curriculum** to include SRHR and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). However, countries such as Bangladesh, Lao PDR, the Dominican Republic and the Philippines experienced similar setbacks, driven by **US funding restrictions** and persistent **patriarchal norms**, which stalled progress of SRHR, GBV and SEC initiatives. In response, partners supported **at-risk groups**—particularly girls and LGBTQIA+ youth—at the local level. They engaged families, caregivers and communities to promote **awareness and dialogue** around SRHR and SEC. Partners also **lobbied government stakeholders** to prioritise SRHR, CSE and policies addressing GBV, SEC and OCSE, working to ensure that children's well-being remained a national priority.



2. Risks and Mitigation

Partners reaffirmed previously identified risks, while capturing emerging and evolving risks, such as reduced girl participation, volunteer dropout, communication barriers in remote areas, and staff mental health challenges. Previously outlined mitigation measures and additional strategies were implemented effectively to address these risks. See the **updated Risk Matrix** in [Annex I](#).

2.1 POLITICAL AND SOCIAL UNREST

The probability of political and social unrest increased to medium-high, with continued high impact. Political instability in Bangladesh, Thailand, the Philippines, Bolivia, Brazil, Nepal, India, Lao PDR and Indonesia **disrupted activities, stalled advocacy** due to interrupted legislative processes, and increased children's vulnerability through **rising poverty, migration and inequality**. Partners responded with adaptive strategies, such as shifting activities online, collaborating and building relationships with local leaders and newly appointed politicians, providing training to new officials, and adjusting programmes to focus on accessible regions not directly affected by unrest. In Bangladesh, a **flexible action plan** with weekend and off-hours programming helped maintain delivery despite the collapse of the government and unrest. In Guatemala and Colombia, the team endeavoured to ensure all staff's labour rights were respected where certain offices had to close in response to political and social unrest. In Indonesia, the team prioritised **research-based advocacy** to sustain government engagement amid political tensions and instability.

2.2 GOVERNMENT STAFF TURNOVER

High post-election **government turnover** in many SUFASEC countries, disrupting prior governmental relationships, institutional memory and commitments to combat SEC, remained at high probability and impact. In response, partners engaged with **newly elected officials**, provided **on-boarding and training**, identified new allies, and adapted **L&A strategies** to remain aligned with shifting policy priorities. In the Philippines and Thailand, partners conducted **courtesy calls**, formalised relationships through Memorandums of Understanding (**MoUs**) and **working group appointments**, and shifted from individual to **institutional engagement**. In Bangladesh, the team ran SEC and child trafficking training sessions at local level with new government officials. These adaptive efforts helped maintain programme momentum, despite changes in political personnel.

2.3 SOCIAL AND CULTURAL NORMS

In SUFASEC countries across Asia and Latin America, **conservative and patriarchal socio-cultural norms** continued to hinder project implementation, with continued medium probability and high impact. **Deeply entrenched gender inequality, harmful gender norms, and victim-blaming** related to GBV, including SEC and OCSE, limited youth participation and fuelled resistance to SUFASEC services. These norms are a key root cause of GBV and exploitation, increasing the vulnerability of **girls and LGBTQIA+ children**, while reinforcing stigma against **male victims**. Additional layers of discrimination—including **xenophobia, ableism, sexism, homophobia and transphobia**—further marginalised children with intersectional identities across gender, sexuality, class, ethnicity, religion and ability, creating barriers to support and protection. In rural **Lao PDR**, partners faced difficulties in sustaining **girls' participation** due to socio-cultural expectations that girls should contribute to **domestic, caregiving or agricultural work**. These entrenched gender norms limited their access to critical SEC and OCSE prevention services, heightening their vulnerability. To address these issues, partners such as in Thailand developed targeted **awareness-raising materials and sessions** for children, families and community leaders, often co-created with children and community members and/or based on in-depth consultations to ensure relevance and sensitivity to local social and cultural norms. These highlighted the harms of SEC, the importance of SRHR, and the programme's contribution to **children's rights, well-being and public health**. These efforts aimed to sensitise communities, build capacity and promote agency to challenge harmful norms. Partners also strengthened **L&A** with local and national governments, and Alliance members introduced **trauma-informed, inclusive approaches** tailored to the needs of girls, boys, LGBTQIA+ youth, children with disabilities, and other marginalised groups. In the Philippines, SRHR education faced strong resistance. Partners launched a **myth-busting campaign** and lobbied local officials to promote SEC prevention and SRHR. In Nepal, social stigma limited youth reporting of SEC cases and participation in the project, prompting outreach targeting parents, families and religious leaders. Indonesian partners expanded trauma-informed programming to better support children previously excluded due to stigma, homophobia and victim-blaming, including **SEC survivors and LGBTQIA+ youth**. Collectively, these efforts aim to challenge and transform harmful norms underpinning SEC.

Training for members of Village Child Protection Network on SEC and prevention of SEC, Laos. Photo: Village Focus International



2.4 CLIMATE

Severe climate events—such as **floods, cyclones, earthquakes and fires**—disrupted programming in India, Nepal, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Thailand, Lao PDR, Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala with persistent high probability and impact, increasing displacement and child vulnerability related to unsafe migration and poverty. Partners responded proactively by developing **disaster preparedness plans, rescheduling activities**, choosing **safer venues**, transferring programmes online when needed, and raising awareness about early **warning signs**. In Bolivia and Guatemala, road monitoring and municipal coordination ensured safe activity scheduling. In Nepal, climate resilience was integrated into **anti-trafficking efforts**, educating parents and leaders about the link between climate-driven disasters and SEC. In Bangladesh, safe venues and flexible schedules enabled programme continuation despite frequent disasters. In India, **disaster preparedness sessions** were conducted, particularly for children. These responses allowed programme continuity despite escalating climate threats.

2.5 NEW TECHNOLOGIES

The rapid, unregulated expansion of **digital technology** with no child safety standards in place and widespread internet access significantly intensified **online risks for children**, with continued high probability and impact. Partners in **Nepal** and the **Philippines** reported a marked increase in **AI-driven CSAM, grooming and OCSE**. To address threats, partners prioritised advocacy and tailored programme responses to raise awareness and hold governments and internet service providers (ISPs) accountable, and to equip communities—especially children and youth—with digital safety skills. In Nepal, partners expanded digital safety sessions in SEC survivor programmes and engaged parents to guide children’s safe online behaviour. In the Philippines, OCSE awareness was embedded into learning activities in collaboration with local government officials, to build their capacity in this area and improve **reporting systems**. Community and school-based **AI-focused learning modules** were introduced to tackle the risks of AI-driven CSEA. Across Asia and Latin America, partners strengthened collaboration and training with **tech companies** to help make online platforms safer for children and young people, applying an evidence-informed approach, drawing on insights from the VOICE research to better identify and reach those most at risk through programming and advocacy.

2.6 INTEGRITY

Integrity, including financial mismanagement, remained key throughout Year 2. In the Philippines, the contract of the DCI-ECPAT Netherlands implementing partner ECPAT Philippines will not be renewed for Year 3 due to the discovery of fraud at the organisation’s country office in Manila, followed by an immediate review and the launch of an **official audit**. Fortunately, this did not directly affect programme or activities. However, activities were immediately suspended while alternatives were explored to resume implementation with a new partner, to minimise the impact on children, communities and stakeholders.

2.7 COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RISKS

In addition to cross-cutting risks, several **context-specific challenges** emerged across SUFASEC countries. High **dropout rates** among community-based youth volunteers and mentors in rural **Lao PDR**—often driven by economic pressures to migrate for work—caused delays in programme delivery. Partners responded by **swiftly on-boarding** new youth volunteers and mentors to restore momentum. Communication barriers also arose, as many programme locations lacked **internet and digital access**, hampering coordination with child participants. To address this, partners collaborated with **local teachers**, serving as intermediaries to maintain close engagement. In **Brazil**, L&A efforts were updated to counter Bill 1904/2024, which criminalises abortion even following rape, and to support the development of a **national rights booklet on the rights of girls** in rape-related pregnancies. In **Indonesia and Thailand**, staff and facilitators faced significant **mental health strain** due to repeated exposure to SEC and OCSE cases, leading to burnout and internal staff turnover. To mitigate this, partners introduced a range of **mental health and well-being measures**, including counselling sessions, trauma-informed care training, regular check-ins, workload adjustments, peer support groups, and **mandatory debriefing** after intensive activities, helping staff cope and continue their work safely.

3. Programme Progress

OUTCOME 1

Outcome 1: Children and youth and their communities successfully challenge social norms and harmful practices related to SEC

Throughout the programme, **meaningful shifts in awareness, attitudes and behaviours** began to take root. **Children and youth** became increasingly **confident in speaking out**, while parents and community members grew more engaged in creating **safer, more supportive environments**. From open dialogues between caregivers and children in India, to youth-led peer education sessions and collective community action to prevent child marriage, these developments signalled early signs of social and gender norm transformation and a growing **culture of protection**. Year 2 of implementation reaffirmed the importance of engaging not only children and adolescents, but also their **families and broader communities** as key actors in driving sustainable change.

1.1. Parents/caregivers exercise positive parenting and strengthen family ties

Partners promoted **positive parenting** to strengthen protective family environments as a key SEC prevention strategy. Caregivers in India, Bangladesh, Thailand and Nepal participated in structured sessions to improve communication with children, recognise signs of

abuse, and foster trusting, supportive relationships. Caregivers across countries joined positive parenting sessions covering topics such as **online safety, CP, recognising signs of abuse, prevention of sexual violence, trafficking, SRHR, reporting mechanisms and effective parent-child communication**. As a result, parents in India reported feeling more confident and involved in their children's lives. Active engagement of the Guatemalan **Municipal Child Protection Office** and community leaders supported long-term sustainability. In the Philippines, partners created safe spaces through **structured training and focus group discussions**, educating caregivers on child rights, SEC prevention, online safety and non-judgemental communication. In Bolivia and Colombia, partners ran targeted workshops for caregivers of **victims and at-risk children**, covering children rights, GBV, legal guidance and reporting routes. These interventions not only contributed to **breaking intergenerational cycles of violence** but also strengthened **family integration processes and community networks**. In Bolivia, this included the formation of **self-organised parent protection groups**—empowering parents as **protective figures** through training and participation in **socio-educational fairs**—which served as spaces for learning, exchanging **protection and positive parenting** strategies, and fostering community cohesion. These efforts demonstrate a clear shift towards **proactive caregiving**, sustaining **peer learning** and dialogue within communities.

BEST PRACTICE: Large-scale **awareness campaigns** such as #JagaBareng and **#BAGOOS (Be A Good Support) campaign** in Indonesia mobilised communities, including parents, teachers and caregivers, to become active protectors, highlighting the role of families in providing support to children. Eighteen **Adult Champions** were trained in SRHR, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), online safety, psychological first aid and helpline services, acting as trusted resources in their communities, supported by information, education and communication (IEC) materials to enhance sustainability.

SIGNS OF SUCCESS

- ★ 600+ parents and caregivers in Nepal, 850+ in Thailand, 1,500+ across five states in India and 3,700+ caregivers in the Philippines joined **positive parenting sessions**.
- ★ 200+ Indigenous Q'eqchi' Mayan parents in Guatemala participated in **parent schools**, delivered in the local language and aligned with agricultural schedules, covering healthy habits, boundaries, school success and resilience.

1.2. More children demonstrate knowledge on action to take to protect their bodies and lives

Across Asia and Latin America, partners accelerated efforts to build **children's capacity**, knowledge of their **rights**, and confidence to shape safer environments. Through SRHR education, youth-led advocacy and inclusive programming, children moved from being recipients of information to **peer educators and advocates**. In Colombia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, India, Nepal, Indonesia, Lao PDR and the Philippines, SRHR was delivered across schools and communities, covering **body autonomy, consent, digital safety, recognising threats, and access to SRHR services**. In Guatemala, 409 children participated in workshops on SRHR, STIs, teenage pregnancy, and contraception in conservative settings. In the Philippines, youth went beyond participation to **co-facilitate, develop materials** and lead **community engagement**. Growing acceptance among parents to allow participation in these sessions marked a positive shift in attitudes.

Community awareness and youth-led advocacy enhanced the reach and effectiveness of services. In Indonesia, Youth Champions conducted engagement sessions with peers and developed **short films** to disseminate key messages on online safety and SEC prevention. In India, young people were trained in advocacy, research and communications to promote safe online behaviour and link peers to protection services. Across countries, youth played an active role in promoting reporting channels, disseminating prevention messages and supporting peers—amplifying their voices and enhancing community-based protection. **Child- and youth-led action** became a



defining element: in Colombia, the national forum **‘Las niñas tienen la palabra’ (Girls Have a Say)** gave girls a platform to speak directly to public officials such as the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare about GBV, early unions and child marriage—fostering greater accountability and institutional responsiveness. Integrating the voices of victims themselves enabled a meaningful process of **rights restoration**, advancing an articulated, intersectoral strategy for improved care.

“I thought it was very important to have had the opportunity to listen to these girls since they are the ones in charge of making crime visible in scenarios such as this one. I think that more than a forum, it was a call to the institutions to review our strategies and act more effectively.”

– Local official, Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, Guajira, Colombia

These efforts contributed to the formation of **child-led structures and youth groups** across SUFASEC countries: Guatemala’s **School Vigilance Committee** and Colombia’s **Semillero youth group** designed their own protection action plans. In the Dominican Republic, adolescents trained on **assertive communication and advocacy** led local awareness campaigns and strengthened provincial youth networks. Partners empowered **Child/Youth Champions** and **KOMPAK Jakarta youth groups** in Indonesia, through structured mentoring and training on **SRHR, online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA), mental health, online safety and exchange on case management** to take action to protect themselves and their peers:

“After joining the in-depth class at ECPAT, I feel like I have a better understanding of how to protect myself and my friends from violence. The ECPAT class gave me the courage to report inappropriate situations. I now feel capable of helping my friends who face similar issues.”

– Youth participant in OCSEA and SRHR training, Indonesia

Responding to digital vulnerabilities, partners integrated **OCSEA prevention and digital safety** more systematically into SRHR programming. In Indonesia, adolescents participated in **big socialisation events** and online workshops tackling **online grooming**, internet addiction and digital rights. In Bangladesh, youth led **school orientations and public campaigns** to raise awareness of online risks. In Nepal and the Philippines, children were trained to **recognise and report abuse**, often serving as **peer advisors**. In the Dominican Republic, adolescents explored rights through **theatre, socio-cultural animation**, micro-learning, and online modules on SEC, communication and leadership. **Educommunication strategies** enhanced children’s engagement. In Brazil and Nepal, children used **street theatre** and dance to raise awareness on trafficking, SEC and social norms. Brazilian youth also developed **visual tools** and illustrated booklets. In India, an increase in rates of **teenage pregnancy** prompted the development of new **IEC materials** and collaboration with **health counsellors**, connecting SRHR with **protection systems**.

In Bangladesh, the **Child Rights Defenders Forum**—a coalition of 20 youth-led groups—mobilised 533 trained youth to spearhead school campaigns, raise **community awareness on SEC, child marriage and SRHR**, and actively engage with parents and school authorities. A dedicated **youth-managed Facebook platform** shared over 100 targeted posts on empowerment, protection and local advocacy. Six youth-led campaigns reached over 300 community members, boosting visibility and cross-learning across districts. In parallel, 100 trained **change agents** helped strengthen **referral pathways**, connecting children with essential services and working alongside local influencers to detect and respond to cases.

Girls took centre stage, boosting their safety, confidence and leadership skills, from **karate self-defence** training in Bangladesh to running **creative, out-of-school CSE** sessions for 77 girls in the Dominican Republic. In Colombia, adolescent girls actively shaped **protection strategies** and shared their lived experiences in **high-level forums** with government and civil society. In Bangladesh, which has the highest child marriage rates in Asia, over 200 children and youth were trained in CP and SEC prevention, with many becoming active peer educators in their schools and communities. These efforts signal significant steps to strengthen children’s and young people’s knowledge and agency, and foster a culture of **protection, rights awareness and collective accountability**.

- ★ 23 children successfully **prevented 16 child marriages**
- ★ 318 children in Lao PDR received training on **sex education, safe migration and self-protection**, and many became informal peer educators
- ★ **670 children**, including LGBTQIA+ youth, in **Bolivia** participated in inclusive SRHR and CP training
- ★ **8,693 children** in Nepal, including children with disabilities and from Muslim, Dalit, Madhesi and border communities, took part in **242 peer-led CSE sessions**
- ★ **728 children** in India attended school sessions, with youth cascading knowledge to **12,000+** peers



Religious leaders and children, Nepal. Photo: CWIN

1.3. Communities (including families) take action to change social norms and harmful practices

In Year 2, SUFASEC partners across all programme countries **increased efforts to mobilise communities**—including families, youth, social workers, police, teachers, traditional leaders etc.—to challenge and transform **social norms that perpetuate SEC**. Community members, including **parents of victims in Bolivia**, increasingly took on **active leadership roles** in awareness-raising, advocacy and systems-building. In Guatemala, sustained engagement with midwives, **teachers, youth groups** and **community leaders** helped embed CP messages within trusted cultural structures. In Brazil, adolescents became multipliers and launched the ‘**Protect Innocence**’ campaign after completing socio-educational workshops on gender, sexual violence, SRHR, youth involvement and protection networks:

“After I joined the project, I understood that what some men do is harassment, not compliments... Now they don’t say anything when I walk down the street.”
 – Youth participant in the ‘Protect Innocence’ campaign, Brazil

Efforts to **engage families** and address **intergenerational beliefs** around gender, childhood and protection remained central to programme implementation. In **Nepal**, partners conducted **family counselling** and awareness sessions on **SRHR, positive parenting and digital safety**, which encouraged **open discussions around child marriage, dowry** and other harmful traditions. Interactive activities such as **street theatre** and **community performances** helped destigmatise sensitive topics and encouraged dialogue. These efforts exceeded expectations, with over 9,000 children and parents participating in 242 community sessions, and schools themselves requested additional events. In Nepal, Bangladesh and India, **community-level awareness campaigns** and **demonstrations** regarding **child marriage, trafficking and unsafe migration** led to heightened awareness and referrals to **police and border forces**, directly preventing at least four child marriages. In Asian countries such as the Philippines, **child marriage and minor cohabitation** persist, rooted in harmful **cultural norms and economic hardship**. Often accepted by communities, these practices raise risks of **adolescent pregnancy** and restrict access to education, health services and informed SRHR choices. In response, partners focused on community awareness, dialogue, and advocacy for protective laws such as the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act**, to safeguard children—especially girls—from exploitation and early parenthood. **Cultural and media platforms** played a vital role in shifting public opinion and expanding outreach. In Bangladesh, **Theatre for Development** groups and **edutainment events** engaged over 1,800 community members in prevention messaging. Campaigns broadcast through community radio and video content reached tens of thousands more. Targeted **media sensitisation workshops** trained journalists to report on SEC more responsibly and proactively.

School-based initiatives were critical for promoting **attitude and behaviour change**. In Lao PDR, what began as engagement with one school expanded to three, thanks to growing **teacher leadership** and local ownership. In the Philippines, community dialogues on OCSE—including with **Indigenous communities and local leaders**—exceeded outreach targets. These efforts were amplified by high-visibility events such as Safer Internet Day (SID), helping to reframe CP as a **shared community responsibility**. Similarly, in Nepal, school-based awareness activities increased the demand for **psychosocial support**, resulting in **new collaborations with local counsellors**.

Partners adopted **intersectional strategies** to ensure outreach to children and families affected by **gender-, ethnicity- and migration-related vulnerabilities**. In Bolivia, collaboration with the Bolivian NGO Centro de Investigación Educación y Servicios en Salud Sexual y Reproductiva (CIES) and the ‘Atención Integral y Diferenciada para Adolescentes y Jóvenes’ (AIDAJ) programme (run by the Bolivian Ministry of Health and Sport and providing youth free access to SRHR services) enabled adolescent boys to access **taboo SRHR topics** through inclusive programming. The **inclusion of positive male role models** has also been key when working with victims’ families—particularly in Bolivia and Colombia—where fathers, uncles or other male relatives were intentionally involved in the family reintegration process, complementing the support typically led by mothers.

Across countries, these efforts demonstrate a growing shift from awareness-raising to **community-led prevention and protection**. What began as sensitisation has evolved into deeper engagement, with **local actors replicating initiatives**, forming cross-sector networks and increasingly **influencing public systems**. These developments signal progress not only in knowledge and attitudes but in the capacity of communities to own and sustain change beyond the programme’s time frame. Indicator targets achieved in Year 2 can be found in the dedicated Results Framework **Reporting Template Targets vs Actuals**, including explanations of variances in target vs actuals beyond 20% in column FB.

