

Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC)



Key Facts

- At any given time, there are an estimated 750,000 predators online.¹ (FBI)
- The Philippines receives thousands of reports of online child exploitation every month. (Philippine Department of Justice)
- Demands for child sexual exploitation materials have increased around the world during COVID-19, with a threefold increase in some countries.² (Europol)

The Challenge

Millions of children are victims of online sexual exploitation. This exploitation is a form of sex trafficking — it is the live-streaming of sexual exploitation of children over the internet. Customers anywhere in the world search online and wire a secure payment to an adult who sets up the show. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, online sexual exploitation is increasing³, with traffickers cashing in on a surge in demand for child abuse material and exploiting young children and teens who are out of school and vulnerable to abuse at home.

The Opportunity

The good news is that it is possible to combat these crimes successfully. There are proven models that effectively deter trafficking and slavery by rescuing victims, bringing perpetrators to justice, restoring survivors, and reducing the prevalence of violence.

With the support of a Child Protection Compact (CPC) between the U.S. and the Philippines⁴, IJM has provided technical expertise and training to Filipino authorities, whose resulting investigative operations identified and referred approximately 150 victims to protection services. Over the last 3 years, 440 local and national practitioners received training on specialized care for OSEC survivors and facilitated the reintegration of at least 90 survivors.⁵

What the U.S. Government is doing:

IJM requests that **\$10M** be designated for the Child Protection Compacts (CPCs) in the FY22 Congressional appropriations bill. These compacts are bilateral agreements between the United States and individual governments to develop and execute successful models of eradicating child trafficking. The CPCs have enabled multi-year agreements to combat child slavery with the governments of Ghana, the Philippines, Peru, Jamaica, and Mongolia.⁶

¹ https://www.fbi.gov/video-repository/newss-henry_051611/view

² <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/catching-virus>

³ <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2020/INTERPOL-report-highlights-impact-of-COVID-19-on-child-sexual-abuse>

⁴ https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/cpc_philippines.pdf

⁵ <https://www.state.gov/child-protection-compact-partnerships-4/>

⁶ <https://www.state.gov/child-protection-compact-partnerships/>