

Final Report 2020

DOWN TO ZERO ALLIANCE

terre des hommes 
stops child exploitation



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

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AIPA	ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BCA	Bank Central Asia
CBCP	Community Based Child Protection
CBCPM	Community Based Child Protection Mechanism
CIVICUS	Global alliance of civil society organizations
CONANDA	National Council on Children and Youth Rights (Brazil)
CONANI	National Council on Children and Youth Rights (Dominican Republic)
CRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSAM	Child Sexual Abuse Material
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CPC	community protection committees
DoT	Department of Tourism
DTAC	Mobile phone company, Thailand
DtZ	Down to Zero
ECA	Child and Youth Statute
EIYCYAC	ECPAT International Children and Youth Advocacy Committee
FCRA	Foreign Contribution Regulation Act
GARA	Regional action group of Latin America
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIPI	Indonesian Tourism Board
GSTC	Global Sustainable Tourism Council
IAS	Indian Administrative Service
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
INTRAC	Indonesia Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis
ISP	Internet Service provider
ITB	International Tourism Economy Berlin
L&A	Lobby & Advocacy
LCR	Local Code Representatives
LEA	Law Enforcement Agencies
LGBTQI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex
LGU	Local Government Unit
LINE	Mobile phone network, Indonesia
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWECP	Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection
MTR	Mid-term Review
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OSEC	Online Sexual Exploitation of Children
PME	Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
POCSO	Protection of Children from Sexual Offences
RUU-PKS	Anti-Sexual Violence Bill
SAIEVAC	South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children
SEC	Sexual Exploitation of Children
SECTT	Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
TIP	Trafficking in Persons

ToC
TYPE
UNICEF
UNWTO
WHO
WTTC

Theory of Change
Tubigon Youth Peer Educators
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations World Tourism Organization
World Health Organisation
World Travel and Tourism Council



Summary

This is the final report of the Down to Zero Alliance programme 2016-2020. The Down to Zero (DtZ) Alliance is a partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), led by Terre des Hommes, with Defence for Children-ECPAT, Free a Girl, ICCO (part of Cordaid) and Plan International Netherlands. The programme aims to end Sexual Exploitation of Children (SEC) in 10 countries, by working with the following four interrelated actors: children, communities, government and the private sector. This report focuses mainly on the final year, yet it also contains some reflection on the entire 5 year programme period.

The first chapter describes the global context in 2020 that has affected sexual exploitation of children in Asia and Latin America. The most crucial factor in the worldwide developments is the Covid-19 pandemic, which has increased vulnerabilities of children and families with a higher risk of sexual exploitation. Because this had a tremendous impact on the way of working of the Down to Zero Alliance, the effects on our work are also described. During the five years of the implementation of the Down to Zero programme, there were some recurring trends in contextual changes that had an increased impact on the programme; many countries saw both a continuous increase in the mobility of people (in terms of travel, tourism and migration) and a shrinking space for civil society since 2016. In contrast, there seems to be increasing recognition of the fact that boys are also affected by sexual exploitation, although there is still more work to be done.

In Chapter 2 the main achievements and results of the Down to Zero programme are described, with reference to the DtZ End Evaluation report as well. The section for each country explains the country-specific context and effects of Covid-19, as well as results per actor. In addition, a reflection on the 5 year programme is given. **In the children's pathway**, all countries had very good and sustainable results. Children and youth initiate actions themselves and are well-organised in networks, talk about their rights with peers but also with communities and authorities. They seem to have more and more impact on the dialogues with authorities and are more empowered. **In the community pathway**, DtZ achieved good results in most of the countries. Community members are more organised in CBCPMs and take ownership by themselves to protect the children in their community, to increase reporting of SEC cases and improve protection mechanisms. **In the government pathway**, in many countries there is good cooperation with (local) authorities, monitoring and referral mechanisms slowly improve despite all the challenges. Despite the weakening of protection systems in some contexts, DtZ partners were able to create possibilities for continued engagement and support by leveraging solid relationships, also in coordination with youth and child protection committees. DtZ has built many effective relationships **with private sector actors**, with a tailored approach by sector, organisation and environment. In most countries, the partners focussed on the travel and tourism sector, but effective collaboration with ICT businesses, companies working in mining, and informal private sector actors also led to achievements in this pathway of change.