- ★ 300 children in Thailand gained skills to protect themselves and report SEC, prompting teachers to **integrate CSE into school curricula**
- ★ Youth-led community education in India influenced religious leaders to **publicly support CP**
- ★ Community-based CP committees in Bangladesh, made up of teachers, doctors, lawyers and religious leaders, identified and referred **86 SEC cases**, including child marriage
- ★ **14 women** in Guajira, Colombia, strengthened their network, developed an action plan and now report cases to the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar, ICBF) and carry out outreach and prevention through social media
- ★ **15 members** of the Council of the Takana Indigenous Community (Consejo Indígena del Pueblo Tacana, CIPTA) in **Bolivia** began implementing reporting channels for cases of SEC in travel and tourism
- ★ 180+ leaders from Dominican community CP mechanisms trained on **positive parenting, digital safety** and **early marriage** led **24 community-led actions**, **replicated key messages** and reached **650+ people** in underserved rural areas

OUTCOME 2

Outcome 2: Children and youth have access to and are supported by strengthened assets and protective environments

Across the Alliance, partners made significant progress in strengthening protective environments for children and youth, particularly those at risk and victims of SEC. Children were better equipped with knowledge, skills and support systems to protect themselves. Youth emerged as leaders in prevention efforts, while communities became more aware and engaged. Local systems grew more responsive and inclusive. Through these efforts, partners expanded access to **safe spaces, trusted support networks** and the resources young people need to stay safe and shape their futures with confidence.

2.1 Increased family economic resilience

Across the SUFASEC programme, **economic empowerment** remained a key strategy to reduce children's and adolescents' vulnerability to SEC. Partners worked with survivors, out-of-school youth, adolescent parents and at-risk families to strengthen income-generating capacities and foster stable, protective environments. Partners in several contexts, such as Nepal, the Philippines, Colombia and Bolivia, implemented **tailored livelihood strategies**—ranging from technical training and career coaching to entrepreneurship support and job placement—with a clear link to protection outcomes.

In Nepal, income-generating activities supported mothers and adolescent girls in gaining financial independence. Survivors of trafficking and at-risk girls, including young single mothers, received six months of **vocational training**, and **sewing machines** to launch their own tailoring businesses, reducing exposure to exploitation and abuse in daily wage labour, and enabling them to finance their children's education, to attend school regularly and independently purchase school materials. Post-training, they were assisted in **setting up their businesses**, reducing their reliance on high-risk income sources, and securing stable livelihoods. In Bolivia, economic empowerment strategies focused on **survivors and high-risk families**, combining **market analysis, business management and employability workshops**. These interventions equipped participants with technical skills for job training and integration into the labour market. Through strategic alliances, survivors in Bolivia were offered job opportunities in private companies, members of 'The Code', [The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism is a multi-stakeholder initiative to provide awareness, tools and support to the travel and tourism industry to prevent SEC. See www.thecode.org] showcasing their commitment to **promoting sustainable life projects for young survivors or at-risk youth**. Together, these practices illustrate how targeted livelihood interventions, when paired with psychosocial and skills development, can reduce economic vulnerability, promote self-reliance, and strengthen the protective capacity of families and communities—ultimately contributing to long-term SEC prevention.

- ★ **16 family members** of child victims and vulnerable children in the Philippines received seed capital
- ★ **133 family members** of child victims or vulnerable children in Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand, Bolivia and Colombia received economic support training



Beneficiary provided with Income Generation Activity, Nepal. Photo: CWIN



Non-formal education sessions for survivors in shelter home, Bangladesh. Photo: Association for Community Development

2.2 Greater and safer access to quality child protection and local SRHR information and services

In Year 2, the SUFASEC programme strengthened local systems to ensure children and youth—especially those at risk and victims—could access **timely, safe and high-quality SRHR services**. Partners worked across the continuum of care, from prevention and early identification to **response and long-term reintegration**. Interventions were designed to address both individual needs and structural barriers, linking children and youth with **SRHR, health, legal and psychosocial services**.

A key area of progress was the **provision and integration of SRHR services**. In Bangladesh, Bolivia, Colombia, Brazil, Lao PDR, India and the Philippines, SUFASEC partners offered tailored SRHR education and health support to adolescents and survivors, including LGBTQIA+ and migrant populations. Services included **counselling, safe sex, access to STI testing and treatment, family planning and referrals**. In the Philippines, trained **youth facilitators** encouraged peers to seek care; several adolescents and young couples accessed SRHR services after local roll-out events. Strong collaboration with local organisations in Bolivia guaranteed 108 youth—many of them internal migrants or transgender individuals—access to comprehensive, rights-based quality care. The programme also expanded **digital access to SRHR and CP information**. In Nepal, partners developed videos such as on **child marriage and violence, SRHR** and **consent**. **Mobile applications** were developed to provide children and adolescents with resources on sexuality, digital safety, LGBTQIA+ rights, legal guidance, service directories and helpline numbers. These tools ensured confidential access to vital information for youth in remote or high-risk contexts, providing a scalable, low-barrier solution for both prevention and referral.

Emergency response, rescues and tailored recovery formed a critical part of the CP strategy. Over 100 girls in India, 53 children in Nepal and 15 in Bangladesh received emergency support, including **rescue from sexual exploitation, medical treatment, shelter, food, medical aid, legal counselling, psychosocial support and family reunification support**. Family-level interventions focused on reducing risks of early or forced marriage by addressing underlying economic and social pressures. **Psychosocial support and trauma-informed individual and family counselling** sessions were delivered, complemented by community-based counselling to reduce stigma and ease survivors' reintegration. **Dance Movement Therapy** training as a trauma healing process for survivors in Nepal and Bangladesh increased their self-awareness and self-esteem, and created a safe space for expressing their feelings. **Recovery services and reintegration** in India, Nepal and Bangladesh were scaled up through holistic, survivor-centred care models, including strengthening **cross-border collaboration** and repatriation. Survivors further participated in **life skills and SRHR sessions**. Partners in Nepal, India and Bangladesh provided **legal counselling**, with case workers supporting survivors and families to understand their rights and file cases against perpetrators, resulting in **arrests and ongoing investigations**. In India, survivors not only accessed shelter and services but also engaged in **state-level dialogues**, sharing recommendations to improve systemic support for victims.

Partners placed a strong emphasis on **coordination with health-care providers and legal systems**. In Guatemala, SUFASEC partners collaborated with the **referral network and regional hospital** to ensure multisectoral care for survivors. Five **multi-stakeholder meetings** brought together health professionals, prosecutors and social workers to align survivor care protocols. In India, **20 inter-agency meetings** involving education, protection and law enforcement actors led to state-level recommendations on improving referral pathways and collaboration across systems.

In parallel, strategic communication and digital outreach ensured services became more **visible and accessible**. Overall, partners succeeded in operationalising an integrated, context-sensitive approach to CP and SRHR, where prevention, emergency response, psychosocial recovery and long-term reintegration are treated as **interconnected priorities**. Through sustained coordination with health systems, justice institutions and communities, children and youth gained not only access to services but also a stronger, safer foundation to reclaim their rights and futures.

- ★ 19 children in Indonesia created SRHR social media videos reaching +1 million viewers
- ★ 470+ clients in Indonesia accessed counselling through the [BERSAMAMU Helpline](#)
- ★ A viral Thai TikTok video about the 1387 helpline generated 632 child contacts in one day
- ★ 380+ adolescents in the Philippines received integrated SRHR and protection services
- ★ 306 children and youth in Bangladesh accessed SRHR services through institutional referrals
- ★ 53 SEC cases in Bangladesh were referred and received psychosocial counselling; 23 SEC victims received support, including shelter

2.3 Increased access to life skills, vocational education and/or formal education for children and youth

SUFASEC partners increased their focus on **life skills education** as a critical strategy to reduce vulnerability to SEC. Across Thailand, Bangladesh, Colombia, Bolivia, Dominican Republic and the Philippines, life skills sessions equipped children and youth with skills on **self-awareness, communication, interpersonal, critical thinking, conflict resolution, decision-making** and developing their life projects, complementary to knowledge on SRHR, SEC and online safety. In Thailand, 289 youth and student leaders participated in training that enabled them to recognise and resist exploitative situations, including early marriage. In the Dominican Republic and Colombia, similar life skills activities helped adolescents, including victims and at-risk youth in shelters, develop confidence and agency to advance their educational and vocational pathways.

“Apart from learning, I have been formed as a person, today I am better than yesterday. The professionals are very good and I hope to continue working and learning when I leave here because I really liked it a lot and I want to be able to teach it to others.”

– 13-year-old girl from a shelter, Guajira, Colombia

Expanding vocational training emerged as a vital pillar helping adolescents transition from risk to resilience. In Lao PDR, 41 girls and youth benefited from life skills, formal education and vocational training in areas such as cooking and entrepreneurship, with several receiving start-up kits to launch small businesses, and internships and employment partnerships with the private sector. Likewise, vocational training in **tailoring, information and communication technology (ICT) and handicrafts** for youth in Bangladesh and Bolivia enabled them to start their own businesses or access employment, such as in digital accounting, computer training centres and tailoring shops, achieve greater financial independence and reduce SEC vulnerability.

CASE STUDY: Carina (name changed), a survivor of SEC in Bolivia, found refuge in a foster home, where she accessed skills training in macramé and costume jewellery. Supported by a business partner aligned with The Code, she overcame trauma and transformed her therapeutic exercise into a viable livelihood, becoming a **creator and entrepreneur**. Carina now runs her own small business and inspires others as a symbol of resilience and empowerment. Her case is an inspiring example of how a comprehensive rights restoration process, combined with the support of members of The Code, can change lives. Today, Carina is a symbol of empowerment and strength.

Access to formal education remained a priority, especially for girls at risk of dropping out, such as in Colombia and Nepal. Activities supported them to remain or re-enrol in school despite financial hardship, reinforcing education as a key protective factor. These efforts reflect a cross-country trend: ensuring educational continuity not only increases protection but also enhances children's **long-term prospects**. Partners also focused on **emotional and social reintegration**. In the Philippines, adolescent and solo young parents participated in **self-care, parenting and financial literacy** sessions. In Colombia, many community leaders revealed that they themselves were victims of SEC in childhood—making their current roles not only a powerful act of leadership but a journey of **rights restitution** and a driving force in creating protective environments for others. Partners across Colombia, Bolivia and Guatemala invested in **education, vocational skills and psychosocial support**, addressing multidimensional poverty and historical exclusion as structural enablers of SEC, thereby addressing not just symptoms but root causes. Programmes across all countries highlighted the importance of continuity, community engagement and linkage to systems—from certified employers to social services—as drivers of long-term protection and resilience.

- ★ 66 girls in Nepal at **risk of dropping out** were supported to stay in school despite financial hardship.
- ★ 13 adolescents in Colombia, including Indigenous and migrant youth, were **enrolled in the formal education system**.
- ★ 32 **vulnerable children and youth** in the Philippines, including out-of-school youth and survivors of bullying or financial hardship, received **career orientation, mock interviews, psycho-educational sessions and entrepreneurship training**, boosting job readiness and income-generation skills.
- ★ 35 children in Bangladesh attending **socialisation centres** transitioned into mainstream schools.
- ★ 17 adolescents in Colombia, including Venezuelan migrants and members of Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, completed three-month **entrepreneurial and vocational training** (e.g. hairdressing and beauty), leading to their own income-generating opportunities.

2.4 Improved coordination of child-friendly service delivery (between sectors and across levels)

Strengthening multi-stakeholder coordination remained a strategic priority in Year 2, deepening the foundations laid in Year 1. In Bangladesh and Guatemala, coordination mechanisms initiated in Year 1 became more operational and inclusive. In Bangladesh, two **child welfare boards** and 29 CP actors were reactivated and trained on SEC/OCSE, resulting in **improved case tracking and inter-agency referrals**. Partners in Nepal provided CSE and SRHR training to **health-care workers** and **local authorities**. **Multi-actor dialogues** with local authorities, religious leaders and service providers created stronger links across sectors. In Guatemala, the established



multi-institutional referral network became central to responding to cases of trafficking and violence, ensuring survivors received psychosocial, legal and health support. In the Philippines, city health partnerships were consolidated to **institutionalise access to SRHR** within existing service delivery frameworks. In Brazil, the programme built on prior assessments to train **299 education, health, social assistance and public security professionals** to improve coordinated response—tackling previously identified gaps in reporting, technical knowledge, intersectoral coordination and case handling.

“This was a turning point for my professional practice. I didn’t feel comfortable talking about sex education with children. After two DTZ trainings, I realised that this is about guaranteeing rights and protection.”
 – Pedagogical coordinator, Brazil

Enhancing the capacity of duty bearers and service providers was scaled up to respond to growing demand for survivor-centred, coordinated services. In Nepal, 66 duty bearers from government and civil society strengthened their capacity to address OCSE and deliver child-friendly services, supported by strengthened inter-agency coordination. Partnerships with ISPs were expanded to integrate **content filtering** and public awareness around online grooming. In Lao PDR, **technical coordination** among 50+ stakeholders from the CP, education and health sectors was reinforced through training and quarterly planning, ensuring smoother intersectoral implementation. Operational protocols and coordination of trafficking rescue at the Indo-Nepalese and Bangladeshi **borders and airport checkpoints** led to the identification and rescue of 20 at-risk children and women. In Thailand, **multi-stakeholder workshops** trained children, CP actors and law enforcement agency staff to recognise and respond to OCSE, contributing to stronger cross-sector collaboration.

Ensuring comprehensive, survivor-centred services remained a critical focus, with partners further embedding support within referral systems. The **#BERSAMAMU helpline** in Indonesia extended its service hours and increased youth uptake and government collaboration to ensure **safe, confidential counselling**. In Bolivia, renewed efforts focused on securing **birth certificates and identification** for SEC survivors, to access protection services, education and social recognition, and strengthened the capacities of 320 public officials and 3 multisectoral forums.

Engaging communities and promoting accountability gained momentum, building on youth leadership and community-level engagement from Year 1. In Brazil, youth involved in local advocacy continued to monitor **municipal protection plans**, while feedback from professionals indicated improved confidence in detecting and reporting cases of abuse after DtZ training. In Guatemala, workshops highlighted how **economic insecurity fuels child marriage and exploitation**, prompting reflection and action at the household level. In the Philippines, youth facilitators reported cases of abuse directly to CP desks and multidisciplinary teams, contributing to legal follow-up and community mobilisation. In Nepal, trained **peer educators** continued to integrate **SRHR and CP** messaging through awareness campaigns and school sessions, fostering trust and increasing service uptake. In Brazil, national campaigns reached over **800,000 people**, leveraging social media, print materials and partnerships with municipal service centres to share information on abuse, exploitation and how to seek help. **Leveraging technology and innovation for safer systems** expanded in reach and sophistication. In Nepal, collaboration with ISPs led to broader adoption of **content filtering** tools to reduce OCSE exposure. In the Dominican Republic, a targeted **digital campaign** improved public knowledge and confidence in **SEC reporting mechanisms**, contributing to a stronger protection culture. In Lao PDR, intersectoral forums and local mentor networks created new bridges between schools, health-care providers and **CP networks**, enhancing local referral systems and sustaining child-friendly services. In the Philippines, SRHR outreach integrated digital platforms and community health initiatives, ensuring youth accessed services such as **HPV vaccinations, HIV testing and contraceptive counselling**.

As the programme progressed into Year 2, coordinated service delivery became more **responsive, institutionalised and survivor-focused**. Investments in capacity-building, referral-strengthening and digital innovation have laid the groundwork for **sustainable protection systems** that prioritise **child safety, dignity, and access to rights-based services** across the Alliance. Indicator targets achieved in Year 2 can be found in the dedicated **Results Framework**, including variance explanations in column FB.

- ★ 164 government officials and law enforcement agents in Bangladesh were trained in child-sensitive SEC handling
- ★ 66 duty bearers in Nepal received training on OCSE and cross-sector coordination
- ★ 50+ government actors in Lao PDR participated in joint planning and technical coordination
- ★ 30 justice operators and 120 community actors (park rangers, local leaders, sub-mayors) in Bolivia were engaged by the municipal government and community organisations to address human trafficking and smuggling in a high-risk drug trafficking zone
- ★ 160+ Bangladeshi government and law enforcement officials were trained in child-sensitive investigation, traumatisation and victimhood, case handling and child-friendly courtroom practices, increasing survivor referrals and access to justice
- ★ 300+ children and adolescents accessed SRHR services through mobile health camps in Bangladesh, supported by sensitised health workers and follow-up linkages to institutional care

OUTCOME 3

Outcome 3: Children and civil society meaningfully participate in holding duty bearers, including government and local authorities, to their obligations towards improved (implementation of) laws, policies and systems

During Year 2, partners made strong progress ensuring that children, youth and civil society were actively involved in engaging duty bearers and influencing policies related to SEC, contributing to stronger systems, partnerships and child-friendly spaces protecting children from SEC and ensuring their voices are heard.

3.1 Increased capacity of CSOs, youth and communities on L&A

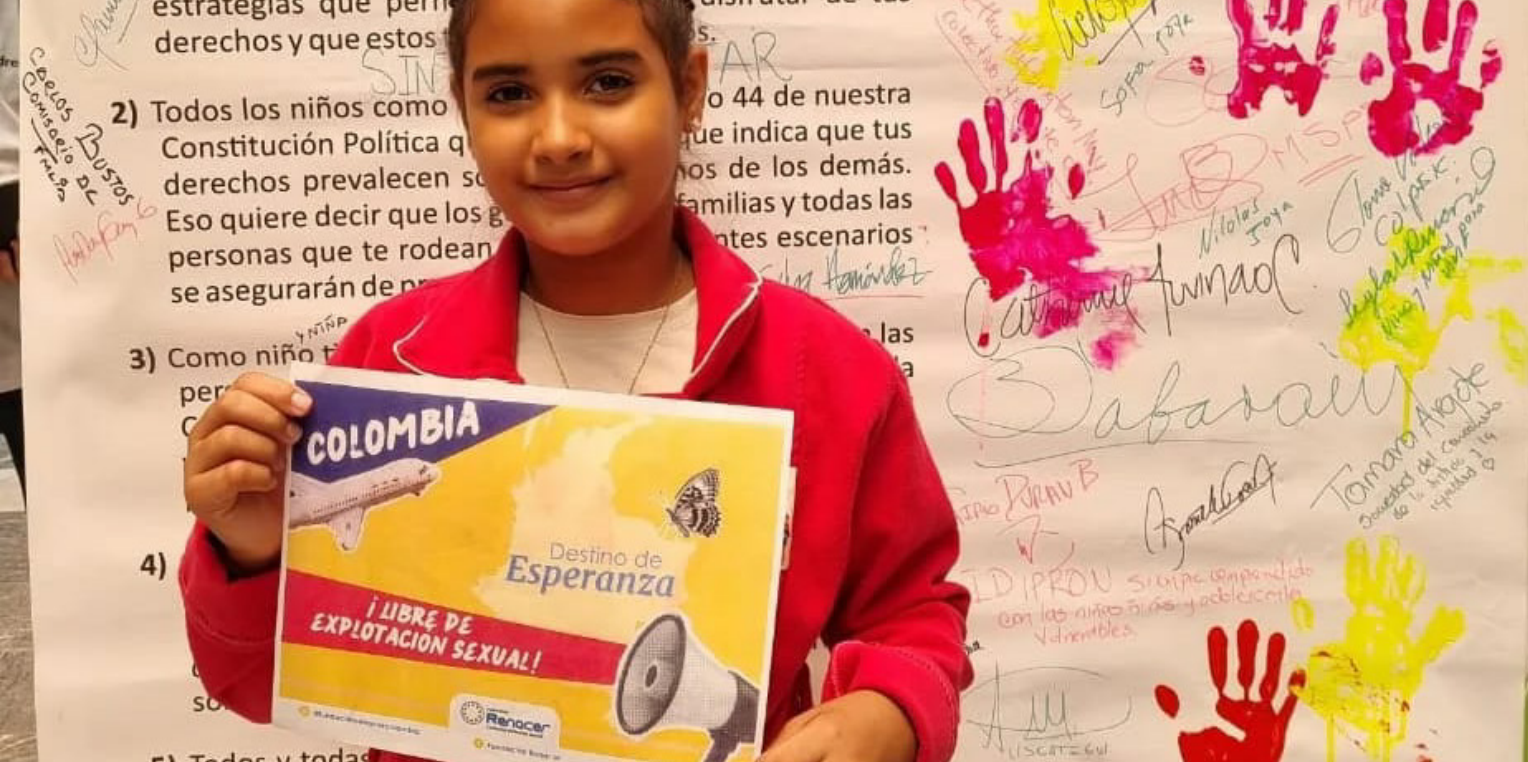
In Year 2, the programme made substantial progress in strengthening the capacity and active participation of children, youth, CSOs and communities in **L&A efforts addressing SEC and OCSE**. Partners supported multiple **child- and youth-led awareness and advocacy initiatives**, driving meaningful shifts in local and national CP agendas. In India, partners sustained **participatory action research with Youth Ambassadors** across five states, investigating the impact of OCSE on children. The resulting report [Unmasking Digital Playgrounds](#) was presented at the **ISPCAN conference in Sweden in 2024**, engaging CP experts, researchers and policymakers from over 50 countries, thereby amplifying youth voices on a global platform. Meanwhile, in Nepal, partners trained **youth peer educators** across 13 schools and facilitated 3 significant **dialogue sessions** with youth advocates and CSOs, advocating for enhanced OCSE-related research and reliable data to inform policy. Local partners in the Philippines commemorated **SID by empowering children and youth to lead peer education sessions nationwide**. These sessions focused on children's rights, digital safety, OCSE awareness, and mechanisms for reporting abuse both online and offline. Student leaders from across the country participated, promoting a child-centred, bottom-up approach to online safety for children.

