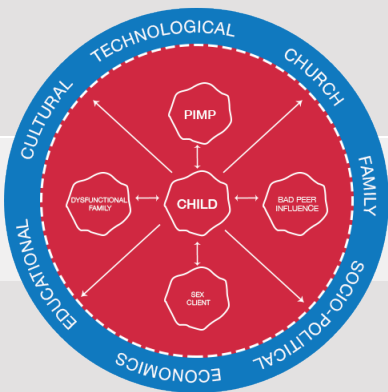


This study was conducted by the Psychosocial Support and Children's Rights Resource Center; field data were gathered in November 2015, and the final report was submitted to Plan International Philippines on April 25, 2016.



A CSEC Framework Based on the Research

## NATURE OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE SEX TRADE

**The internet, accessed through smartphones and computers, facilitate and blur the geographic boundaries of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).**

(1) Transactions happen online, not only in pornography websites, but also in social media, dating, and e-commerce platforms such as Facebook, Grindr and Craigslist. (2) With technology, transaction can now happen face-to-face or online, and children involved in the sex trade are either freelance or have a pimp.

**Children exposed to commercial sexual exploitation can be involved in roles other than being a paid service provider, or PSP.** They can act as an attacker, group administrator, or pimp.

(1) An attacker looks for potential customers for other PSPs but they do not expect any form of remuneration in exchange. (2) A group administrator manages the closed social media group account of PSPs for online transactions.

**There is an evolving language being used in the commercial sex industry.** The use of generally common phrases appears to lessen the stigma involved in the industry and allows for commercial sexual exploitation of children to be more mainstream.

(1) Taking a walk, having a *raket*, providing service, getting a pop, or having coffee are all phrases used in lieu of saying having sex for pay. (2) "Booking" is used to mean getting a customer (3) "Having an aura" refers to work in a beer house or bar (4) "Take-out" or "contact-contact" means being taken out of the bar for sex

**Children involved in the internet-mediated sex industry are older.** More often, they are freelancers and generally charge higher fees compared to their non-internet-mediated counterparts.

**There are self-protection and mutual protection strategies among children and adolescents, as well as, between the pimps and the children within the sex industry.**

(1) Access needs to be granted by the group administrator in order for a potential client to enter a closed Facebook group (2) A pimp traces the identity of a potential client before mediating a transaction.

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## ENTRY INTO AND EXIT FROM CSEC

**Poverty is still the main reason for children's entry into the sex industry. However, there are other reasons not related to meeting basic needs, which include being able to afford certain luxuries and satisfying curiosity.**

(1) Some children said they were forced into commercial sexual exploitation. (2) Other children said they decided on their own to enter the commercial sexual industry.



**Initiation into the commercial sex industry is largely influenced by the children's peers and their desire to support the needs of their family.**

**Economic and educational opportunities would facilitate the exit of children from the commercial sex industry.**

(1) Children voluntarily exit from the sex industry when they have health-related concerns or when they are no longer in dire financial need. (2) Majority of the respondents also want to go back to school. (3) Some of them have alternative sources of income which have nothing to do with commercial sex engagement.

## ISSUES AND CONCERNS



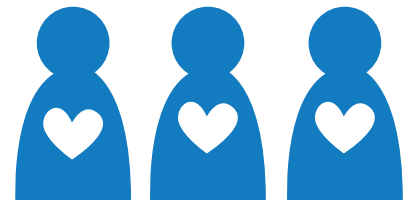
**Common issues and concerns related to being involved in the sex industry are abuse and exploitation in different forms, as well as, health-related concerns including pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and mental health.**

## PROTECTION MECHANISMS

National legislation, policies, local mechanisms, and structures to address the problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children are in place.

However, **budgetary constraints, lack of awareness regarding the mechanisms and structures that exist, and the lack of political will hamper the effective implementation of programs and activities to address the problem.**

**Civil society organizations play a major role** in policy advocacy, training and capacity building, public advocacy, as well as research.



**The best way to curb the problem is still prevention.**

(1) At the national level, regulation of information and communication technology must be enforced. (2) Mechanisms for regulating access to certain websites and social media should be known to the public. (3) There is a need for wider information campaigns that will increase the technological proficiency, including the responsible use of technology, among parents, teachers, and service providers.

**At the core of child protection is the efficient and effective interplay of fundamental social systems.**