Chapter 3 describes the partnership within the Alliance, as well as with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Down to Zero Alliance has grown over the last 5 years to a valuable partnership with 5 (inter-)national NGOs that are experienced in SEC response and prevention. The DtZ End Evaluation acknowledged that the collaboration between the implementing partners has increased, with joint strategies and clear steering structures. PME tools have contributed to the effectiveness of the implementation; the Alliance members in the Netherlands have closely monitored the programme activities, and have contributed through collaborative and learning initiatives. The partnership with the Ministry is of value for the Alliance, where relationships with embassies and liaison officers are built during the DtZ programme to be able to respond and refer SEC cases if necessary. The contribution of the programme to the Ministry's SRHR framework is described as well. In 2020, the DtZ Alliance **regularly communicated** about DtZ's work through its own (social) media. An overview of activities is given in **chapter 4 and annex 3**.

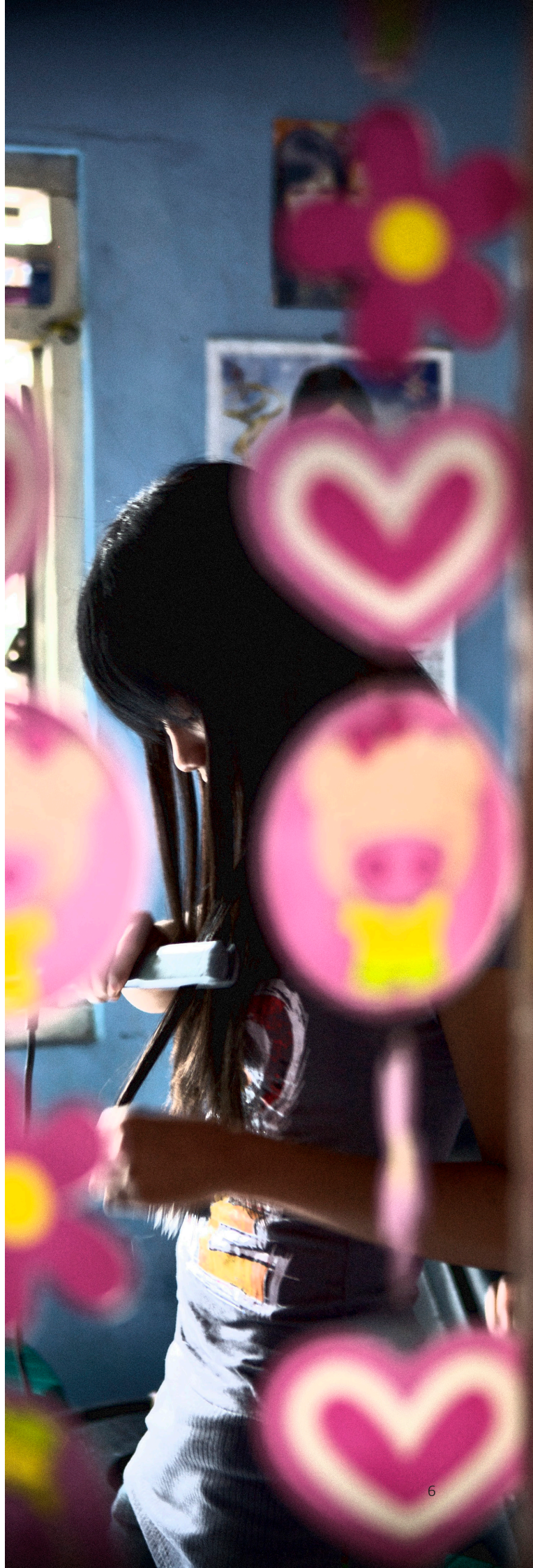
The Down to Zero Alliance has worked on the learning agenda since 2016, about which more info can be found in chapter 5. There were two central questions that the Alliance has focused on, concerning the private sector and child empowerment. In all countries there also have been local learning activities. The Alliance and its partners were able to provide new insights and share knowledge within the sector of child protection. The implementing partners expressed a high appreciation for the moments of sharing and connection and

the learning initiatives, while expectations of learning processes also increased significantly.