Bolivian partners established the **Youth Voices Advisory Committee** with 21 youth representatives from Aymara, Quechua and Mosestén communities, creating a platform for forums and dialogue with local authorities to advance L&A on SEC and OCSE from an intercultural perspective. In Colombia, children shared their perspectives on SEC at the **Día de la Ninez Congressista**, resulting in a dialogue in Riohacha between the youth-led ECPAT International Youth Advisory Committee (EICYAC) group and the district committee on SEC, and collaborative exchanges between Cartagena's **District Youth Platform** and the EICYAC. These spaces elevated youth voices as a social movement, strengthened institutional and political participation, and inspired other organised youth groups to drive prevention within their communities. Notably, young leaders also took part in a **diploma course** run with Cartagena's Secretariat of Participation and Social Development, an initiative secured by EICYAC through the **'I am young. I am a leader'** call for proposals.

Across Asia and Latin America, partners prioritised expanding and strengthening youth committees and groups to enhance **youth-led influence in L&A efforts on SEC and OCSE**. For example, in Brazil, the Youth Advocacy Committee continued to empower children and young people through **training on rights, public policies, and advocacy strategies for SEC prevention**. Committee members actively participated in the **national Alliance meeting**, contributing insights on violence in their communities and helping shape the Year 3 project plan. They also took part in launching the **Grande Ilha context study**, engaging directly with political actors and CSOs to influence policy discourse.



ASEAN Children & Youth at ASEAN Intergovernmental Meeting, Indonesia. Photo: ECPAT International



Text of Pact between Congressional Children and the House of Representatives of Colombian Congress, Colombia. Photo: Fundación Renacer

"Today was incredible. Even though we were nervous, we managed to show our strength. We are building, and together we are stronger. Being in the project has given me many opportunities to learn about difficult issues. Being on the committee makes me feel part of the decisions. I'm looking forward to many good things this year."

— Adolescent Youth Committee member, Brazil

Across SUFASEC countries, collaboration between youth, CSOs and communities intensified to boost collective CP advocacy. In India, partners convened **state-level dialogues** connecting youth, CSOs and government representatives to reinforce legal frameworks and digital safety policies. National and international **multi-stakeholder forums were organised to advance coordinated advocacy and policy reform**. In Indonesia, partners actively participated in **SID 2025**, amplifying youth voices and driving cross-sector collaboration on SEC and CP advocacy.

BEST PRACTICE: Youth Champions and child and youth groups, supported by SUFASEC partners in Indonesia, independently spearheaded impactful projects. They conducted a situation analysis using the **problem tree** method, identifying root causes and contributing factors around SEC. They produced a **six-episode online series, DIGITALIZEN: Adventures for the Digital Wise Generation**, covering OCSEA, digital safety and child marriage prevention, which engaged 274 young people through interactive content and discussions. Additionally, the group launched **Training Safari**, an online workshop exploring CP within digital spaces and the tourism sector, attracting 40+ youth participants for peer-led dialogue and collaboration. Collaborating with other youth networks, it hosted an **Instagram Live Talkshow** for International Women's Day focused on digital rights, GBV and inclusive health promotion. The group also conducted awareness sessions on SEC and OCSE in five high schools and six junior high schools, reinforcing peer-to-peer education and prevention at the grass roots.

Youth and CSO-led engagement featured prominently in **national commemorative events** such as **International Children's Day, 16 Days of Activism against GBV** in Nepal, **World Day Against Trafficking** in the Philippines, National Legal Aid Day, International Day of the Girl Child, and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in Bangladesh. These occasions involved **art competitions, rallies, seminars and performances**, empowering survivors and children from shelter homes and socialisation centres. In Brazil, the Youth Committee mobilised **campaigns during Carnival and on 18 May** (National Day to Combat Abuse and Sexual Exploitation), monitored municipal CP plans and actively participated in the **Brazilian Congress on Sexual Violence**. Its national-level advocacy included a major seminar on comprehensive care for survivors of sexual violence, engagement with the **Intersectoral Commission to Combat Sexual Violence**, and public campaigns such as **'Faça Bonito' (Make it Beautiful)** to help combat sexual violence against children and adolescents, and a related event that was attended by children, adolescents and CSOs from all over the country—featuring a symbolic projection on Christ the Redeemer—and **'Pule, Brinque e Cuide' (Jump, Play and Take Care)**, which targeted CP during Carnival festivities. One of **YVFC Guatemala's** advocacy highlights was **youth participation in the radio programme 'La Voz de las Mujeres'**, where participants shared campaign content in **Q'eqchi', Poqomchi'** and **Spanish** over five days, reaching urban and rural audiences and streaming live. Additionally, the youth committee launched the **'Echo of Voices'** campaign, presenting it to the **Technical Board for Youth** to encourage member organisations to amplify the message across their social media and official

channels. These multifaceted initiatives across countries demonstrate the programme's comprehensive, context-specific approach to building the capacities of youth, CSOs and communities. Through strategic engagement, partnership-building and youth-centred advocacy, the programme advances collective efforts to **influence duty bearers, strengthen relevant laws and policies, and reinforce CP systems**—always placing the agency and voices of children and young people at the forefront of change.

- ★ Children and youth from **20 Indian states** presented a Charter of Demands to government officials, advocating for stronger protections
- ★ Trained Filipino child advocates formed their own youth organisation, **Young Hands**, and successfully lobbied the city council for formal recognition; their efforts also contributed to the passage of the **Filipino Anti-OCSEA Manila Ordinance**
- ★ **16 CSOs and 23 communities in the Philippines** were trained in SEC prevention, culminating in a CSO summit that brought together diverse local groups—including women's and youth organisations, farmers, fishers and transport workers—to drive joint action on SEC, OCSE and CP

3.2 Increased participation of duty bearers in SEC prevention and responses on national and international commitments to business and human rights.

In Year 2, SUFASEC partners continued solid collaborations and awareness-raising with duty bearers to improve responses to SEC, OCSE and trafficking, and create safer environments for children. Engagement with duty bearers took place across diverse levels, including **government officials, law enforcement agencies, courts, local leaders and social welfare officers**. In the Philippines, the project trained Dasmariñas City's Multidisciplinary Team on trauma-informed care, enhancing the ability of schools and CP services to identify, refer and respond to SEC, especially OCSE. It also supported child-friendly reporting and referral protocols on behalf of duty bearers.

BEST PRACTICE: In Brazil, engagement with local authorities led to two major milestones. Partners convened a **national seminar on comprehensive care for victims of sexual violence**, gathering over **150 stakeholders from the health, education and justice sectors**, along with CSOs and survivor networks. The seminar fostered intersectoral reflection on best practices and identified gaps in service provision, which is central to informing discussions and guiding the next steps towards the development of the **National Policy on the Prevention and Confrontation of SEC**, aiming to provide strategic direction and concrete actions to address the gaps highlighted during the event. The project also contributed to the **reactivation of the Intersectoral Commission to Combat Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents in São Luís-MA**, resulting in the revitalisation of the long-stalled **Municipal Plan to Combat Sexual Violence**, dormant for over a decade. With technical and political support, an **action plan for monitoring** the policy was established, alongside a coordinated push for a call for public funding via the Municipal Fund for Children and Adolescents. These efforts reactivated the Municipal Monitoring Committee and significantly revitalised São Luís's municipal policy for CP—marking a critical shift in local governance and institutional accountability.



Alliance partners in Thailand institutionalised CP accountability by supporting the establishment of **SEC prevention working groups** in three districts, each endorsed through government orders and MoUs. These groups serve as monitoring, advisory and coordination bodies, connecting schools, local government and CSOs. Partners facilitated meaningful dialogue between children and duty bearers through roundtable discussions, allowing children to directly voice their experiences and concerns regarding child rights and services. Thai partners advanced systemic accountability by collaborating with the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society to initiate a working group tasked with drafting **national CP guidelines for online platforms**. They also convened roundtables with **digital platform regulators** and provided capacity-building to CSOs and law enforcement agencies on **child-sensitive investigations and online abuse case management**. These efforts enhanced inter-agency coordination and positioned CP more firmly within Thailand's digital governance framework.

In summary, partners across various SUFASEC countries endeavoured to engage duty bearers at various levels, aiming to increase their participation in SEC prevention through training and by building strategic partnerships. Such efforts in turn contribute to moving the needle on addressing SEC and OCSE, by enhancing the capacity of various relevant duty bearers.

- ★ **539+ Indian officials**, including police, border security forces and local leaders, received training on child marriage, trafficking and unsafe migration
- ★ Law reform efforts led the **Thai government** to adopt a proposal amending laws on grooming, sexting and sexual extortion
- ★ In **Andhra Pradesh, India**, a social media abuse prevention bill was drafted to curb online exploitation
- ★ The **Nepalese government** at municipal level increased the child rights budget to **NPR 1 million** for FY 2024/25 and launched new child rights programmes
- ★ The **Senior Superintendent** of the Nepal Police Anti-Human Trafficking Bureau led ongoing rescue operations in Kathmandu Valley's adult entertainment sector
- ★ Nepal's **16th National Plan of Action** now includes directives to control crimes via social media and technology

3.3 Increased private sector participation in SEC prevention and responses on national and international commitments to business and human rights and other relevant codes.

Building on progress from Year 1, partners deepened engagement with the **private sector**, including the travel and tourism, ICT and finance sectors, to prevent SEC, including abuse facilitated through technology, in the context of those industries. This included **raising awareness**, training, the development and implementation of **ethical codes of conduct** and CP policies, and involving private sector stakeholders in L&A efforts to promote children's rights and safety.

Partners made significant progress on engaging **travel and tourism stakeholders** to prevent SEC, which is prevalent across this industry. In India, partners worked with **hoteliers and transport staff**, providing training and raising awareness around the increased risk of SEC and child trafficking that involves their services. Such workshops helped staff across travel and tourism to **identify, respond to and report risky situations** involving children. In Bolivia, partners collaborated closely with La Paz municipality around **certification of The Code**, and hosted a **tourism roundtable**, with representatives from across the travel and tourism sector at the national level. It worked to address rising SEC concerns in the industry, and implement a voluntary and mandatory code of conduct and engaged transport workers, training them to identify and report SEC and trafficking cases. In the Dominican Republic, partners strengthened participation in the **Inter-Institutional Commission against SEC in Travel and Tourism**, with companies reiterating their commitment to incorporating CP measures and **The Code**, and demanding increased staff training. These efforts across programme countries ensured a **safer, more ethical and responsible travel and tourism sector** that protects children from exploitation and abuse.

Safe Internet for Children Festival in celebration of Safer Internet Day 2025, Indonesia. Photo: ECPAT Indonesia



Multiple partners across SUFASEC countries strengthened engagement with the **ICT sector**, recognising its key role in **addressing and preventing SEC**. In India, one partner held workshops with ISPs and cybercrime units to expand awareness among technology companies around their role and responsibility to protect children using their services, and encouraging them to block, report and remove harmful content on their platforms. One partner in the Philippines collaborated with 20 ISPs, 2 smaller, community-based ISPs and local governments to co-create and sign the [Child Protection Code of Conduct](#), promoting safer online spaces for children and stronger reporting protocols around OCSE and harmful content. In Nepal, the programme worked with ISPs to raise awareness and provide training around OCSE, and ways to improve content filtering, helping to create a safer digital environment for children. As in Year 1, partners in Indonesia continued to engage private sector finance companies, aiming to strengthen their accountability and action to prevent all forms of SEC, including those facilitated by technology, such as via nationwide podcasts on Eradicating SEC with FSPs and Banking responsibilities related to SEC.

As in Year 1, partners in Indonesia continued to engage **private sector finance companies**, aiming to strengthen their accountability and action to prevent all forms of SEC, including those facilitated by technology, such as via nationwide podcasts on [Eradicating SEC with FSPs](#) and [Banking responsibilities related to SEC](#).

BEST PRACTICE: Indonesian partners helped successfully organise the first [ASEAN Conference on Preventing and Responding to the Misuse of Financial Service Providers in SEC](#) (see [quick research study](#)), alongside the Alliance, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, the Denpasar City Government, and various other local and international NGOs, bringing together key financial institutions. The conference initiated a deep dive into the misuse of financial service providers in SEC, and brought together over 200 participants, including government agencies from various Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, law enforcement bodies and financial intelligence units, financial institutions, such as banks, e-wallet services and cryptocurrency associations, local and international NGOs, United Nations agencies, regional NGOs, and academics and researchers from ASEAN, Australia, Nepal and the USA. The conference was a landmark event in promoting multi-stakeholder collaboration and raising awareness about the role of financial institutions in preventing SEC-related financial crimes, producing the [Denpasar Recommendations](#), a critical step towards a unified regional response to CP. See [Event Video and Testimonies](#) for the key achievements of the conference.

Partners played a key role in supporting and pushing for key **legal and policy reforms** to prevent and address SEC. In the Philippines, partners lobbied for the adoption of the **Anti-OCSEA and CSAEM Law ordinance** (RA 11930) at the local level, reactivating and strengthening local CP councils, and conducting regular inter-agency council meetings. In India, partners organised state-level dialogues with youth, civil society and government actors to discuss the need for stronger digital safety laws and policies. These efforts resulted in recommendations that were shared with state commissions for child rights to better protect children online, specifically from OCSE.

BEST PRACTICE: Partners in Nepal engaged in consistent, meaningful dialogue with government authorities, which catalysed the **inclusion of OCSE concerns and recommendations within the country's upcoming 16th Five-year National Action Plan**. Implementing partners consulted children, youth and CSOs, documented their voices on OCSE concerns, and escalated key insights to the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, to ensure such issues would be added to the agenda. This influenced the National Action Plan to focus on **crime prevention through social media and technology platforms** for the first time, empowering local governments to include OCSE in their CP policies and programmes.

Several **advocacy campaigns** were successfully implemented. Partners in Indonesia played a pivotal role in organising and participating in [SID Indonesia](#), when government representatives, private sector entities, including ISPs, CSOs, and children and young people came together to learn about and discuss digital environments and inspire action to make them a safer space for children. Efforts to prevent and address OCSE were strengthened through the launch of a [draft bill regulating CP in digital spaces](#), supported by a [digital campaign](#).

- ★ 567 Filipino tourism and private sector front-line workers were trained on SEC prevention and CP in partnership with the Department of Tourism.
- ★ Private sector collaboration in Thailand resulted in CSAM takedown notices, safety guidelines and training initiatives.
- ★ The Colombian hotel guild, COTELCO Cartagena, reinforced its commitment to CP and signed a strategic alliance for affiliates to sign up to [The Code](#).
- ★ The Bolivian National Service for Protected Areas (**SERNAP**) developed a clear policy to prevent **SEC in and around protected areas**.

These advances demonstrate meaningful results achieved through a **coherent and integrated strategy**—combining **capacity-strengthening, advocacy, youth leadership, intersectoral coordination, and engagement with the private sector**. The DtZ programme bolstered the ability of both **civil society and adolescents** to take action, while holding **duty bearers accountable** for implementing effective public policies. The growing mobilisation around CP and the strengthening of collaborative networks reflect a shared commitment: building **safer, more just environments** for children and adolescents is a **collective responsibility**. Indicator targets achieved in Year 2 can be found in the dedicated [Results Framework](#), including explanations of variances in target vs actual in column FB.

UNINTENDED EFFECTS

The implementation of SUFASEC interventions revealed several unintended effects that provided useful insights into **safeguarding (SG), community sensitivities and programme responsiveness**.

In Thailand, school-based sessions on SEC, SRHR and digital safety built trust among students, prompting **disclosures of abuse**—including incidents implicating school staff. While this underscored the importance of **safe, youth-led spaces**, it also created hesitancy among some schools, particularly those without formal agreements, due to concerns over **reputational risk and additional complaints**. At one international school, students asked teachers to leave the room before reporting verbal abuse, emphasising the value of **confidential youth-led environments**. Nonetheless, the sessions succeeded in increasing children’s awareness of **reporting mechanisms**, such as the national hotline. Feedback from children also led to the rapid revision of a **‘Good Touch–Bad Touch’ activity**, demonstrating SG responsiveness. Another major development was the collaboration with cybercrime units and law enforcement agencies resulting in the creation of a **joint online case referral form**, streamlining access to support services.

In **Brazil**, increased awareness and confidence among youth after training triggered a **spike in the number of reports of sexual exploitation and violence**. All cases were addressed through SG protocols, while the surge exposed a gap between rising demand and **response capacity**, within both civil society and public institutions. Community resistance also emerged—particularly around **SRHR and child marriage**—with some adolescents being discredited or silenced by their families. This prompted a strategic shift towards intensified family-focused awareness and reinforced efforts to promote **community accountability**. At the national level, civil society actors highlighted the need for greater **government engagement and investment** to match increased service demand, further compounded by slow and inconsistent policy engagement from government authorities.

In India, grass-roots awareness efforts led to creative unintended effects, such as the use of **community wall art** to spread messages about SEC, blending cultural traditions with awareness efforts. Advocacy also catalysed policy shifts—most notably the inclusion of child marriage in cross-border anti-trafficking agendas and the development of the **Child Marriage Reporting and Tracking (CMRT) Portal** by the Child Welfare Department to track and respond to fake marriages used as a cover for trafficking and SEC, demonstrating the long-term systemic impact of persistent local and national lobbying efforts.

In Indonesia, unintended reactions emerged from strong **inclusivity efforts**. While the programme successfully fostered self-expression among children and youth of diverse sexual orientations, this also created discomfort for certain community participants due to persisting societal taboos. Additionally, a child champion’s social media video received negative online commentary—e.g., “Mr. Know-it-all”—highlighting the need to equip youth with skills to handle **digital backlash** and ensure their **emotional safety in public digital spaces**.

In Bolivia, unforeseen challenges affected the coordination and implementation of SEC prevention efforts. Additionally, a complaint from a community leader linked to trafficking and smuggling created backlash and security concerns, threatening the continuity of activities. To mitigate these challenges, partners engaged in joint planning with the Bolivian Police, through its Human Trafficking Division, and the Children’s Ombudsman, and reformulated their community entry approach. Rather than addressing SEC directly, they introduced a **broader focus on violence prevention through CSE** and highlighted rising **STI rates among children** as a pressing public health issue. This allowed engagement on related issues such as rising STI rates and child health impacts, which resonated more directly with local concerns.

In Lao PDR, community training unexpectedly led to **referrals to additional high-risk communities**, expanding the programme’s reach to newly identified communities. A teacher initiated **weekly peer-to-peer learning sessions** to ensure students received essential information, while village leaders integrated CP messages into regular meetings. These actions created **organic diffusion of key messages**. Other results included 27 village mentors actively disseminating information about deceptive marriage schemes with Chinese men, and 27 girls successfully reporting and resisting online harassment. A standout incident involved a Lao girl trafficked to China for forced marriage who, empowered by training, sought help via her peer network. This led to her successful rescue and return, along with two other Lao girls facing the same situation, showing how **life skills and peer support mechanisms** help navigate and mitigate real-life exploitation risk.

Additionally, **community fears of reputational damage to tourism** provided an effective entry point: linking SEC in travel and tourism and digital spaces to wider social and economic implications. This enabled renewed community dialogue, fostering greater buy-in. A

Filipino village withdrew from the programme due to **conflicting priorities**, and another village was identified to ensure continuity. Coordination with government-linked families (such as 4Ps beneficiaries) also posed challenges, with **rigid communication protocols** slowing engagement. Nonetheless, SRHR and SEC sessions led by local government units deepened programme reach, and positive uptake—such as increased demand for HPV vaccines and HIV testing—highlighted how alignment with government initiatives can amplify outcomes.

Across regions, these varied effects underscored the importance of adaptable and responsive programming. Unexpected disclosures, rapid shifts in service demand, and evolving community dynamics required proactive SG measures, stronger institutional collaboration, and flexibility in delivery. At the same time, these situations offered **strategic learning opportunities** to enhance the ToC—particularly by strengthening referral systems, reinforcing community engagement, ensuring child-led and trauma-informed approaches, and addressing sensitive topics through culturally embedded dialogue. These insights will inform refinements in Year 3, to ensure that children and communities are not only protected but also empowered to contribute to lasting change.

4. Cross-Country Collaboration

Alliance members deepened **in-country** and **cross-country collaboration**, enhancing shared learning and regional synergies. A key example was the **regional learning exchange** in which Nepalese partners visited Bangladesh, joining Children’s Group meetings, karate training, parent dialogues and socialisation centre visits. The exchange offered insights into implementation strategies and fostered **mutual learning**, enabling the **adaptation of promising practices** across contexts. Alongside these exchanges, three key **regional initiatives** were advanced:

4.1 YOUTH VOICES FOR CHANGE (YVFC)

In Year 2 of the programme, the **YVFC initiative** strengthened the leadership, communication and advocacy skills of adolescents and youth from **Asia** and **Latin America** to prevent sexual violence, including SEC. Through **creative labs**, **advocacy campaigns** and **strategic partnerships** (see [Complete Guide for Facilitators](#)), YVFC promoted intersectional, community-led action and influence. A key interregional highlight was the ‘We Transform 8M’ campaign, launched on International Women’s Day, uniting youth voices across regions to raise awareness on GBV and SEC. Its **main video** reached 92,299 views and 288,808 Meta users, with additional videos expanding reach, engaging over 341,000 people via social media in Latin America alone. Youth in **Guatemala**, **Bolivia** and **Colombia** developed campaign videos.

In Asia, **92 Indonesian, Indian and Filipino youth leaders** participated in virtual and in-person **creative labs**, gaining knowledge and skills in **children’s rights**, **GBV**, **media production** and **strategic planning**. Participants contributed to **global campaigns** and created **local advocacy plans** to be implemented in Year 3. An Indian partner conducted in-person training on storytelling and design, resulting in an advocacy plan on **digital safety, grooming and children’s rights**. Partners held online rights training, produced awareness content and launched a Facebook page on human trafficking. In the Philippines, 12 online sessions led to the creation of a **youth manifesto on OCSEA (#ChildrenAreNotTheDestination)**, guiding continued advocacy, which inspired the city of Dasmariñas to include youth in its **Safer Internet Caravan**.



YVFC Boleto de prevención Campaign, Bolivia. Photo: Conexión

In Indonesia, youth collaborated with Amnesty International to develop [video and campaign materials](#) and represented **YVFC Indonesia** at the **2025 SID**, with two youth as panellists. One youth also joined a discussion with **TikTok**, highlighting the urgent need for stronger online CP, stressing that while digital platforms offer learning and connectivity, stricter regulations, greater awareness of digital addiction, and **stronger reporting systems** are critical to keep young users safe.

In Latin America, national youth committees in Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala led **local advocacy**, built **alliances**, and engaged public and private actors. In Bolivia, 21 youth from Indigenous backgrounds launched the '[Boleto de Prevencion](#)' (Prevention Ticket) campaign ([#PorUnaVidaSinTrata](#)) (see [video](#)), backed by over 12 institutions. Recognised by the Ministry of Justice as '**agents of change**', the campaign was integrated into the national agenda and will be scaled up in Year 3. In Colombia, 18 youth (11% Venezuelan) led the '[Conexiones Seguras](#)' (Safe Connections) campaign ([#La_ESCNNAnotienelugarenlinea](#)), presented in public forums and promoted through a virtual event with **10 youth platforms**. In Guatemala, 34 youth across 6 municipalities launched the '[Eco de Voces](#)' (Echo of Voices) campaign ([#JuventudEnAcciónContraLaESNNA](#)), producing multilingual content and engaging through media and public events. They are moving towards formal recognition by national youth bodies. Preparations were launched for two global digital campaigns (August to September 2025), a new regional video campaign, and an in-person regional youth meeting in Latin America (October to November 2025).

4.2 YOUTH ADVOCACY SOUTH ASIA – REGIONAL INFLUENCE THROUGH YOUTH-LED L&A

Building on the momentum sparked by the active participation of children and youth, including from India and Nepal, in the **high-level South Asia Regional Children and Youth Consultation**, convened by SAIEVAC, young change-makers from eight South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries jointly developed the [Thimphu Declaration](#), a powerful regional call to SAARC governments for **stronger, coordinated action** to prevent violence against children, including SEC. Following this milestone, **national-level consultations** were launched to localise the declaration's commitments. In Nepal, 46 children and youth from all 7 provinces led a national consultation in collaboration with the National Action Coordination Group (NACG EVAC). They engaged with government institutions, statutory bodies and civil society, and presented the declaration to key stakeholders, including the National Council for Child Rights, advocating for a stronger National Plan of Action on SEC. In India, the formation of a **National Youth Advocates Forum** marked a major step towards **institutionalising youth leadership**. Representing 19 states, youth convened a national consultation in November 2024 to present concrete recommendations on SEC and OCSE to adult duty bearers. Coordinated under SAIEVAC and supported by NACG EVAC India, the process was preceded by **20 state-level consultations**, ensuring inclusive and representative participation. Side events fostered focused dialogue between youth and adult stakeholders on shared commitments and next steps. Together, these efforts demonstrated a bold shift from consultation to influence, placing children and youth at the heart of regional and national policy dialogues and reinforcing their role as powerful advocates for systems that protect and empower them.

4.3 THE BOYS INITIATIVE

The Boys Initiative, led by five national partners in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, is a **gender-transformative programme** challenging how patriarchy and hegemonic masculinity negatively impact **all genders**. Linked to the [Global Boys Initiative](#), the initiative sought to move beyond traditional narratives that frame boys only as perpetrators or allies needing sensitisation, and instead recognise that **boys themselves are also harmed** by patriarchal systems. The programme explored particularly how **toxic gender norms**—such as expectations of dominance, emotional repression and aggression—shape boys' lives and contribute to GBV, mental health struggles, substance abuse and internalised misogyny. It engaged youth through mixed-gender groups, a choice shaped by early stakeholder consultations. In Year 2, 8 training sessions were conducted in Nepal and India, reaching **82 youth group members** and **15 NGO representatives**. Activities included **capacity-building, cross-country workshops and youth-led planning** for community engagement and behavioural impact assessments. The programme surfaced entrenched stereotypes, such as blaming women's clothing for assault, glorifying male toughness, and stigmatising emotional expression—highlighting how these narratives not only fuel GBV but also silence boys facing abuse. It further addressed how not all men benefit equally from patriarchal systems—boys from marginalised communities, including those affected by **poverty, caste discrimination or non-normative sexual orientation**, face heightened vulnerability. As part of ongoing engagement, one youth group created and screened a short film on **male abuse and mental health** during the regional meeting in Kathmandu, sparking dialogue on often-overlooked dimensions of exploitation. The programme created safe spaces for reflection and encouraged boys to **advocate for change**, empowering them as **rights-holders** and contributors to a more inclusive, equal society. Lessons learned include the importance of fostering **inclusive, empathetic spaces** for dialogue, and adopting an **intersectional, long-term approach** that builds awareness of power, privilege and diversity. By treating boys as complex individuals with layered identities, the initiative contributes meaningfully to the broader goal of gender justice.

5. Lobbying and Advocacy

5.1 INTERNATIONAL L&A

The capacities of CSOs were strengthened in Year 2 by building evidence and developing tools to engage with law enforcement agencies, the private sector, and international and regional intergovernmental bodies and authorities. This included working with the partners to develop evidence, including [country-specific case studies](#), to engage with **law enforcement agencies** across the countries in SEC

prevention efforts and improve cross-country collaboration. This marked the completion of reports on the [role of police in prevention](#) in Asia that informed a [global campaign](#). Spaces were opened to engage with strategically identified **private sectors** that play a key role in preventing and responding to SEC in both online and offline environments such as **travel, tourism, transport, entertainment, the informal sector** as part of the supply chain, as well as **digital platforms, gaming and ICT industries**. These included engagement of the increasing number of businesses through [The Code](#) that, as a multi-stakeholder initiative, offers tools and support to the partners working on the ground. Evidence was generated through a global report on the [Role of the Informal Sector and the Sharing Economy](#) within travel and tourism in preventing and responding to SEC to engage business through supply chains and communities. Alliance members also participated in the first [Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children](#) in Bogotá, Colombia, and the [DtZ Alliance pledge](#) was formally presented to the Dutch ambassador. Finally, spaces were opened for DtZ Alliance partners to engage with **regional and international intergovernmental bodies** through partnerships offering opportunities for improved cooperation to implement policies and programmes to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse. These included engagement with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children to **regulate voluntourism** and protect children in the entertainment sector, with the Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as other spaces such as the [UN Business and Human Rights Forum](#) 2024, and others, bringing in unified voices and perspectives from the DtZ Alliance partners working on the ground, children and youth, thus stepping up the prevention of and response to SEC at regional and global levels.

5.2 REGIONAL L&A ASIA

SUFASEC programme partners in Asia strengthened strategies across multiple levels in Year 2, maintaining the relevance and impact of CP initiatives amid evolving challenges in the region. The programme enhanced **engagement with United Nations** bodies at global level, with governments through DtZ Alliance partners working at country levels, and at regional level through international NGOs, CSOs, tech companies and other private sector stakeholders. Notably, participation in the [2024 ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection](#), [APAC IGF](#), [WeProtect Summit](#), and [RightsCon](#) facilitated discussions on the impact of AI, **online threats, safety by design, age assurance, engagement with online platform providers and digital rights**, leading to the unveiling of new guidelines to combat OCSEA. The programme focused on amplifying the voices of young people in policy advocacy through several strategic approaches, including facilitating youth participation in policy dialogues such as the annual [ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection](#), collaborating with youth-led initiatives, and advocating for **youth-inclusive policies and policymaking processes**. This underscores the belief that policies are more effective and representative when they reflect the insights of those directly affected by them. Finally, the engagement of Alliance partners with the **private sector** (Meta, TikTok, gaming stakeholders etc.) was a key achievement. Partners facilitated dialogues and advocated for enhanced policies to prevent online harms and improve CP. These efforts led to stronger **commitments from the private sector**, emphasising the **urgency and importance of CP in the digital space** across Asia.

5.3 REGIONAL L&A LATIN AMERICA

The **vulnerability of Venezuelan migrant children** to SEC increased in Year 2, as recognised in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia. As a result, national CP authorities and the broader international community paid greater attention to addressing **systemic gaps in CP mechanisms and cross-border coordination**. This evolving context positively influenced the implementation of the SUFASEC project in Latin America, reinforcing the strategic importance of ongoing research and advocacy efforts. Alliance representatives actively participated in regional forums, notably the [XII Pan-American Congress of the Child](#), securing commitments to form a high-level governmental working group under the Organization of American States (OAS), which will be formalised at the IIN-OAS Directors Council meeting in Honduras, scheduled for late 2025. The sustainability of actions and results has been secured by embedding advocacy and research outcomes within the ongoing work of national governments and the OAS hemispherical agenda. The establishment of the **OAS high-level working group** ensures long-term regional collaboration and policy coordination on CP and SEC prevention. Further, the integration of **evidence-based recommendations** from the Alliance into **national CP strategies** provided a concrete foundation for sustainable and impactful policy changes to protect children.

Children & Youth Advocate at ASEAN Children & Youth Consultation, Indonesia. Photo: ECPAT International



5.4 EU L&A

Year 2 marked the conclusion of the first phase of the [VOICE research project](#) and the launch of its second phase, VOICE IDENTITY. In early 2025, the [VOICE report](#) was finalised, reflecting the views of **483 children** and **6,618 caregivers** from 15 countries across Asia, Europe and Latin America on how their online safety can be improved. The report was launched at a hybrid event in Brussels, with speakers from the tech sector, civil society and EU institutions, as well as five child participants who co-designed the event and actively contributed through presentations and creative sessions. The report is available in English, with [executive summaries](#) translated into VOICE country languages. Findings were shared with DtZ partners and presented at key conferences, including the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (a multidisciplinary international organisation aiming to prevent and treat child abuse, neglect and exploitation worldwide) and the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (a global network and knowledge hub advancing research on sexual violence, intimate partner violence and other forms of violence against women and children). A tailored **advocacy toolkit** supported national influencing efforts with tech companies, governments and CSOs. To improve accessibility, an [accessible report](#) was co-created with **Eurochild's Children's Council** and launched on **SID 2025**, accompanied by [children's videos](#), drawings and quotes. In parallel, **VOICE IDENTITY**—a new research phase focused on **intersectionality in tech-facilitated exploitation**—was launched. This phase took a more targeted approach, examining experiences of particularly vulnerable groups: children with **disabilities** in Bangladesh, children with **diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESEC)** in the Netherlands, and children from **Indigenous communities** in Bolivia. The research design was finalised, ethical approval secured, and data collection initiated. Simultaneously, advocacy towards the European Parliament and the Council of the EU was intensified, contributing to the revision of the **EU Directive on Child Sexual Abuse (2011/93/EU)**. Working with an NGO coalition, proposed amendments focused on stronger **criminalisation of OCSEA, victim support, prevention and SG**. Several proposals were reflected in the LIBE Committee's draft report. In September 2024, the Alliance co-organised a high-level workshop with members of the Working Party on Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters (COPEN), a the body within the EU Council focused on (non-) legislative activities in the field of EU criminal law, laying the groundwork for sustained EU-level advocacy in Year 3.

6. Shifting the Power

In Year 2, the DtZ Alliance deepened its commitment to **localisation** and **shared power**, aligning closely with MoFA's vision for a more just, decolonised development sector. Through dedicated discussions at the Global Steering Committee (GSC) and regional meetings, partners examined power dynamics, levels of participation, and how to bridge the gap between local realities and global decision-making. Progress was evident in more **inclusive decision-making**, clearer shared ownership within national alliances, and more equal collaboration with Alliance members. Cross-country learning exchanges—such as India and Nepal's joint Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on child repatriation—and regional platforms strengthened practical cooperation and coherence. Governance innovations such as **shared country budgets, country steering committees** and thematic working groups improved planning and oversight, while structures such as the child advisory groups ensured children's voices shaped local advocacy and content. Challenges remained though, including legal differences, limited budgets for joint actions, localised decision-making, coordination gaps in countries without coordinators, and high monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) and reporting demands. Looking ahead, the Alliance will focus on strengthening country-level leadership, better integrating coordinators into daily partner work, streamlining internal communication, and ensuring implementing partners and youth have a direct voice in donor dialogue, including with the MoFA. These shifts aim to make localisation a lived reality, sustaining a collaborative, responsive Alliance that centres the perspectives of **children, youth and local actors** in all decision-making. See detailed reflections, lessons learned and governance developments in [Annex II](#).

7. Global Communications

In Year 2, SUFASEC's external communications working group and strategy focused on enhancing the programme's **visibility and resonance with the Dutch public**, particularly within the constituencies of the DtZ Alliance member organisations in the Netherlands. Central to this effort was the **'From Silence to Strength' campaign**, featuring powerful personal stories from across SUFASEC countries, aiming to make the programme's impact tangible and relatable. Between **October and December 2024**, three advertorials were published consecutively in the Saturday magazines of Dutch national newspapers Trouw and de Volkskrant. The personal stories captured diverse dimensions of the programme's work: Sophia, a youth leader in the Philippines, was the face of the [first advertorial](#). As a peer educator, she raises awareness about SEC among her peers and community, courageously discussing taboo topics such as sex, exploitation and bodily autonomy. The [second advertorial](#) featured a survivor story from Nepal. At just 15, Nandita fell victim to online deception and sexual exploitation. She rebuilt her life and now dedicates herself to protecting other children from similar harm. The [third advertorial](#) focused on community engagement in Latin America. The local movement Raíces del Cambio (Roots of Change), an initiative of concerned mothers, pushes for prevention of and protection from SEC on the La Guajira peninsula in Colombia. The approximate reach of each advertorial was **1,124,000 readers**, with each person seeing it around three times on average. The process was fully compliant with the lead organisation's **Ethical Content Policy (ECP)**, a set of processes for collecting, producing, using and managing content ethically that has been introduced throughout the Alliance through interactive working sessions. It represents a collective commitment to ensure **agency and autonomy** of the children/youth featured in content, portraying them in a **respectful**,

dignified and participatory way while upholding **SG measures**. Also in line with the ECP is the storytelling concept that was introduced in all countries, with **guidance on (participative) storytelling**. One example of innovative, participative storytelling is [Sumitra's story about the Thimphu Declaration](#), with the voice-over narrated by Sumitra herself.

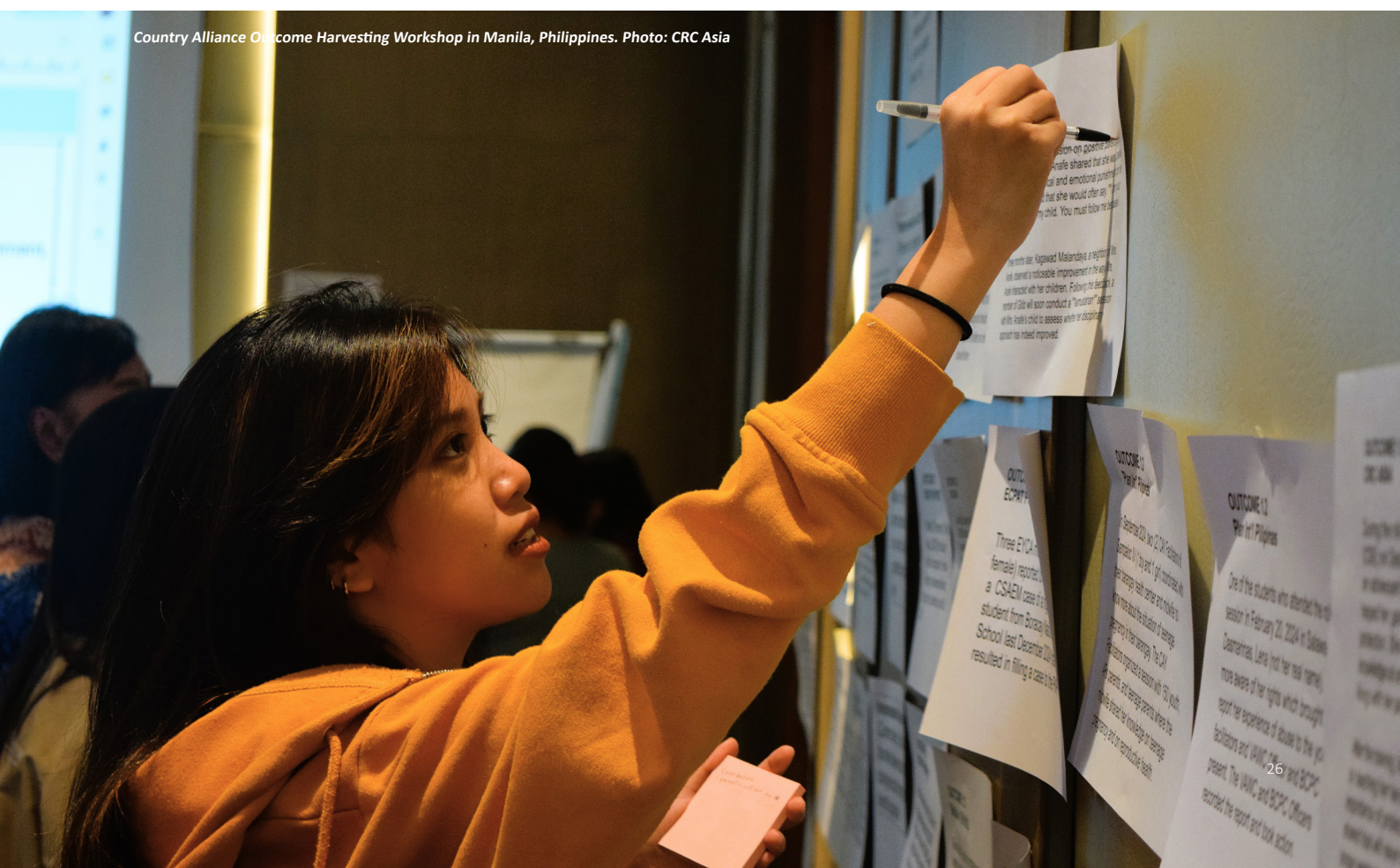
8. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

In Year 2, the MEAL Working Group continued to advance the MEAL approach developed in Year 1, guided by the SUFASEC [MEAL manual](#) and the detailed [MEAL plan](#). To track country-specific progress, each Alliance member and implementing partner updated its results using a standardised **results framework template** with dedicated tabs for each country, monitoring indicators at both the partner and country levels, outlining targets and actuals over the three-year implementation period, and providing explanations for **variance exceeding 20%** between actual and targeted results. A **consolidated results framework** with aggregated **Alliance-level data** is available [here](#). Progress against the four **SRHR basket indicators**—both **quantitative and qualitative**—was summarised by each Alliance partner in this dedicated [reporting table](#), with results published to **IATI on 1 May**. The Alliance's [Year 3 Annual Plan](#) was also published via IATI.