DtZ interventions contributed to addressing the **gender norms** that are relevant among different actors (children and youth, families, communities, leaders, duty bearers). Social exclusion and inequality are being addressed in awareness and advocacy actions at different levels. DtZ partners also worked with boys and supported boys and men to promote gender equality, positive masculinities and address their gender-specific vulnerabilities. Stereotypes and imbalances that cause sexual exploitation or vulnerabilities for children are discussed as well as power issues and protection.

Chapter 6 describes the sustainability of the programme. DtZ has contributed significantly to the lives and activities of the children and youth, caregivers, community leaders and civil society, government, professionals of the protection network and key actors in the private sector in all 10 countries where DtZ was implemented. Down to Zero was designed for sustainable impact with significant results to date, achieved through mobilisation, capacity building, and developing relationships with actors ranging from children to duty-bearers. This has led to established empowered youth (networks), an increase in protective family and school environments, more coordinated/strengthened child protection systems (CPS) and private sector stakeholders committed to the fight against sexual exploitation of children.

In the inception report in 2016, an extensive risk analysis has been made. **Chapter 7 reflects on the risks that were foreseen and to what extent they were materialised during the 5 year programme.** In most of the cases the mitigation measures were effective and limited harm to the programme or beneficiaries. In the right column this is explained, with a reference to the Annual Reports in which the issues were reported. Finally, **chapter 8 provides an overview of the finances of the programme**, with reference to the financial report in annex 2.



Chapter 1: Global context in 2020

This chapter introduces the annual report for 2019 by describing global trends and developments regarding commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in ten countries.

There were several key global trends and developments in 2019: migration affecting the vulnerability of children and young people, growing conservatism, and shrinking civil space. These global developments are risks for the programme and are mitigated through the programme implementation approach. A positive trend has been that private sector stakeholders increasingly recognize their responsibility to address CSEC, which is also taken into account in DtZ programming.

Migration:

Migration is increasing worldwide¹, both internally, where people migrate from the countryside to the cities, as

This first chapter describes the global context in 2020 that has affected sexual exploitation of children (SEC) in Asia and Latin America. The most crucial factor in the worldwide developments is the Covid-19 pandemic. Because this had a tremendous impact on the (way of working of the) Down to Zero (DtZ) Alliance, the effects on our work are also described. In addition, the Alliance reflects on the 5-year programme period (2016-2020) with main trends in contextual changes. In Chapter 2, the country specific context and effects on the Down to Zero programme are described.

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared Covid-19 as a pandemic.² The global health and economic crisis caused by the pandemic is having an immense impact on families and their children. Worldwide, in addition to Covid-19 infections and the measures taken (including lockdown measures and curfews) to prevent people becoming infected, people working in the informal sector have been hardest hit. South and South East Asia face a socio-economic crisis.² Latin America will experience an increase of 4.5% in extreme poverty compared to 2019; 15.5% of the population (96.2 million people) will be classified as extremely poor.³ The Down to Zero Alliance saw the impact of this pandemic early in 2020 in Asia and a few months later in Latin America with increased vulnerability of children, explained by the following underlying causes.

The shutdown of the travel and tourism industry has resulted in job losses and has increased household poverty. In the Asia-Pacific region over 100 million jobs have been lost and in Latin America over 10 million jobs are at risk.⁴ The shutdown has unfortunately not led to a decrease in children's vulnerability to SEC, rather the opposite. During the Covid-19 related travel restrictions, it is known that some offenders are grooming children online. They may travel to the same victims as soon as travel restrictions ease, or continue to sexually exploit them online.⁵

Due to lockdown measures and as schools have shut down periodically, children are spending more time online and may be anxious or lonely because of isolation and confinement. Tech companies have meanwhile reduced their use of human moderators and have temporarily shifted to automated content moderation. Platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube have warned that this may lead to more mistakes and longer response times to review potentially harmful content, giving offenders more opportunity to target children.⁶

¹ <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen>

² <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/2020-07/SG-Policy-brief-Covid-19-and-South-East-Asia-30-July-2020.pdf>

³ https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/45679/1/NotaTecnica1OIT-CEPAL_es.pdf (Spanish)

⁴ <https://wtcc.org/News-Article/More-than-197m-Travel-Tourism-jobs-will-be-lost-due-to-prolonged-travel-restrictions>