Capacity-building remained a strategic priority in Year 2. A dedicated **capacity-building plan** was developed to guide country teams and Alliance members in structuring and implementing learning efforts. The plan was informed by a mapping of **local partners' capacity needs**, which were then matched with the **diverse expertise** available across implementing organisations—ensuring targeted, relevant and peer-driven learning opportunities. Throughout the year, the Alliance delivered a series of focused training sessions, including **SG refresher and ECP training, and two sessions on L&A**. Additionally, the **Social and Gender Norms Change Trajectory** was officially launched, supporting teams in embedding transformative norms-based approaches into programming.

Outcome harvesting remained a core methodology for capturing learnings across SUFASEC implementing countries. Following the initial **training sessions in Year 1**, countries took part in a **mid-year sign check-up workshop**, during which the MEAL Working Group reviewed submitted signs and supported partners in refining them and identifying opportunities to collect additional evidence. (Cross-) **Country Coordinators** and relevant team members then received further training on how to facilitate **outcome harvesting workshops** and organised **in-person (cross-) country outcome harvesting analysis workshops** with diverse stakeholders to review signs, draw key learnings and assess programme progress. The methodology was positively received across countries, with each successfully capturing **substantial and meaningful outcome signs**. In total, **411 signs** were collected: 232 for Outcome 1, 86 for Outcome 2, and 93 for Outcome 3. The **full list of collected signs** can be accessed [here](#).

Country Alliance Outcome Harvesting Workshop in Manila, Philippines. Photo: CRC Asia



8.1 REFLECTIONS ON SUFASEC'S TOC AND 10 ASSUMPTIONS

In early 2025, two [regional meetings](#) were organised in Bangkok and the Dominican Republic for partner representatives, (Cross-) Country Coordinators and Global Steering Committee members. The MEAL Working Group facilitated dedicated sessions to critically reflect on the **SUFASEC ToC** and its underlying assumptions. These sessions used the outcome harvesting data to analyse key trends and assess progress across outcomes. These sessions confirmed that the SUFASEC ToC remained a **valid, effective framework** across implementation contexts in Year 2. Partners across regions confirmed its **continued relevance and strategic direction**, especially in its focus on **placing children at the centre, challenging harmful norms** such as child marriage, **strengthening protective environments**, and **driving systemic accountability** among duty bearers. The emphasis on **multi-stakeholder collaboration**—involving families, communities, civil society, government actors, the media and the private sector—remained key to building strong and responsive CP systems. **Significant progress** was observed across all countries—particularly under **Outcome 1**, with increasing signs of change also under **Outcomes 2 and 3**. Practical experiences also revealed several **areas for refinement** to sharpen its responsiveness to shifting risks and contextual dynamics (see the comprehensive overview of recommendations for strengthening the SUFASEC ToC in [Annex III](#)). These reflections suggest that while the core elements of the ToC remain sound, **targeted refinements** could enhance its clarity, adaptability and operational value—ensuring it continues to guide partners effectively in a rapidly evolving landscape. In addition, practical experiences across Asia and Latin America confirmed that the **10 core assumptions** underpinning the SUFASEC ToC also remained **valid and relevant**. Programme implementation and grounded reflection—including during the regional meetings—produced valuable insights to further **enhance their clarity, contextual relevance and operational applicability**. These reflections offer direction for refining the assumptions to better align with diverse implementation realities and emerging risks (see the **detailed analysis of all assumptions**, including suggested **adaptations**, in [Annex IV](#)).

8.2 LEARNING

The Alliance deepened collective reflection around its **central learning question**: *Which child-centred strategies make the greatest contribution to the engagement of children in SEC-related social norm change in their communities?*, further advanced through dedicated sessions during regional meetings, where partners mapped and assessed diverse approaches applied across countries (see the overview of strategies in [Annex V](#)).

Country learning agendas were actively rolled out, with each country implementing a tailored mix of learning activities—including **reflection meetings, peer learning visits, desk reviews and action research**—based on their respective agendas. A cross-country consolidation workshop was facilitated by the lead organisation's Learning and Knowledge Management Lead. During this session, the **structure and feasibility** of country learning agendas were reviewed, and strategies were refined to ensure meaningful and actionable learning. Rich insights emerged across countries in response to their **specific learning questions**, which are synthesised in [Annex VI](#). These findings informed programmatic adaptations, such as the introduction of a masculinities component and the active involvement of male figures and local leaders in Bolivia, which helped address gaps in male engagement and shifted workshop dynamics to become more inclusive and context-responsive, as countries used their learning to tailor activities and strengthen the relevance and impact of their SEC and norm change efforts.

9. Cross-Cutting

9.1 CHILD PARTICIPATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The Alliance remained committed to placing **children's rights, voices and lived experiences** at the centre of programming. Across all SUFASEC countries, child participation and youth engagement were prioritised to promote agency and ensure diverse perspectives drive action against SEC and OCSE. The Alliance actively challenged paternalistic systems that **historically excluded children**—particularly girls and marginalised groups—from decisions affecting their lives. Creating **safe and inclusive spaces** for children to express themselves remained a core priority. These were fostered through child-friendly, age-appropriate initiatives that built trust, openness and mutual respect. In **Thailand**, the **Children and Youth Council (CYC)** ensured representation of children from diverse cultural, gender and socio-economic backgrounds. In the Philippines, inclusive spaces enabled children from varied communities to co-create messages on SRHR and SEC prevention. These efforts laid the foundations for meaningful child participation. **Peer support groups** provided vital safe spaces for connection, learning, and mutual support when navigating difficult situations, particularly for marginalised children with limited support networks. In Thailand, peer-to-peer school programmes focused on **SEC prevention, SRHR and online safety**. In Lao PDR, partners established [Girls Clubs](#) across schools and villages, empowering youth through peer learning on CP and SRHR. Around 120 trained youth mentors facilitated peer-to-peer learning on child rights, self-protection and reproductive health. These safe spaces also provided informal psychosocial support and reduced isolation for girls at risk. In **Colombia**, the **Semillero** group fostered leadership among girls to share their experiences and promote youth leadership. In Bangladesh, **child rights defenders forums and change agent groups** led campaigns, house visits and events that amplified children's collective voice. The continuation of such peer support groups ensured a participatory approach for children to foster empowerment, solidarity and collective action.



Lanna CRC Festival End of Parade, Thailand. Photo: The Life Skills Development Foundation

In **Bolivia**, entrenched social norms of **machismo**—which normalise violent masculinity—contributed to the increasing **sexual exploitation and trafficking of children**. Key influencers in this context are **motorcycle taxi drivers**, who play a central role in community life and the perpetuation of these harmful norms. To address this, partners conducted **sensitisation and empowerment workshops** targeting this group. While initial resistance was strong, the sessions gradually became **spaces for reflection and learning**, with participants beginning to question long-held beliefs. One notable participant was **Don Omar**, a respected leader among the motorcycle taxi community. As his mindset shifted, he began sharing insights from the workshops with his family. Inspired by her father's transformation, **his daughter Camila joined the local Guardianes de la Niñez group**, which empowers children to advocate for their rights. Camila soon began leading awareness-raising activities in her school, engaging with classmates and authorities around the importance of CP. Her leadership sparked wider interest among her siblings and peers, creating a **multiplier effect** that began reshaping social norms in the community. Today, Camila stands as a **symbol of youth empowerment** in Rurrenabaque, inspiring other adolescents to raise their voices and challenge the harmful norms that place children at risk.

Raising awareness and building capacity among children and youth on SEC, OCSE, SRHR and CP remained a key strategy. Indonesian partners conducted training and mentorships to build **advocacy skills**. In Thailand, sessions helped youth advocate confidently for **digital safety**. In Guatemala, workshops prepared youth committees to lead prevention work, while trained Lao child volunteers led peer education sessions. These efforts provided children and youth with a strong foundation for rights-based advocacy.

Child- and youth-led learning and L&A remained central to programme activities. In India, 120 youth ambassadors led campaigns, trained peers, engaged in **state and national policy dialogues**, and co-developed 8 detailed and flexible training modules on **OCSE** for youth on topics such as **OCSE, online gaming risks, legal protection** and **use of AI**, complementary to an **FAQ booklet** with 365 questions and answers about **online safety and a cyber safety abbreviations booklet**. In Brazil, the **Youth Advisory Group** of 29 graduates participated in decisions with staff and government actors, including the State Forum for Child and Adolescent Rights. In Bangladesh, 533 youth helped shape campaigns, workshops and policy efforts in relation to SEC and OCSE. In Colombia, 240 youth across 4 schools joined local working groups influencing public policy spaces such as the **Anti-Trafficking Committee**, the **GBV Coordination Mechanism** and the **District Youth Platform**. Guatemalan youth committees led community-based **SEC prevention workshops** and participated in programme planning, supported by regional campaigns such as **'Juventud En Acción Contra La ESNNA'** (Youth in Action against SEC). In Thailand, the **CYC**, comprising youth from diverse gender, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, created a structured platform for youth engagement with local authorities. CYC members drafted a formal statement on SEC, presented at the **Lanna Child Rights Festival**, the **Mekong Run Against GBV**, and the **national SID**:

"I am proud to be part of the movement to protect children's rights, particularly from OCSE. I had the opportunity to speak at the event to end GBV (Run Across the Mekong 2024) in Chiang Khong District, and to join a discussion forum with TikTok Thailand to find solutions to OCSE on Safe Internet Day 2024. Through these experiences, I learned that various agencies are willing to support our advocacy and listen to the voices of children and youth. This has encouraged and strengthened my determination to prevent SEC. My ultimate goal is a world without the sexual exploitation of children." – CYC member, Thailand

Children and youth remained key to maintaining programme objectives and accountability. Partners actively involved them in evaluating and strengthening interventions. For example, in the Philippines, the Alliance hosted an **outcome harvesting workshop** for project staff, youth programme facilitators and **child participants across programmes**, providing an opportunity for them to provide feedback on initiatives and support the continuous improvement of the project. Similarly, in Bangladesh, the 10-member Youth Advisory Group contributed to developing the learning agenda by devising a joint L&A plan, child SG, monitoring and evaluation of activities,

and governance support. This strengthened strategic action by placing children and youth at the centre of programme decision-making. Involving children and young people in programme evaluation processes ensured programme accountability reflecting their perspectives and experiences.

9.2 ENGAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF BOYS AND MEN

Across all SUFASEC countries, **engaging boys and men in gender equality, SRHR and SEC prevention** efforts remained a complex challenge. Deep-rooted **patriarchal norms** that define child-rearing as a woman's duty and promote stereotypes of male strength, dominance and emotional stoicism contribute to the **stigmatisation of male survivors of GBV, SEC and OCSE**. These norms discourage boys and men from expressing vulnerability and frame CP and SRHR as solely women's issues—leading to limited male participation in programme activities. In response, partners across SUFASEC adopted **inclusive, early engagement approaches** to increase the involvement of men and boys, prioritising the creation of **safe, non-judgemental spaces**. In **Latin America**, dialogue between boys and community leaders helped boys in urban and peri-urban areas to raise their concerns and needs.

Partners in the **Philippines** and **Thailand** established **safe spaces** for boys to discuss SRHR and SEC, and facilitated open discussions with boys around SEC, such as on digital safety and self-protection, offering tailored support and adapting messaging in response to data showing a rise in the number of **male and LGBTQIA+ victims** of OCSE. Recognising that an all-female team could limit disclosure, Thai partners established **confidential, supportive environments** to ensure boys felt safe and respected. Boys were included in the **Child Advisory Group**, ensuring their needs informed programme design. In **Lao PDR**, some boys were invited to **Girls Clubs** when showing genuine interest, and their presence did not compromise girls' safety or comfort.

Some countries tackled the root causes of low male engagement by challenging **harmful gender norms**. In Indonesia, partners integrated messages questioning traditional gender roles and encouraged boys to take leadership in SRHR and SEC prevention discussions as champions. In Thailand, partners challenged the widespread assumption that only girls are victims of SEC, affirming boys' equal right to protection. In Brazil, workshops and youth committee sessions prompted boys to critically reflect on **masculinity** and its link to **GBV and SEC**. Despite the programme's strong focus on girls as the most vulnerable to SEC and OCSE, one partner in **India** implemented a promising initiative to protect boys.

Recognising that boys in **red-light districts** were especially at risk—particularly at night while their mothers were working—they established **drop-in and crisis centres** as safe night-time spaces. This reflects the need for **more targeted protection efforts** for boys, who remain underserved despite being affected. Increasing boys' access to emotional and psychological support is critical, not only to uphold their rights but also to prevent the **victim-to-offender cycle** that may result when trauma goes unaddressed.

Efforts to engage fathers and male caregivers in positive parenting gained traction in Year 2. In Colombia, initial resistance from men in parenting workshops was gradually overcome, and many moved from disengagement to active participation in local protection networks, showing how participatory methods can shift community attitudes. In the Philippines, partners ran father-focused sessions and worked with the Department of Social Welfare and Development to expand these efforts. In Bolivia, workshops for **fathers and mothers of SEC survivors** highlighted the roles of fathers, uncles, brothers and grandfathers in CP, **boosting male involvement** in family life. While persistent gender norms still limit men's participation, partners applied creative strategies: in Thailand, despite lower male turnout, sessions promoted **shared parenting roles** to help transform social norms.

Across **Latin America**, partners applied **reverse education methods**, equipping children and youth with knowledge on **gender-equitable parenting**. These young participants, in turn, influenced fathers and male caregivers to take on a more active role, challenging traditional household roles and promoting co-parenting. In some countries, partners also invested in building staff capacity to **better engage boys and men**. In India, facilitators received **gender-sensitive training** to work effectively with children of diverse genders and sexualities. In the Dominican Republic, ongoing staff development helped create **inclusive and supportive spaces**, reducing stigma around male experiences of SEC and GBV and encouraging men and boys to take active roles in **SRHR and CP**. This training proved essential to ensure male participation is met with appropriate, skilled and sensitive support.

9.3 INTERSECTIONALITY

SUFASEC continued to advance its commitment to **intersectionality** throughout Year 2, embedding **inclusive, equity-driven strategies** across every layer of the programme. Understanding that vulnerability to **SEC** is shaped by intersecting factors—**age, ethnicity, disability, socio-economic status, SOGIESC, civil status and geographic location**—partners worked to ensure that children, especially those from **marginalised or historically excluded groups**, could participate meaningfully, access services and exercise their rights. This commitment translated into tangible, country-level action. In India, Brazil, Bangladesh and Nepal, partners used **data disaggregated** by gender, age, caste, ethnicity and disability and applied the **Washington Group Questions** to identify barriers and tailor support. In Nepal, schools introduced **sign language interpretation** to ensure full inclusion in peer sessions, and partners trained helpline operators on **CP with a focus on SOGIESC**. In Bangladesh, 12% of participants were children with **disabilities** or from **ethnic minorities**. Across the Philippines, Thailand and Lao PDR, partners engaged with **Muslim communities, Indigenous Peoples**, and children in remote areas, using **culturally sensitive content** and adapted methods to boost inclusion. **Safe, inclusive spaces** remained at the heart of this work—designed to empower children and youth of **all gender identities**:



Parents School session in Lanquin, Guatemala. Photo: Refugio de la Niñez

*“Working as a SUFASEC CYC member has led to significant changes in my life. Starting with my own self-confidence, I have since learned to **speak up and express my opinions**. This is due to the fact that the training and activities I attended with TLSDF focused on child participation. There is no gender discrimination, and there is a friendly atmosphere that makes me feel safe. I have gained knowledge about children’s rights, forms of OCSE, and sexuality and gender. I have been accepted by my seniors, friends, juniors and teachers at school.”*

– Non-binary Child Youth Committee member, Thailand

In **Brazil and Colombia**, **conversation circles** created a space for children and adults to challenge **gender norms**, reflect on **power dynamics**, and discuss **structural inequality**, promoting intergenerational dialogue and shifting how communities view young people’s agency. Partners across countries tailored their methodologies to reflect children’s realities. In Indonesia, age-specific training and small-group dialogue enabled honest discussion on **SRHR and OCSE**. In Thailand, outreach to **street-involved children** focused on **building trust**, stigma-free engagement and **youth co-leadership**, with tailored **messaging**. In the Philippines, **sign language and subtitled materials** enhanced accessibility. Children from **Dalit, Madheshi, Afro-descendant, Indigenous, Muslim and Buddhist** communities in Nepal, Guatemala, Colombia and the Dominican Republic led local outreach, ensuring their communities were not just included but heard. In several countries, including Lao PDR, the Philippines and the Dominican Republic, intersectionality also shaped **advocacy strategies, service coordination and policy dialogue**—amplifying the voices of **LGBTQIA+ youth**, children with **disabilities**, and **survivors of sexual violence**. **Youth leadership** played a pivotal role. In Colombia and Guatemala, young people led training sessions that reshaped adult attitudes, demonstrating the power of youth-driven change and unlocking more **inclusive intergenerational engagement**.

Institutions and service providers were also equipped to respond better. In Brazil and Thailand, ongoing **intersectionality training** strengthened the capacity of front-line professionals, CSOs and intersectoral networks to identify and act on diverse vulnerabilities. In the Dominican Republic, community dialogues linked **CP, adolescent pregnancy and health access**, resulting in integrated local responses informed by lived realities. Partners also tailored **aftercare services** for survivors, ensuring support reflected their diverse needs and identities. By weaving intersectionality throughout its strategies, SUFASEC not only expanded access and inclusion—it helped drive systemic change. This approach amplified **marginalised voices**, promoted **accountability**, strengthened **youth agency** and contributed to the creation of safer, more equitable environments for all children and young people.

9.4 SAFEGUARDING

SG remained a core pillar of the SUFASEC programme and was systematically integrated across all areas of implementation. **Refresher training**, led by the Alliance SG Focal Point, reinforced key SG principles for all partners. These sessions, conducted in English and Spanish with additional translation support in Portuguese and Thai, ensured broad accessibility. They revisited the **DtZ child SG standards**, highlighting the importance of robust policies, staff accountability, risk assessments, clear reporting mechanisms and appropriate response protocols, including incident management, investigation procedures and internal communication. SG reminders were also embedded in quarterly newsletters to keep protection top of mind.

Partners across **Asia and Latin America** strengthened their SG frameworks to ensure children and youth were protected throughout every stage of engagement. While risks varied by context, efforts were guided by shared principles of **child-centred protection, prevention, risk mitigation and institutional accountability**. Across countries, partners strengthened **institutional SG systems** through updated policies, designated focal points and investments in staff capacity. Frameworks included protocols for **recruitment, induction,**



SRHR Roll-out led by Child Rights Champions, Philippines. Photo: CoPE

codes of conduct, reporting and information management. In India, partners formalised SG structures with board-level policy approvals, risk assessments, and contractual SG commitments for staff, vendors and consultants. In Colombia, Bolivia and Guatemala, SG protocols covered staff induction, visitor access and referral mechanisms. In Indonesia, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Brazil, policies were regularly reviewed, socialised and signed by all personnel. **Risk assessments** were conducted prior to any engagement with children or youth, and SG measures were embedded in planning and implementation. Informed consent, child-friendly briefings and safe participation protocols were standardised. Children were accompanied by **trusted adults**, while facilitators received briefings on **trauma-sensitive** approaches. **Capacity-strengthening** was central to institutionalising a culture of protection. In Bangladesh, Nepal and the Philippines, staff and stakeholders received ongoing SG training and refreshers. In Brazil and Colombia, SG principles were embedded in team meetings and reinforced through real-life scenarios. In Bolivia and Guatemala, policies were actively shared with children, families and community actors. SG principles were also integrated into parenting sessions, youth mobilisation campaigns and reintegration processes, fostering a **shared culture of protection** across public institutions, schools, CSOs and families.

During the reporting period, a number of **SG concerns** were identified and addressed, highlighting the importance of robust and adaptive measures. These included instances of potential **victimisation** and emotional harm during advocacy events and travel, and the use of **non-inclusive language**. In response, partners implemented proactive measures: reinforcing safe spaces, ensuring supervision, adopting truly **child-inclusive planning**, and integrating **gender-sensitive and inclusive language** into house rules, which demonstrably reduced the number of reported instances of discomfort and exclusion. In Bolivia, political blockades prompted adjustments to travel plans and event formats to protect participants' physical safety and ensure continued engagement. Specific concerns, such as those involving distress during documentation, exclusion of gender-diverse youth in the Philippines or inappropriate disclosures that led to harm in Thailand, led to the revision of facilitation protocols and strengthened privacy safeguards. All reported incidents were promptly communicated to our donor, ensuring full transparency and accountability. Crucially, **lessons learned** from all reported concerns were systematically documented and shared across the Alliance to inform future practice and prevent recurrence, reinforcing a culture of continuous improvement and adaptation. These cases demonstrated the importance of **continuous learning and adaptation** in SG. Ultimately, SG under SUFASEC reflects a collective and enduring commitment to **ethical, inclusive and child-centred programming**. Through robust policies, proactive community engagement and ongoing capacity-strengthening, partners' efforts reflect the project's deep commitment to the protection and well-being of children and youth throughout all activities.

10. Challenges, Good Practices and Lessons Learned

10.1 GOOD PRACTICES

Multi-stakeholder partnerships—across government, CSOs, the private sector and youth—played a critical role in advancing **CP systems**, policy development and enforcement. **Cross-border coordination** between India and Nepal resulted in a formal **SOP** for the **safe repatriation** of trafficked children. In the Philippines, local **CP technical working groups** brought together municipalities, CSOs and health services to jointly develop CP ordinances and deliver **coordinated interventions**. In Brazil, **human rights-based training** for public security agents, alongside campaigns with the **tourism sector**, promoted **survivor-sensitive responses** and spurred public discourse on **corporate accountability**. In the Dominican Republic, coordination tables between the public and private sectors led to **joint action plans**, to strengthen CP protocols and **multi-agency raids** on informal lodgings.

Bringing together 200 stakeholders from across Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala, including children, duty bearers (justice officials and municipal authorities) and the private sector, **three regional meetings** proved powerful catalysts to strengthen shared commitments and enhance **multi-level collaboration**. Artistic expression, led by children's groups, served as an effective method to raise awareness and inspire participation. Structured **forums with private sector actors** helped define their role in SEC and OCSE prevention and response. These efforts significantly strengthened **inter-institutional coordination** and improved both **prevention and response mechanisms** across regions.

Partners strategically embedded actions within existing national frameworks. In Brazil, partners intentionally designed activities to align with and influence national policy processes. Specifically, their contributions ensured that the revised **National Plan to Combat Sexual Violence** reflects the new legal provisions established by **Law 14.811/24**. This law introduced important updates to the legal framework for protecting children and adolescents against violence in educational institutions, including measures to prevent **bullying and cyberbullying**, and created the **National Policy for the Prevention and Combat of Abuse and Sexual Exploitation**. Partners further helped establish a **national advisory group** to improve training for shelter staff. In the Philippines, the **Child Advisory Group** gained formal recognition by local governments as child rights CSOs, contributing and sharing statements to **CSE and adolescent pregnancy prevention bills** and consultations on the **OCSEA law**, demonstrating the power of child-led advocacy. Sustained collaboration with the Guatemalan **Ministry of Education, municipal councils and NGO platforms** helped institutionalise referral mechanisms and ensured programme **sustainability and coherence**.

Innovative CP programming practices emerged across the programme. The Bolivian national park service aligned its CP protocols with SUFASEC SG standards. In Guatemala, coordination with schools and women's directorates strengthened institutional protection for parents and youth leaders. **Guided teacher roles, referral systems and SG committees** were activated in several countries, alongside **pre-approved content protocols** and survivor-centred **aftercare systems**.

In **Bangladesh**, members of children's, adolescents' and youth groups—together with **change agents, school authorities** and partners—installed **sexual harassment complaint boxes** in nine schools to support safer reporting. Opened periodically in the presence of teachers and partner staff, these boxes ensure **transparent, accountable reporting**. A clear **action plan** guides follow-up and referrals to relevant authorities. The initiative empowered students to report safely and anonymously, and proved effective in identifying SEC cases, reinforcing schools as **protective spaces**. Additionally, **hotline stickers** with CP and law enforcement contacts were distributed in strategic locations—including **schools, colleges and union councils**—to strengthen access to support and reporting mechanisms.

Strong community engagement remained a cornerstone of success. In Indonesia and other countries, **community dialogues** and **positive parenting sessions** helped build trust and local ownership before introducing sensitive topics such as **SEC and SRHR**. Continuous engagement with community members, such as in Bangladesh and other countries, helped position them as **active agents in SEC prevention**, particularly in raising awareness, supporting rescues, and reintegration processes. Partners strategically engaged with local communities through participatory approaches, such as community dialogues and consultation sessions in Indonesia and other countries, as well as by starting to involve caregivers in positive parenting sessions in the Philippines, have been highly effective in building **trust** before introducing sensitive topics such as SEC and SRHR, fostering **ownership**, and ensuring interventions are **contextually relevant and sustainable**. Moreover, establishing strong partnerships with **local organisations and community leaders** has been instrumental in leveraging resources, expertise and networks to enhance programme reach and effectiveness.

The **Regional Meeting of Women Community Leaders** in **Colombia** provided a powerful platform for women leaders from all five Latin American countries to connect, build ties across territories, and recognise shared struggles, contexts and solutions—helping to refine intervention strategies and expand reach and impact (see the **systematisation report** with key learnings and best practices). Participants **recognised and exchanged experiences of women's leadership**, reflecting on distinct **realities, strategies and challenges**, and gathered community protection **best practices** such as collaborating with **national park rangers in Bolivia**, **creating safe environments in Colombia**, and **activating youth and community surveillance committees in Guatemala**. Deep personal connections were fostered through shared lived experiences and a mutual understanding of the risks faced by their communities. The **cultural exchange among Indigenous women leaders** enriched the dialogue, highlighting the contrast between **traditional practices and Western influences**, particularly in relation to SEC risks. Joint participation in the **city-led 'La Muralla Soy Yo'** initiative promoting CP in tourism settings and celebrating effective community-based practices further boosted the collective commitment to fight SEC in their communities.

Finally, capacity development and local ownership were key to sustainability. Consistent team capacity-building across staff, volunteers and community actors in Indonesia and elsewhere significantly improved programme implementation and adaptability. In Guatemala, linguistically and culturally adapted, interactive training ensured stronger engagement, especially among Indigenous participants. By grounding capacity-strengthening in local realities, partners ensured that knowledge, skills and ownership were embedded long after project activities concluded.



Participation of Duty Bearers in India-Nepal Cross Border Workshop, Nepal. Photo: Maiti Nepal

10.2 LESSONS LEARNED

Year 2 of SUFASEC generated valuable insights into how to strengthen protection systems, elevate youth leadership and build sustainable, community-rooted responses to (online) SEC.

Multi-stakeholder engagement—bringing together government agencies, civil society, local authorities, private sector actors and families—proved vital in strengthening **protection systems** and building coordinated **prevention and response strategies**. Experiences confirmed the transformative power of grass-roots action and the importance of sustained **awareness-raising and capacity-building** for children, youth, and all actors shaping **protective environments**. In Lao PDR, children who received **life skills and empowerment training** became active protectors in their communities, identifying and supporting peers at risk. **Cross-border collaboration** between countries of origin and destination emerged as a powerful enabler of effective response. Significantly, early **identification of children at risk** required fewer resources than supporting children already exploited, pointing to the value of **proactive, upstream intervention**. Digital platforms such as TikTok also proved effective for **outreach, consultation and even incident reporting**, highlighting their potential as tools for **prevention and connection**.

In Guatemala, Colombia and Bolivia, partners emphasised the importance of **democratising learning**—ensuring youth-led insights and lived experiences informed programming at every stage. This approach deepened **ownership** and ensured that **advocacy** remained grounded in local realities. Tracking **signs of behaviour change** throughout implementation helped demonstrate the programme’s **impact** and adjust course in real time. In Nepal, a range of **strategic interventions** generated strong results. **Positive parenting sessions** delivered by professional counsellors helped families build safer, more supportive home environments. A **survivor-led model** brought lived expertise into programme design and governance, boosting **credibility and relevance**. A **multisectoral approach**—involving teachers, health-care workers, youth, parents and government actors—helped cultivate a **gender-transformative, community-driven protection system**. A partnership with the national **Child Helpline 1098** enabled survivors to access immediate support and **referral services**. Access to **formal education in shelters** ensured that children in care could continue **learning** and move forward with **confidence**.

10.3 CHALLENGES

Despite strong progress across SUFASEC countries, several key challenges persisted. **Mobilising the private sector** as a CP ally remained complex, particularly in contexts lacking clear **government mandates**. In Indonesia, efforts to engage with financial and digital sector actors were slowed by limited **regulatory incentives** and weak **enforcement frameworks**, underscoring the need for **strong government leadership** to ensure meaningful private sector accountability.

In India, initial attempts to collaborate with **ISPs** fell short, prompting a strategic shift towards engaging with **police cybercrime units**. This pivot added credibility and eventually brought ISPs to the table. Simultaneously, sustained **advocacy efforts** with the Ministry of Telecommunications and IT pressed for **policy reform** to strengthen ISP accountability in tackling OCSE—demonstrating the power of **youth-led advocacy** and coordinated action from **local to national levels**.

In the Dominican Republic, collaboration with the private sector initially faced pushback, particularly around aligning agendas and integrating protective practices. However, **sustained dialogue, government backing** and structured **feedback mechanisms** gradually shifted mindsets:

“Intersectoral collaboration transformed our vision of social commitment, prompting us to invest in protection measures that we previously considered unnecessary.”
— Private sector representative, Dominican Republic

The **lack of technical training**, such as for Brazilian guardianship counsellors, and the difficulty of holding perpetrators accountable in cases relying solely on victim testimony remained critical **barriers to justice**. Strengthening political advocacy and the capacity of local monitoring committees emerged as urgent priorities.

In the **Philippines**, a major challenge lay in navigating discussions on **SRHR** and **CSE** within a predominantly conservative, Catholic context. Initial resistance was widespread, particularly among parents, faith-based community leaders and local officials, who expressed concern that topics such as gender equality, LGBTQIA+ inclusion and SEC prevention might contradict religious teachings or negatively influence children. This resistance created a substantial barrier to delivering accurate, age-appropriate information essential for SEC prevention. To address this, partners adopted a culturally sensitive, inclusive approach under the theme of **positive parenting**. Focus group discussions with parents and children were framed around shared values of **care, protection and the right to safety**. This strategy allowed difficult topics to be introduced gradually, within a framework that resonated with parental aspirations for their children's well-being. Emphasising open dialogue, mutual respect and confidentiality helped ease fears. Over time, this approach built trust and enabled parents to see SRHR education not as a threat, but as an essential, protective tool, leading to increased acceptance and support.

Political instability, such as in Nepal, delayed national advocacy progress, though persistent engagement eventually led to the inclusion of **child online safety** in the country's 16th National Plan of Action. In some communities, **resistance to advocacy efforts** reflected the need for sustained **sensitisation** and **relationship-building** with local actors. In addition, gaps in vocational training left many survivors vulnerable to re-victimisation. This highlighted the importance of investing in **economic empowerment** through skills development in areas such as tailoring, handicrafts and digital literacy. The need for **ongoing training and mentorship**—for both survivors and communities—was critical to sustaining meaningful child participation and local leadership. Feedback also pointed to the importance of engaging **religious leaders** and **law enforcement agencies**, whose influence is key in reshaping harmful norms and reinforcing CP at community level.

Navigating a challenging funding landscape remained a significant hurdle across the Alliance. Funding constraints were further exacerbated by cuts from key donors, including reductions in US government funding and the global trend of declining development assistance for gender and SRHR initiatives. Simultaneously, partners faced the impacts of shrinking civic space and increasing restrictions on organisations working on sensitive issues such as gender equality and SRHR.

11. Sustainability and Looking Forward

Year 2 of SUFASEC had a stronger emphasis on embedding and deepening efforts to ensure sustainability through system integration, capacity-strengthening, community and institutional ownership, private sector engagement, and strong awareness of partners and Alliance members of the changed funding landscape and need for fundraising diversification. **Integration of CP systems** through strong **government collaboration** took place, for example, by implementing partners in Bolivia, who worked with the **Plurinational Council against Human Trafficking** to formally strengthen protection measures in public frameworks. In Thailand, partners coordinated with local governments, schools, health offices and CP actors to form **SEC prevention working groups** in three target districts. This approach bolstered **cross-sector coordination**, particularly between law enforcement agencies and CSOs, accelerating referrals and ensuring responsive support for children affected by **online sexual exploitation**. In India, continuous engagement with schools, police departments and **child care institutions** led to institutional shifts: police cyber professionals independently began conducting awareness sessions in schools, and the Mission Vatsalya scheme expanded its survivor support services. Alignment with **national education and health priorities** enabled integration of **SRHR and CSE** content into government-approved curricula and learning materials, such as in Nepal and Thailand. In Guatemala, SUFASEC methodologies—such as parenting school models [A training space designed to equip families with culturally relevant tools for assertive communication, positive parenting and CP. It provides information on crimes and reporting pathways while fostering trust-building, peer exchange and community-driven solutions.] and CP commitments—were embedded into **municipal operational plans**, with secured local budgets. In Brazil, formal adoption of a **municipal resolution** mandating ongoing training for public officials represented a major step in institutionalising SUFASEC approaches within governance systems. In several countries, **exit strategies** and formal agreements with authorities moved sustainability forward. In Lao PDR, sustained dialogue with village and government leaders ensured long-term buy-in from the outset. In the Dominican Republic, gradual integration of SUFASEC activities into public CP policies advanced institutional continuity.

Strengthening youth leadership and growing the knowledge and number of change agents: Youth platforms established in Year 1—such as the **Red Ants Collective**, the **National Adolescent Girls and Boys Networks** in Nepal, and **youth advisory committees** in Bolivia and Colombia—continued to grow and gain legitimacy. Several youth-led groups were formally recognised by local governments and involved in **municipal CP planning**. The programme scaled its successful model of **youth and adult champions**. In Indonesia, trained teachers and community leaders integrated **SRHR messaging** into their daily work. In Bangladesh, the **Child Rights Defenders Forum**—with 100 trained youth—led advocacy initiatives, facilitated peer mentorship, and acted as watchdogs for child rights violations. Youth



Vapi School Girls Club, Lao PDR. Photo: Village Focus International

groups active in different countries will continue to exist after SUFASEC, often building on or integrating with existing local structures. Partners have initiated sustainability planning, with a specific focus on ensuring the continuity and long-term impact of these youth-led groups. In Brazil, the Youth Advisory Group remained actively involved in policy discussions, with members expressing readiness to carry on the work independently:

“Taking part in the committee helped me understand how to defend my rights and support other young people. Today I feel prepared to continue even when the project ends.”
— Country Youth Advisory Group member, Brazil

Community ownership was further reinforced through investment in grassroots protection structures and stronger collaboration with key local actors. In Bangladesh, **community-based CP committees** played an increasingly active role in detecting and reporting SEC and SRHR violations, while simultaneously strengthening ties with **teachers, social workers and the local police**, enhancing coordination and response. Colombian **community councils and youth networks** not only engaged in advocacy but also leveraged intersectoral dialogue spaces to push for policy reforms, supported by growing stakeholder awareness and capacity, including educators, health-care workers and law enforcement agencies. These efforts have strengthened community resilience and improved the local protection ecosystem.

Private sector engagement also played a role in securing long-term impact. Bolivian tourism companies jointly developed a national **Code of Conduct** to prevent SEC, embedding CP into corporate operations. These partnerships created accountability mechanisms that extend beyond SUFASEC’s implementation period. In Lao PDR, capacity-building within **trade union networks** and among youth mentors established sustainable, locally led delivery systems. Strategic advocacy at national and subnational levels drove **policy change**, as discussed in Chapter 5. ‘Lobbying and advocacy’. For example, in Andhra Pradesh, India, partners supported the passage of a new provincial bill addressing **OCSEA**. In the Philippines, sustained lobbying efforts helped secure **local ordinances** addressing **OCSEA**, while government platforms adopted good parenting modules developed by SUFASEC in **4Ps** [Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, a government-initiated poverty reduction and social protection programme targeting poor households that provides conditional grants to support the health, nutrition and education of children and pregnant women] **family development sessions**, institutionalising content delivery at scale.

Indonesian partners worked with PPATK and national financial intelligence agencies to develop **Red Flag Indicators** to identify suspicious financial transactions and standardise child helpline operations for detecting SEC-related financial transactions, which is expected to guide sector-wide practice beyond the duration of the SUFASEC programme. They co-designed a training module—‘**Identification and Response to Suspicious Transactions**’—in partnership with the Indonesian Association of Financial Transaction Analysts. The module is intended for use by financial service providers, law enforcement agencies and civil society, enabling cross-sector engagement beyond the programme’s scope.

Lastly, local partners’ **resource mobilisation and fundraising diversification** were scaled up to support post-programme continuity. In Nepal, partners formed local alliances to secure co-financing. Evidence-based materials helped position SUFASEC as a credible actor for future funding opportunities. **Sustainability** was a **core strategy** embedded throughout SUFASEC’s work, through **system-level change, community and youth leadership, policy integration and cross-sector collaboration**. These efforts are laying the groundwork for **locally supported, resilient protection mechanisms**, championed by children, youth and communities themselves.

12. Audited Financial Report

In line with the MoFA grant agreement (No. 4000005900, dated 23 February 2023), the Alliance presents an aggregate audited financial overview. The audited financial reports from the Alliance members for the period 1 March 2024 to 28 February 2025, separate documents, are outlined in **Annex VII**. The audit process, conducted according to the MoFA audit protocol, involved individual unqualified audits for each Alliance member's financial report and a consolidated audit by the TdH NL auditor (Mazars). This process concluded on 26 June with an unqualified audit report. The consolidated audited financial report, which includes the total budget of EUR15 million for three years, is presented per country, per result area and per budget line, in compliance with MoFA financial reporting requirements.

Actual expenditures in Year 2 amounted to a total of **EUR4,981,398**, or **86%** of the updated projection of **EUR5,800,864** indicated in the annual plan for Year 2. Lower actual expenditures related to *I.A. Staff costs, I.B. Local staff costs, II.A. Programme activity costs, II.C. Cost of local NGOs & third parties, II.D. Activity-related travel costs, II.E. Project office costs (if applicable), II.G. Monitoring, evaluation and auditing, A. Support staff, B. Admin. & operational costs and contingencies* related to the **pace of project implementation**, with some components progressing more slowly than anticipated but expected to catch up in Year 3. For instance, regional and international L&A activities—such as the research around the Venezuelan migrant crisis and on SEC vulnerabilities in migratory contexts in Latin America—experienced **initial delays**, and research findings will be shared with partners early in Year 3, drawing on the research findings finalised at the start of Year 3. Similarly, the **expansion of the YVFC** initiative, led by Conexion, to additional countries required extra time for administrative arrangements. A dedicated MoU was signed to clearly define responsibilities and coordination across six countries in two regions. This included the formation of youth committees and the preparation of country-specific action plans. **Communications expenditures** were lower than forecasted, as activities were strategically phased to maximise impact and visibility in the final project year, with additional advertorials and video production planned to amplify key messages. Additionally, activities under partner Equations in India had to be suspended due to an issue with its Foreign Contribution Regulation Act permit, and funds had to be reallocated to other partners in line with strategic priorities. These factors contributed to lower expenditures in Year 2, with spending expected to align with projections as deferred activities and scaled-up efforts are implemented in Year 3. Expenditures for *II.F. Equipment and investments* were higher than forecasted in Year 2, as partners needed to purchase **essential computer and office equipment** to support effective project delivery. The budget for this line item in Year 2 had been underestimated, resulting in higher actual costs. However, as these purchases were one-time investments, lower costs are expected for this budget line in Year 3. Alliance members and partners are well aware of the substantial budget remaining for Year 3 of the project. Dedicated sessions, including regular meetings with the respective finance focal points of each Alliance member, have been conducted to ensure ongoing oversight. Unspent funds have been systematically reallocated to the Year 3 budget, with **close monitoring of expenditure and implementation progress** in collaboration with Alliance members and partners to ensure that resources are used optimally to deliver the planned activities and complete all remaining programme activities and objectives in its final year.