⁵ <https://www.interpol.int/News-and-Events/News/2020/INTERPOL-report-highlights-impact-of-COVID-19-on-child-sexual-abuse;>
[https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/09/covid-19-and-childrens-rights;](https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/09/covid-19-and-childrens-rights) <https://www.ecpat.org/news/world-tourism-day-2020/Threats-and-trends-Child-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-Covid-19-Impact>

⁶ [https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/09/covid-19-and-childrens-rights#_Toc37256532;](https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/09/covid-19-and-childrens-rights#_Toc37256532) <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/04/08/828827926/child-sex-abuse-livestreams-increase-during-coronavirus-lockdowns?t=1601642966096>

Loss of parental care due to death, illness or separation, is placing children at heightened risk of neglect, violence and exploitation. Increased parental responsibilities, social isolation and overcrowding exacerbate tensions at home. Increased unsupervised online time, increases the risk of grooming of children by sex offenders. In addition, increased household poverty is leading to desperate measures including SEC. UN experts also warn that the risks of trafficking have increased,⁷ the Alliance noted increased cross-border SEC trafficking from Nepal into India when the borders opened again, and across Peru-Colombia-Brazil and the Peru-Bolivia borders. Recent travel restrictions make repatriation of victims extremely difficult. A growing number of stateless, undocumented and migrant children are reported as especially vulnerable due to closure of services for example in Thailand and Bolivia.

Child protection services and vital support and health services are disrupted or access has reduced. South Asia has the highest proportion of countries reporting service disruptions and Latin America comes third.⁸ The protective shield around children is weakened, services face budget cuts and restricted mobility. Systemic gender inequalities and injustices are exacerbated by the pandemic.⁹ Girls are reported to have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19.¹⁰ For example, in settings where schools have been closed, girls miss out on the protective elements associated with formal education, notably connections with existing referral pathways and forms of support.¹¹ Also more child marriages are taking place, leading to more sexual violence. Unfortunately, there are no data on how the pandemic has affected boys and SEC, but partners are starting to gather impact evidence locally.¹²

While lockdown measures and the principles of social distancing have been accepted as necessary measures to contain the spread of the virus, a whole array of restrictions concerning basic freedoms have simultaneously been put in place. Numerous governments have strengthened their grip on civil society by e.g. introducing states of emergency¹³, unjustified censorship and crackdowns on human rights defenders.¹⁴ CSOs working on sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) face growing political and religious opposition by (transnational organised) actors using fake news, playing on people's emotions through co-opted media, and using an anti-gender ideology.¹⁵ Shrinking civic space contributes to an increase in SEC as SEC practices go relatively unnoticed by civil society and CSOs have less space to counter SEC such as through awareness raising, rescue or lobbying with governments.

1.1 THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE DOWN TO ZERO PROGRAMME

Since the start of the pandemic in 2020 and its concurrent lockdown- and restrictive measures, DtZ partners have adapted their strategies and ways of working to be able to continue to reach out to children and other stakeholders. The type of interventions are similar as before the pandemic (for example training, support services, awareness raising), but the ways of working are adapted to the new situation, in particular taking into account the restricted mobility of partners and target groups. The Alliance partners continued much of their work online, or when possible face to face in small groups or individually. Most children are well versed with online technologies so in many cases partners were able to maintain direct contact with the targeted children. In some locations it is more difficult to reach children and communities, for example with the indigenous Wayuu children in Colombia, and SEC has become more invisible in some locations for example where brothels are no longer operational. Hence, adapting ways of working required significant preparation and re-thinking: in 2020 the Alliance and its partners have had to undertake new risk assessments, set up secure online systems, re-think how to deliver engaging sessions with children in an online environment, etc.

⁷ see <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25774&LangID=E>

⁸ <https://www.unicef.org/media/74146/file/Protecting-children-from-violence-in-the-time-of-covid-19.pdf>, p.9.

⁹ <https://us.boell.org/en/2020/04/30/invisible-coronavirus-makes-systemic-gender-inequalities-and-injustices-visible>

¹⁰ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25749&LangID=E>

¹¹ Because we Matter; addressing Covid-19 and Violence Against Girls in Asia-Pacific; Plan International and Save the Children.