Annex I. Updated SUFASEC Risk Matrix

Updated Risk Matrix, with changes highlighted in **turquoise**

RISK	POTENTIAL IMPACT	PROBABILITY	IMPACT	MITIGATION	MONITORING
Integrity including safeguarding and sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH)					
Behaviour that is not in line with the code of conduct to which the alliance members adhere, particularly SEAH committed by staff of Alliance members, partner organisations, consultants or other stakeholders we work with.	Primary impact: High negative mental and physical impact on victims. Secondary impact: Children and others involved in the programme can be (re) traumatised and lose trust in partners and/or other stakeholders Damage to legitimacy and credibility of the parties involved.	Medium	High	<p>All organisations have zero-tolerance towards any forms of abuse, exploitation and harassment, as well as safeguarding policies, reporting procedures and tools in place to prevent and address safeguarding issues. Staff in Alliance and partners are continuously trained to improve safeguarding and safeguarding risk assessments are part of design and implementation. Focal persons for safeguarding/ integrity are identified in each organisation. Speaking up is encouraged. Partner safeguarding policies and capacity are assessed, and only those with sufficient capacity are contracted.</p> <p>Prevention continues to be promoted in the Alliance by regular reflection, identification of capacity development needs and monitoring of compliance to safeguarding SEAH policies. Furthermore, training sessions for children on their rights and where to report SEAH are taking place. The Alliance also promotes applying child friendly reporting protocols and accountability measures for children, families and communities.</p> <p>Safeguarding (refresher) trainings and safeguarding sections in quarterly SUFASEC newsletters. Ongoing case management</p>	Behaviour that is not in line with the code of conduct to which the alliance members adhere, particularly SEAH committed by staff of Alliance members, partner organisations, consultants or other stakeholders we work with.
Fraud / Financial mismanagement by alliance members and /or local partners.	Can negatively impact implementation due to delay, halting of Operations. Damage to the reputation of the party involved.	Medium	High	<p>Have clarity on steps to be taken in case of signals of fraud or financial mismanagement in partnership agreement and contracts. Integrity policies of Alliance members are in place, speaking up is encouraged and staff is trained on integrity policies.</p> <p>Continuation of discussing integrity issues within Alliance organisations and constant awareness to have clear protocols in place, awareness of reporting and audits taking place.</p> <p>Immediate review and audit in case of financial mismanagement suspicions, under oversight of the respective governance mechanism (i.e. Board).</p>	Financial monitoring and reporting in place. Audit requirements will be complied with, and integrity is part of due diligence.

RISK	POTENTIAL IMPACT	PROBABILITY	IMPACT	MITIGATION	MONITORING
Political					
Political and social unrest due to elections, and internal armed conflict and growing criminal alliances fuel illegal economies, and geo-political tensions, e.g. conflicts between rival gangs in communities in Brazil.	<p>Programme can slow down or halt. Psycho-social stress for staff, participants and stakeholders. Activity cancellations and delays.</p> <p>Legislative processes can be delayed, directly affecting advocacy efforts. Potential restrictions on gatherings, disruptions to local governance, and heightened tensions may delay community-based programme activities and increase psychological stress among staff, children and stakeholders.</p> <p>Increased vulnerabilities to SEC due to precarious environment combined with multidimensional poverty, high unemployment and migration pressures.</p>	Medium - High	High	<p>Well informed and trained staff. Adjustments in activity plans anticipated – use of adaptive management. Security monitoring and adherence to security protocols by partners.</p> <p>Apply adaptive programming when necessary, including alternative plans and collaboration with Members of Parliament to ensure that their commitment to keep social, economic and gender concerns remains on the agenda. Partners are building relationships with local authorities allowing continuation of activities. Prioritise activities before and after the elections.</p> <p>Adapting or postponing activities during sensitive election periods. Continuous capacity building for newly appointed officials help sustain advocacy and programme implementation.</p> <p>Strengthen L&A and building on previously formed youth and community networks to protect affected populations and ensure programme sustainability.</p>	Local partners monitor conflict situations that pose risks to participants' and staff safety. Applying conflict sensitivity analysis. Partners seek innovative means to adapt their approach.
High turnover of government officials.	Investments in relationships and institutional memory is lost. Previous commitments may not Transfer. Across country programmes challenges for programme operations due to shifts in policies and personnel, including those affecting SRHR and fragile governance environment.	High	High	<p>Systemic approach by making manuals, protocols and training available. Training on transferable skills, knowledge and information is embedded within the wider CP system. Engaging with new government staff to restore relationships, knowledge and motivation to support work on SEC. Tailored L&A to align with evolving political landscapes and priorities, address policy gaps and ensure programme relevance and continuity. Ongoing training to equip new officials with knowledge on how to handle trafficking and child protection effectively.</p>	Indicators of training, protocols and manuals available.

RISK	POTENTIAL IMPACT	PROBABILITY	IMPACT	MITIGATION	MONITORING
Shrinking civic space.	<p>Potential closure of CSOs or delays in implementation, partner staff under pressure. Harassment and threats to activists, less opportunities to advocate on topics related to SRHR/ SEC. Registration and implementation for CSOs becomes more difficult.</p> <p>Limitation in implementation periods and impact due to tight timelines and bureaucratic delays in securing government agreements.</p> <p>This risk materialised in India, leading to suspension of activities, the need to shift funding and suspend engagement with a partner.</p> <p>Potential further restrictive national / international government policies, budget allocations and regulatory changes could impose further restrictions to NGOs operating space. Staff working on the front line of child protection, particularly staff engaged in early detection, interception and rescue operations, face intimidation and become targets, particularly when advocating for justice for survivors.</p>	Medium	High	<p>Comply with national laws and regulations and liaise with governments to continue working. Leverage Alliance L&A experience at regional/ international levels and established relationships with international actors. Seek EU/NL diplomatic support if security of staff or partners is at stake. Engage National Government Agencies, align strategies with existing national and regional plans.</p> <p>Implementing partners will apply sensitisation efforts to limit any negative effects. Partners focus on sustained dialogue and trust-building with government counterparts to accelerate approvals and ensure smoother programme execution.</p> <p>Partners coordinate protection mechanisms with like-minded CSOs, law enforcement agencies and broader frameworks such as the European Union (EU) protection mechanism for human rights defenders, ensuring a collaborative and comprehensive response to these challenges.</p> <p>In response to budget cuts impacting civic space, partners diversify funding channels, activate emergency budgets, and optimise resource allocation to maintain essential programme activities.</p>	Continuous follow up on the situation of civic space, engagement and joint strategising with embassies where relevant.
<p>Global backlash on Women and SRH Rights in laws and policies.</p> <p>Religious and conservative people resist sexuality education, especially for children and young people, as they consider this a taboo. Unpredictable and potentially conservative political environment.</p>	<p>Limitations of SRH rights and access to SRH services, especially for women and girls. New laws and legislation negatively impacts the rights and wellbeing of women and girls, including their access to SRHR.</p> <p>Reduced support for programme Implementation.</p> <p>Across countries reduced attention to minority groups, including LGBTQIA+ children and youth, and hampering the realisation of SRHR.</p>	High	Medium	<p>Engage local leaders and organisations in project cycle. Translate activities and concepts related to SRHR in such a way that it is acceptable for conservative leaders and communities. Leverage Alliance relations with (inter)national networks. L&A efforts to counter laws and legislation affecting women, girls and their access to SRHR.</p> <p>Partners also work with local champions and local authorities to counter some of the negative attitudes and raise awareness among parents/caregivers on the importance of SRHR and its connection to SEC.</p>	Monitoring trends on SRHR and women's rights.

RISK	POTENTIAL IMPACT	PROBABILITY	IMPACT	MITIGATION	MONITORING
Government budgets reallocated to crises (e.g., COVID-19).	Minor potential impact.	Low	Low	Minor.	Monitoring government Budgets. No active monitoring.
Social					
Fear of stigma and reprisal related to patriarchal norms and gender inequality limit key stakeholder participation. Restricted access of women and girls and marginalised groups, including LGBTQI+ to resources and opportunities Resistance to the active participation of boys.	<p>Limited participation of marginalised groups (girls, LGBTQI+ etc.), reduces programme Impact.</p> <p>Vulnerable groups e.g. LGBTQI+ are stigmatised and harmed as result of their participation.</p> <p>Marginalised refugee / returnee populations face challenges accessing essential services. Limited participation in public activities, including programme engagement.</p>	Medium	High	<p>Meaningful inclusion of stakeholders in project cycle. Continuous awareness raising in community, inclusive and needs- based services for victims, survivors. Strict adherence to safeguarding policy. Build on Alliance partners' high level of legitimacy in communities and existing relationships with (religious) leaders.</p> <p>Partners include marginalised groups, such as girls and boys with intersecting identities that place them at risk, including LGBTQI+ children, in programme activities. Across countries, partners develop approaches to engage boys more effectively, e.g. by creating safe spaces for reflection on the harmful social norms that perpetuate SEC. Removal of attitudinal and structural barriers to meaningfully participate as well as safeguarding. Partners train young people becoming change agents, encouraging peer to peer activities and work with parents to challenge current norms related to SEC.</p> <p>Secure virtual participation options and strengthened collaboration with communities to amplify their voices.</p>	<p>Indicators on engagement, inclusion of diverse stakeholders in monitoring processes and youth advisory groups.</p>
Involvement in awareness raising can increase children's vulnerability to stigma, discrimination & backlash.	Children in distress/under threat, reliving trauma or do no longer wish to participate in L&A or the programme itself.	Medium	High	Adhere to child safeguarding measures and adapt trauma-informed approaches to children's needs. Use victims' perspective rather than involving victims directly. Consider involvement/ lobby behind the scenes is possible, without being in the public eye.	Safeguarding measures are in place. Opportunity to connect with other youth advocates in Alliance networks.

RISK	POTENTIAL IMPACT	PROBABILITY	IMPACT	MITIGATION	MONITORING
Relapse of COVID-19 or other global public health crisis.	Reintroduction/ strengthening of measures e.g. (local) travel and contact restrictions. Shifting priority by stakeholders.	Low	Low	Partners to deploy adaptive programming, take activities online to reach stakeholders and beneficiaries, staff work from home/online.	Monitor public health indicators. Track COVID-19 infections and regulations.
New technologies are developed and made available to children and potential perpetrators.	<p>New ways of online SEC and continuous innovation of technology requires continuous follow-up. Potential harm for children, by facilitating SEC incl. AI-driven grooming and OCSE.</p> <p>The internet and digital environment are largely still unregulated. Heightened vulnerability to SEC due to economic challenges in border areas, drives migration among young girls.</p>	High	High	<p>Awareness for children and parents how to keep children safe online. Work with Tech org. to apply safety by design and promote online safety. L&A towards tech org to have child protection as priority. Specialised professional working in the programmes. Continued awareness raising and L&A to promote digital safety, at different levels targeting different stakeholders, including children, youth, parents and caregivers as well as Internet Service Providers, tech companies and policy makers.</p> <p>Promoting digital safety and child protection initiatives, strengthening L&A for regulatory measures and ensuring the integration of comprehensive sexuality education and SRHR services.</p>	Following up trends continues information with technologies data collection on online SEC cases.
Reputational concerns prevent or limit private sector involvement.	<p>Private sector is unwilling to recognise their role or directly address SEC.</p> <p>Heighten vulnerabilities to SEC in travel and tourism, trafficking and digital environments.</p>	High	Medium	<p>Programme activities are strategically linked to companies' business cases, demonstrating link between human rights, SEC prevention and long-term sustainability of business. L&A will target private sector legislation to hold them accountable. Build on Alliance partners' high level of legitimacy in communities.</p> <p>Partners continue L&A efforts to hold private actors accountable for their role in SEC prevention, including working with The Code and including child protection at the design phase.</p>	Indicators on private sector engagement, Involving private sector partners in monitoring processes.

RISK	POTENTIAL IMPACT	PROBABILITY	IMPACT	MITIGATION	MONITORING
Economic					
<p>Social unrest due to loss of income, crisis-related inflation increases prices for essential Commodities.</p> <p>Internal and international migration driven by political and socio-economic pressures</p>	<p>Caregivers unable to provide, increased economic stress exacerbated by restricted and reduced funding / international aid due to foreign policy shifts, resulting in unsafe migration and negative coping mechanisms, children more vulnerable to traffickers and SEC, e.g. increased school dropout rates. exacerbated trafficking vulnerabilities due to poverty and weak border control in border areas and migration.</p> <p>Combined with unemployment and limited financial resources, labour migration hampers families' ability to prioritise childcare, thereby increasing children's vulnerability to exploitation.</p>	High	Medium	<p>Partners are aware of the situation and adjust their response. Economic resilience activities to support families, built on prior Alliance experience. Context analysis updated during annual narrative Reports.</p> <p>Partners are responding by intensifying family support initiatives, including economic empowerment, parenting education, psychosocial assistance and educational support, Partners work with technical schools to help both families and youth (survivors and those at high risk) to strengthen their economic resilience and prevent negative coping mechanisms through income-generating activities</p> <p>Early interventions along trafficking routes and by sensitising professionals to better handle SEC cases, supporting at-risk children and raising awareness within communities.</p> <p>Partners diversify funding channels, activate emergency budgets, and optimise resource allocation to maintain essential programme activities where needed.</p>	Information in annual reports.
Environmental					
Natural disasters (floods, hurricanes etc.) and climate change-induced displacement and mobility.	<p>Serious delays in implementation, communities and staff may be affected. Increase of vulnerability of children to SEC and trafficking.</p>	High	High	<p>Partners to be aware of early warning systems. Evacuation, disaster preparedness and security plans are in place. Apply adaptive programming. Seek supplemental funding if necessary. Context specific mitigations, including social protection measures, prioritising participant safety and reinforcing resilience.</p>	Monitor community early warning systems.

Annex II. Shifting the power

The DtZ Alliance aligned closely with the **MoFA's commitment to localisation and decolonisation**, recognising these as critical to transforming the sector into a more **equitable and just space**. While the topic remained complex and sensitive, it was explicitly addressed in year 2 through dialogue at the GSC and during **regional partner meetings**. A second in-person GSC in **February 2025** combined strategic planning and team-building, including a workshop on **Shifting the Power** externally facilitated by the **Disrupt Development agency**, which created space for reflection. During regional meetings, dedicated sessions encouraged participants to critically assess power dynamics and levels of participation using the **ladder of participation model** (ranging from exclusion and informing to consulting, partnership, and shared decision-making) across various actors: local programme participants, local partners, country teams, Alliance Members, the SUFASEC Desk, GSC, and the MoFA, which sparked intense dialogue. Partners acknowledged meaningful inclusion of programme participants in local decision-making and noted growing **ownership and shared power** within national alliance, and collaboration with Alliance Members in a spirit of partnership. Whereas challenges were highlighted, such as the disconnect between **local partners and global structures**, where relationships were often perceived as more **informative or consultative**, and the **limited direct engagement with the Ministry**, without real influence over decisions. In response, the Alliance committed to continuing to strengthen local-global collaboration, advancing inclusive decision-making, and **implementing partners** will be invited to participate in **regular update meetings with the Ministry**, allowing for **direct communication** and **ground-level realities** to shape strategic dialogue.

Alliance Collaboration: Operating as an Alliance generated substantial **benefits**. Speaking with a **unified voice** has strengthened partners' **regional and international policy influence**, enabling more impactful advocacy for **systemic change**. This collective positioning enhanced partners' engagement with **governments**, the **private sector**, and other strategic stakeholders across national, regional, and global levels. Partners expanded their **response capacity** through collaboration with both local and international organisations, increasing the reach and effectiveness of interventions. A **continuous exchange of innovative ideas and good practices** across countries enriched intervention strategies and enabled **adaptive learning** in response to evolving contexts. Drawing on a broad spectrum of **technical expertise, lived experience, and skills**, the Alliance created an enabling space for **joint planning, cross-border collaboration, and mutual learning**. The introduction of a new **governance model** brought several positive developments. **Shared country budgets** encouraged joint decision-making and promoted shared ownership, enabling strategic initiatives, such as the Regional Community Leader Meeting, a key forum across 5 countries in Latin America. The appointment of **Cross-Country Coordinators** and formation of **Country Steering Committees** improved coordination and strategic oversight. **Thematic working groups**—such as MEAL and L&A—offered platforms to pursue shared goals and strengthen regional cooperation. Cross-country events and training contributed to improved practices in areas such as **survivor-led advocacy** and **cross-border case management**.

Cross-Country Collaboration platforms were strengthened at national, regional, and cross-country levels, fostering shared learning and coherence. In India, regular bi-monthly virtual meetings and in-person workshops deepened collaboration, with a highlight being the cross-learning exchange in **Bangalore** with Nepal, which led to the joint development of a **cross-border SOP** for the safe return of children. In Thailand, the country steering committee strengthened joint planning and organised events such as **SID**, while collaboration with **Lao PDR** supported mutual learning and improved programme coherence. In **Latin America**, partners from **Bolivia, Colombia, and Guatemala** jointly analysed regional issues, such as the **impact of Venezuelan migration on the SEC**, which led to cross-country research and deeper strategic planning. **Local steering committees** and regular coordination meetings reinforced alliance cohesion and enabled shared implementation of training on **social norms, advocacy, and safeguarding**. In the **Dominican Republic**, a well-functioning governance structure facilitated effective coordination, though some delays in joint action implementation were noted. With a new coordinator in place, outstanding activities are expected to move forward smoothly. At national level, the **Philippines' CAG** created meaningful spaces for children to share perspectives and co-create **SRHR materials** relevant to their communities. The CAG also played a central role in the Alliance's coordinated response to a misinformation campaign around **CSE**. Youth members from **YVFC** participated actively in **policy dialogues, peer education, and digital campaigns**, reinforcing their role as **critical actors in inclusive, youth-led advocacy**.

Despite notable progress, coordination across 12 countries and 30 implementing organisations also presented **challenges**. **Differences in legal frameworks**, uneven levels of government collaboration, and occasional **misalignments between regional strategies and national realities** impeded smooth implementation in some contexts. In countries without **dedicated country coordinators**, communication gaps and delays in decision-making emerged. Multi-tiered governance and **hybrid engagement models**—particularly in geographically dispersed contexts such as India and the Philippines—further complicated coordination. The **limited shared country budget** constrained joint actions in some cases. To address these gaps, the programme will prioritise **strengthening national coordination mechanisms**, including clearer mandates for country steering committees and reallocation of responsibilities where needed to enhance timely decision-making and reduce bottlenecks. While platforms such as the **CAG** played an important role in child participation, their **formal integration into governance structures** shall be strengthened. Alliance-wide commitments—such as the internal baseline, Learning Agenda, joint training, and content production—combined with **comprehensive MEAL demands**, stretched the capacity of partners already managing extensive local programming. Recognising this, the Alliance will move to **streamline communication and reporting requirements**, minimising duplication and ensuring coherence across programme layers. **Language barriers**, especially for field staff, were mitigated through translation support in Spanish, Portuguese, and Thai, while translation remains a challenge, particularly for

cross-regional activities and capacity building initiatives. The introduction of country coordinators helped improve information flow, and streamline Alliance processes, yet also created a new layer of communication not always fully integrated with implementing partners. In response, steps will be taken to **better embed coordinators within national structures**, improve feedback loops, and ensure their roles enhance existing workflows. Direct representation of **implementing partners**—including youth and grassroots actors—in donor engagement spaces, such as MoFA briefings, will be prioritised to ensure strategic dialogue is grounded in local realities. In summary, Year 3 will focus on building **stronger country leadership, streamlining internal systems**, and **enhancing the visibility of national voices** in global conversations. These adjustments are essential for ensuring that localisation is not only a principle, but also a lived practice across all levels of the Alliance.

Annex III. Revision of the SUFASEC Theory of Change

- Partners observed that **protection systems**—when designed with **early detection, community leadership, and intersectoral coordination**—also had strong preventive value. Strengthening these links can improve long-term outcomes.
- Given increasing exposure to **climate change, and humanitarian emergencies**, partners recommended to better integrate the impact of these within the ToC.
- A key recommendation from India was to better integrate **survivor-led strategies and long-term recovery mechanisms**. Based on community-level work, partners identified the need to include stronger aftercare services, such as survivor support groups, to prevent victimisation and sustain protection outcomes beyond immediate intervention.
- Refinements to address the growing threat of **OCSE and technology-facilitated trafficking** were raised by partners such as in Nepal and the Dominican Republic, highlighting the need to account for the dual role of technology—both as a driver of risk and a vehicle for awareness, prevention, and reporting—and to strengthen assumptions related to digital access and literacy.
- Nepal additionally proposed reinforcing the ToC's focus on **cross-border coordination**, particularly to support more effective rescue and repatriation processes with Indian authorities.
- In Indonesia, lessons learned emphasised the need to distinguish between **policy development and implementation**, and to engage private sector actors through a **mix of mandatory and voluntary measures**. In the Dominican Republic, reflections pointed to the importance of **intersectoral partnerships** and the use of digital tools to monitor protection processes and ensure sustainability. In Brazil, partners pointed to the structural constraints—such as **delayed government responses and under-resourced protection systems**—that can hinder programme impact. Recognising these external institutional barriers as part of the ToC's enabling environment will strengthen its practical relevance.
- Partners in the Philippines recommended further refining the ToC's **terminology, measuring progress** as well as **standardising stakeholder classifications**, especially in settings with hybrid or government-affiliated CSOs. These refinements would ensure shared understanding and application across diverse country contexts.

Annex IV. Revision of the 10 SUFASEC assumptions

1. When children experience a supportive and stable home environment, they are less vulnerable to drivers of sexual exploitation.

Validated: Throughout implementation, interventions such as **positive parenting, caregiver counselling, and livelihood support** proved essential in reducing vulnerability and strengthening protective factors at household level. These approaches contributed to safer reintegration of survivors and more nurturing environments overall. However, partners noted that the impact of these strategies emerged gradually, often requiring at least a year. In some cases, family members were identified as perpetrators of abuse, reinforcing the urgency of investing in **long-term family transformation** as part of the protective ecosystem.

2. Children and youth will be more effective agents of change when their participation is meaningful—e.g., when their contributions are both listened to and acted upon.

Strongly validated: Across regions, children and youth demonstrated stronger agency and leadership when involved in **peer education, child-led research, co-creation of materials, and advocacy**. Meaningful engagement enhanced their confidence and fostered empathy towards at-risk peers. Youth were observed not only as messengers, but as actors of protection and social change within their families, schools, and communities—building legitimacy and sustainability for youth-led protection initiatives.

3. Engaged communities can and will challenge social and gender norms that allow the persistence and permissiveness of SEC.

Validated, with contextual variation: Programme experience confirmed that engaged communities—particularly those that included parents, teachers, and community leaders—played a critical role in shifting norms around SEC. In several contexts, communities moved from stigmatising survivors to recognising them as rights holders. Local actors began to proactively report cases and develop protection mechanisms. However, the degree of engagement of religious and traditional leaders remained uneven, requiring context-specific strategies to leverage their influence in norm transformation.

4. By supporting and empowering children, communities, and networks of key populations, they can effectively advocate for destigmatisation, decriminalisation, and improved service delivery.

Still valid: Programme partners observed that victims and at-risk youth often referred peers to services and engaged in advocacy to reduce stigma and expand access. This horizontal diffusion of knowledge enhanced awareness and service uptake. However, disparities persisted—particularly for children from **Indigenous communities, rural areas or ethnic and linguistic minorities**—who faced multiple barriers to access. Adaptations such as multilingual materials, protection planning within local governance, and decentralised service delivery were identified as strategic responses to these gaps.

5. Children in stable economic environments are less vulnerable to SEC.

Partially valid: Economic stability was a protective factor in many settings, particularly in relation to offline forms of SEC. However, it was not a reliable predictor of risk for **online sexual exploitation (OCSE)**. Children with digital access and privacy were vulnerable regardless of income level. Partners also questioned how “economic stability” was conceptualised and whether current interventions sufficiently addressed its structural dimensions. In some contexts, while governments ensured digital connectivity, basic services such as clean water remained inaccessible—highlighting the need for a more holistic approach.

Suggested refinement: *“Children and youth in stable economic environments are generally less vulnerable to SEC. However, economic status is less predictive of vulnerability to OCSE.”*

6. Children will use information and services that are available, child-friendly, and of good quality.

Validated: Children actively accessed services where they were perceived as **safe, trustworthy, and culturally appropriate**. The presence of community-based referral mechanisms and trauma-informed approaches enhanced uptake. Nevertheless, specific population groups—such as children from migrant backgrounds or minority communities—continued to face access challenges due to xenophobic stereotypes or systemic exclusion. For example, in the Dominican Republic, myths surrounding Haitian children limited service trust and visibility. This underscored the need for intentional design to ensure inclusivity in both service delivery and community mobilisation.

7. When children have knowledge of their rights related to SRHR, they will use this knowledge to access services, feel comfortable in the development of their own sexuality, and to advocate for themselves and others.

Still valid: SRHR education consistently contributed to increased confidence, self-advocacy, and health-seeking behaviour among children and youth. In several programme areas, informed youth initiated discussions on sexuality, demanded access to health services, and led campaigns on issues such as early pregnancy prevention. These outcomes affirmed the importance of early and continuous access to comprehensive SRHR information within safe, supportive environments.

8. When engaged actors recognise their respective roles and coordinate, child-friendly SEC-related service delivery will improve in quality and availability.

Valid, with refinement: Coordination was most effective when paired with clear role definitions and capacity development. Partners emphasised that actors must also be trained in **trauma-informed, gender-sensitive, and child-centred approaches**. In practice, gaps in service quality often stemmed from limited frontline capacity, even where systems were in place. Examples from Bolivia and Guatemala showed that cross-sector collaboration—particularly with justice, education, and CP institutions—strengthened outcomes when built on a foundation of skills and shared accountability.

Suggested addition: *“Ensure that coordination was not only functional but also responsive to the specific needs of vulnerable children.”*

9. When private sector actors are more aware of their role in SEC prevention and are held accountable, they are willing to engage in dialogue and action.

Partially valid – refinement needed: Awareness-raising among financial institutions, technology platforms, and the tourism sector did lead to greater dialogue in several countries. However, meaningful action was limited in the absence of regulatory or contractual obligations. Voluntary engagement proved insufficient to sustain commitment. Latin American partners highlighted that legal frameworks were often the tipping point for private sector accountability. Moreover, underutilised actors—such as tourism chambers, hotel associations, and cross-sectoral guilds—were identified as strategic targets for broader, systemic impact.

Suggested reformulations: *“When private sector actors are aware of and held legally accountable for their role in preventing the sexual exploitation of children, and when they are appropriately supported they are more likely to implement meaningful prevention and response measures.”*

10. When duty bearers and decision-makers are held accountable and are aware of the severity and scope of SEC, they are willing to develop and implement relevant laws and policies with public support.

Still valid, though implementation remained the weakest link: While relevant policies and legal frameworks existed in many countries, enforcement remained inconsistent. Partners underscored the importance of **public accountability, constructive pressure, and ongoing engagement** to ensure that duty bearers moved from commitment to action. In contexts where civil society was strong and visible, implementation improved. Youth-led advocacy and survivor engagement also increased responsiveness. A refined formulation was proposed to reflect the importance of institutional accompaniment and deliberate accountability.

Suggested refinement: *“When duty bearers and decision-makers are aware of the severity and scope SEC and are supported and constructively encouraged (with public support and a commitment to transparent accountability), they take legal responsibility for it and are more likely to take action and implement policies effectively.”*

Revised SUFASEC assumptions

Objective 1	<p>1. When children experience a supportive and stable home environment, they are less vulnerable to drivers of sexual exploitation.</p> <p>2. Children and youth will be more effective agents of change when their participation is meaningful—e.g., when their contributions are both listened to and acted upon.</p> <p>3. Engaged communities enhanced by context-specific strategies can and will challenge social and gender norms that allow the persistence and permissiveness of SEC.</p> <p>4. By supporting and empowering children, communities, and networks of key populations using context-specific strategies, they can effectively advocate for de-stigmatisation, decriminalisation, and improved service delivery.</p>
Objective 2	<p>5. Children and youth in stable economic environments are generally less vulnerable to SEC, while the economic status is less predictive of vulnerability to OCSE.</p> <p>6. Children will use information and services that are available, child-friendly, safe, culturally appropriate and of good quality.</p> <p>7. When children have knowledge of their rights related to SRHR, they will use this knowledge to access services, feel comfortable in the development of their own sexuality, and to advocate for themselves and others.</p> <p>8. When engaged and sensitised actors recognise their respective roles and coordinate in ways responsive to the specific needs of vulnerable children, child-friendly SEC-related service delivery will improve in quality and availability.”</p>
Objective 3	<p>9. When private sector actors are aware of and held legally accountable for their role in preventing the sexual exploitation of children, and when they are appropriately supported they are more likely to implement meaningful prevention and response measures.</p> <p>10. When duty bearers and decision-makers recognise the gravity of SEC and are supported and constructively encouraged (with public support and a commitment to transparent accountability), they take legal responsibility for it and are more likely to take action and implement policies effectively.</p>
Key Strategy	<p>“When duty bearers and decision-makers are aware of the severity and scope of SEC and are supported and constructively encouraged (with public support and a commitment to transparent accountability), they are willing to take legal responsibility for it and are more likely to take action and implement policies effectively.”</p>

Annex V. Alliance Learning Question

Alliance Learning Question: ‘Which child-centred strategies have the greatest contribution to the engagement of children in SEC related social norm change in their communities?’

Peer education as catalysts for norm change emerged as a consistently impactful strategy across all countries. Youth-led creative labs and video content in Indonesia were proved to be more effective than CSO-led sessions, while Indian peer educators facilitated learning across five states, favouring face-to-face engagement to reduce online risks. Similarly, Nepal’s **Red Ant Movement** and structured Child Youth Groups demonstrated strong **peer mentorship**, linking activism with survivor support and referral. Youth leadership in Colombia was sustained through a training trajectory spanning several years and established **groups**, combining peer education with participation in public policy spaces. Meanwhile, in **the Philippines**, peer learning was complemented by **co-creation** of **IEC materials** including the development of key messages on SRHR and SEC Prevention, ensuring high relevance and authenticity.

Youth-led advocacy and community campaigning contributed to visibility and policy influence. Trained youth such as in Brazil and the Dominican Republic formed committees engaging with protection systems and local policy processes and launched youth-designed campaigns (e.g. on child-friendly police stations in Bangladesh) using community radio and social media—resulting in strong public messaging and self-affirmation. **Community-based art initiatives** led by children and adolescents such as in Bolivia and the Philippines were proven to be transformative. By collaborating with parents, teachers, and local officials, these initiatives used creative expression to raise awareness on SEC, SRHR, and gender norms, fostering collective reflection and behavioural change.

Efforts to **shift norms within adult-centric environments** were central in multiple contexts. Partners such as in the Philippines and Dominican Republic prioritised **intergenerational dialogue** and community outreach. **Face-to-face home visits** of children and youth raising awareness on SEC within their own communities advanced their direct engagement with parents and caregivers in their communities, resulting in greater openness to listening to youth voices, dismantling adult-centric norms. They enabled adolescents to exercise their right to express themselves on issues that affect them and challenged resistances through direct intergenerational dialogue.

Lao **Girls’ Clubs** and peer mentorship systems combined with parental sensitisation and community leaders collaboration secured their buy-in and support, while **Guatemala and Nepal** engaged local governments and schools to legitimise youth action and secure physical space. Partners in Guatemala and Bangladesh linked youth-led initiatives to **municipal action plans and reintegration strategies**, providing structural support for sustainability. Thai **youth councils** collaborated with **national hotlines** and **peer networks**, embedding young people’s voices directly into **CP systems**.

Common **challenges** included balancing education, work, and activism and **youth turnover**, as well as **safeguarding online bullying and social backlash**. Next to credibility barriers within adult-dominated spaces, political sensitivity and resistance when perpetrators held local power in contexts such as Bangladesh. Mitigation measures ranged from **second-line youth leadership training, structured mentorship systems, and pre-activity safeguarding orientations**, to **anonymous reporting mechanisms and adaptive scheduling**. Where community / online backlash was a concern, partners pivoted to community sensitisation and **offline, safer engagements**.

Across the Alliance, **peer-to-peer education** consistently emerged as a powerful strategy for shifting harmful social norms, fostering trust, relatability, and youth leadership, next to **youth-led advocacy and campaigns** demonstrating strong impact at the community level, particularly when grounded in local realities and directly linked to protection mechanisms. Beyond, **co-creation of key messages, materials, and dialogue spaces** ensured greater ownership and cultural relevance, strengthening both youth and adult engagement and **face-to-face interaction** often proved not only safer but more effective than online outreach, especially in areas with limited digital access or heightened online risks.

All the above described child-centred strategies will continue during the last year of implementation of the Programme and their effectiveness and contribution in changing social norms in the communities will be in depth evaluated during the End-Term Evaluation of the programme.

Annex VI. Country Learnings

COUNTRY	LEARNINGS
Bangladesh	<p>The SUFASEC team's learning approach improved documentation of both successes and challenges. Learning activities included regular field visits to partners and communities for real-time feedback to capture learnings, identify gaps, gather best practices and quarterly success stories and best practices shared in varied formats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-stakeholder collaboration (government, NGOs, private sector, communities) significantly improved CP systems, including SEC/OCSE prevention and response. The establishment of youth and change agent groups, alongside Community-Based Child Protection Committees (CBCPCs), strengthened community-level mechanisms to prevent and respond to SEC. Meaningful child and youth participation was seen as a catalyst for impact. Children contributed to planning, implementation, case monitoring, and co-development of learning and awareness materials. When government actors collaborated effectively, the quality and availability of SEC and SRHR services improved substantially. Building children's and youth's agency, particularly in crisis response, helped strengthen their ability to report and act on SEC/SRHR issues Increased awareness among duty bearers and decision-makers on the scope and urgency of SEC issues led to stronger policy implementation, especially when coupled with public support and accountability mechanisms.
Bolivia	<p>How can the SRHR approach be effectively integrated into CP programming with public officials?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased understanding of SRHR among public officials and community actors was achieved through interactive training, but prevalent gender stereotypes and the naturalisation of gender-based violence continue to hinder progress There is a critical need to contextualise content and tailor it to the audience's cultural, educational, and professional background, especially when addressing sensitive topics like sexual rights and gender roles. The absence of early-age interventions contributes to the reinforcement of harmful norms; this underlines the value of starting awareness work with families and children from early stages. Participatory methods generated stronger commitment and dialogue, indicating that ownership increases when communities are part of the learning process. Adjustments made in Year 2—such as introducing a masculinities component and directly involving male figures and local leaders—helped address gaps in male engagement and shifted workshop dynamics to be more inclusive.
Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A participatory, feedback-driven process (through workshops, meetings, and community listening sessions) enabled the refinement of interventions based on real-time insights. An OH regional event, with participation from community members and protection stakeholders, served as a platform for external validation, deepening trust and collective ownership.
Colombia	<p>What strategies can effectively engage more male figures in CP sensitisation? How can leadership training be made sustainable for migrant and refugee populations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male engagement faces initial resistance, rooted in patriarchal norms that limit men's perceived roles in caregiving and protection. However, sensitisation efforts sparked genuine interest when men were shown the relevance of their involvement to their children's wellbeing. Co-responsibility messaging—framing men as essential actors in CP—was key to overcoming stereotypes and initiating participation. With migrant and refugee communities, instability and transience pose challenges for leadership sustainability. However, leadership training that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge transfer structures Defined action plans relay mechanisms between migrant and host communities has enabled continuity of leadership, even amid population turnover. Migrants who participated in leadership training developed a greater sense of local belonging and were empowered to mobilise and engage others, enhancing sustainability and integration.

COUNTRY	LEARNINGS
Dominican Republic	<p>Embedding evaluation mechanisms and ensuring community leader participation proved critical to enhancing intersectoral coordination and CP response. Programme adaptations were made in response to learning, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Redesigning training sessions to include case-based learning ○ Reinforcing group reflection to improve adaptability ○ Rolling out improved monitoring and evaluation tools to support evidence-based decision-making
Guatemala	<p>What are the needs and realities of people on the migratory route at points of entry into Guatemala? How can youth participation contribute to protective environments?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Research at two border crossings (with Honduras) is shedding light on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service gaps for migrants in transit or seeking asylum. • Unmet protection needs, including lack of SRHR and CP mechanisms. • The diverse nationalities and legal statuses of migrant children and families moving toward Mexico or the U.S. ○ Youth participation was found to be a powerful driver of protection and community accountability when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people are engaged through creative, structured processes (e.g. creative labs, advocacy planning). • Their contributions are amplified through digital campaigns and institutional engagement. ○ Youth-led advocacy through Youth Voices for Change demonstrated that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structured engagement platforms enable ongoing coordination, ownership, and action. • When given tools and space, young people influence both peers and adult stakeholders, building protective environments from the ground up.
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Experience confirmed that youth have the capacity to drive policy change, provided they are adequately trained, mentored, and given structured spaces for engagement. Their energy and authenticity were critical assets in influencing local and state-level actors. ○ The Outcome Harvesting methodology allowed partners to systematically validate and reflect on changes observed at community level, resulting in better documentation of good practices and adaptive planning. ○ Through the Kathmandu Boys Initiative, partners learned that boys also face sexual abuse but tend not to speak about it due to stigma. This highlighted both the importance of targeted programming for boys and the need for night shelters in red-light districts where they are particularly vulnerable. ○ Climate change is indirectly driving unsafe migration, as families relocate due to environmental stressors, increasing children's exposure to trafficking and exploitation risks. ○ Empowerment of survivor groups has triggered robust community mobilisation, but in border areas, stringent local rules and political interference can hinder advocacy work and reduce the pace of implementation. ○ Peer-to-peer learning, particularly through the mobilisation of 120 trained youth ambassadors, proved to be one of the most impactful strategies. These youth led awareness sessions on online safety, digital risks, and child rights, reaching over 12,000 children. The approach encouraged openness, led to deeper learning, and created a ripple effect as children further disseminated knowledge in their communities.
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The use of peer-to-peer strategies has been a cornerstone in shifting social norms around SEC. Youth leaders, seen as trusted insiders, were able to engage children and adolescents in more meaningful ways, and provided referral support to those at risk ○ Establishing safe spaces where children felt protected and respected empowered them to express concerns, especially around bodily autonomy, and encouraged victims to come forward. ○ Programme efforts focused on making reporting systems safer and more accessible. Promotion of helpline use, strengthening of referral materials and mechanisms, and greater collaboration with schools and the local government contributed to building a more responsive protection ecosystem. ○ The development and dissemination of a Red Flag Guideline, along with routine coordination meetings with the PPTK (Integrated Service Centres), bolstered the programme's lobbying and advocacy efforts, particularly around local enforcement of protective policies.
Lao PDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partners adopted a more structured approach to monitoring learning by integrating pre- and post-tests and conducting interviews during all child and youth training sessions. This enabled them to better capture behavioural and knowledge shifts and track the impact of specific activities. ○ A complementary system of follow-up questions, tailored to key learning themes, was implemented to collect qualitative feedback from stakeholders and community members. These insights are being used to identify best practices and further refine implementation strategies.

COUNTRY	LEARNINGS
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer education remained a strong entry point for engagement. For example, the Red Ant peer educators trained over 100 youth who subsequently facilitated sessions in their own communities. Child-centred, school-based programmes were found to be the most effective channel for reaching children with information on OCSE and human trafficking. Regular counselling sessions and parent engagement activities promoted more positive parenting practices. The Outcome Harvesting Festival surfaced persistent harmful social norms, especially in rural areas, that continue to fuel child trafficking. This reinforced the importance of stakeholder mobilisation to adopt SOPs for cross-border rescue and repatriation. Coordination with Indian authorities remains limited despite sustained efforts. A comprehensive aftercare model for SEC survivors was implemented, covering nutritional support, recreational activities, life skills, education, vocational training, and legal assistance. This holistic approach also included family reintegration plans and exposure visits to foster recovery and empowerment. Intergenerational dialogue between parents and children was identified as critical to shifting harmful norms and promoting long-term protection outcomes.
Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A detailed, multi-partner learning agenda was developed for Years 2 and 3, with each organisation focusing on specific, context-relevant learning questions. These were systematically integrated into regular programming and Outcome Harvesting workshops, which also included direct feedback from children. Peer-led sessions consistently outperformed adult-led ones in terms of building trust, encouraging disclosure, and creating a safe learning environment. These sessions enhanced children's participation at city level, enabled youth to debunk harmful myths around SRHR, and promoted referrals to appropriate services. Youth shared personal stories, especially around HIV-related stigma, which helped normalise conversations and increase health-seeking behaviour. The creation of YOUNG Hands, a child-led group officially recognised by the City Council for the Protection of Children, institutionalised youth representation in local governance. Parenting workshops helped bridge communication gaps between parents and children, strengthened families' understanding of their CP roles, and boosted reporting rates. Positive discipline training was especially effective when conducted as a series, with take-home exercises. However, the limited involvement of fathers, often due to work, highlighted the need for inclusive strategies. Youth reported that social norms remain a major barrier to SRHR access. They emphasised the importance of realistic, age-appropriate materials and favoured a phased approach that first builds trust before introducing more sensitive SRHR topics. Parental involvement in these sessions was also deemed highly beneficial. Creative strategies in schools—such as anonymous drop boxes, and positive messages on mirrors—proved effective in engaging children, promoting self-expression, and reinforcing self-esteem.
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Outcome Harvesting training delivered in Year 2 significantly enhanced the capacity of partners to identify, document, and interpret meaningful changes. These insights were actively used to adjust programme planning and increase responsiveness to emerging realities. Information received via the national hotline and other consultation platforms proved essential for aligning programme content with children's actual needs and concerns, directly influencing message design and strategic focus. Engagement with frontline government staff improved their awareness and ownership of CP responsibilities. This has fostered a more trust-based environment that promotes positive behavioural change in communities. However, the unpredictability of vulnerable children's behaviours, due to external pressures, underscores the need for long-term, stable interventions. One persistent challenge remains the frequent rotation of local government staff, which disrupts the continuity of CP efforts. The level of engagement and commitment is highly dependent on the attitude of individual agency leaders, making institutionalisation of practices difficult. The organisation of SID was a strategic milestone, showcasing how multi-actor collaboration and shared resource mobilisation can deliver wide-reaching public awareness. Building on this momentum, ThaiHotline has initiated the development of a multi-stakeholder network to jointly promote a safer digital ecosystem for children and youth.