¹² ECPAT is carrying out the Global Initiative to Produce Evidence on the Sexual exploitation of Boys, results expected in 2021 https://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Child%20Marriage_ENG.pdf

¹³ https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn%3Aaad%3Acds%3AUS%3Aa8a49de1-c5fd-40f6-b1c0-172e27060fc1&x_api_client_id=shared_recipient&x_api_client_location=view#pageNum=3

¹⁴ <https://monitor.civicus.org/COVID19/>

¹⁵ <https://ecdpm.org/wp-content/uploads/Claiming-Back-Civic-Space-Towards-Approaches-Fit-2020s-Report-May-2020-ECDPM.pdf>,

Home visits have still been conducted when the situation allowed, so also children who did not have access to the internet stayed in contact with social workers. Implementing partners maintained contact with families and communities who are active in child protection systems. When schools were closed, there were consolidated networks between teachers, children and parents, mostly part of community protection committees, which continue to function. Many training and advocacy actions have been carried out virtually and implementing partners and service providers e.g. child helplines were encouraged to conduct their services online. It did have an impact because offline training and services are more effective than online, but due to the situation it was a good alternative to continue activities and contact online. Direct support to communities was used as a strategy to keep in touch with community members and to continue dialogues on the importance of SEC prevention and child protection, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. Because partners have a presence in the areas where they work, they could continue their work with limited local travelling, some partners even had circulation permits in cases of lockdown- and/or quarantine measures.

On the one hand, working with governments has been very challenging, but on the other hand new opportunities have arisen. Government officials had other priorities during the pandemic, and they often had to work from home where they may have limited access to the internet. The Alliance made all necessary efforts to continue consultations, meetings and coordination activities, as well as lobby and advocacy to put/maintain SEC prevention and child protection and the importance of well functioning child protection systems on the agenda. When face-to-face meetings were not possible, partners had online meetings with government officials. The online environment has changed our partners' way of working and sometimes has made it easier and even more effective.

For example, some partners indicated that it is now easier to reach a larger number of government officials at the same time. In India, the collaboration has intensified and response on SEC cases is sometimes even quicker as our partners now liaise with LEA and community members via WhatsApp groups. In addition, some partners focus on local authorities instead of national authorities, and train CSOs to be prepared and follow-up with authorities as soon as measures loosen up again. Training within the private sector (e.g. in the travel and tourism) depended on the specific Covid-19 situation in countries and the measures taken and also how the private sector assessed the situation.

International coordination and lobby activities mostly continued via online meetings or virtual platforms. Our experience is that online L&A has advantages and disadvantages. The Alliance organised webinars in 2020 on putting focus on child protection when reopening travel and tourism attracting over 100 attendees from different continents including government, civil society and private sector, hence highly inclusive. However, in other occasions we also observed shrinking space for civil society at supranational level (e.g. in online meetings with UN), where there were less speaker slots for CSOs, hence an emerging risk of side tracking civil society's voice.

1.2 REFLECTION: MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTEXTUAL CHANGES 2016-2020

During the five years of the implementation of the Down to Zero programme, there were some recurring contextual changes noticed with an increased impact on the programme each year. Firstly, the Alliance saw a continuous increase of mobility of people, in terms of travel, tourism and migration all around the world and specifically in Asia and Latin America. People are travelling more and more, both internationally as well as nationally within countries. Some travels are related to tourism, some to business movements or otherwise. When people are traveling, they feel more anonymous and this might place children in vulnerable positions in many places. This has led to new types of offenders and new destinations, often near communities suffering from poverty and social exclusion. However, this has changed in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic, but the expectation is that mobility around the world will go roughly back to its levels of before the pandemic when the pandemic comes to an end.

Another form of mobility is migration of people, either voluntary or forced. Increasing and forced or poorly-managed migration has intensified (the risk of) exploitation for children, such as in Thailand, India, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil (from Venezuela). Furthermore, migration can also generate xenophobic reactions in local populations towards the newly joined people.

Secondly, the space for **civil society** has decreased since 2016 in many countries, e.g. restricting freedom of the press, restricting the right to demonstration, and thwarting social organizations through legislation.

Growing conservatism and anti-rights social groups are underlying factors, as well as political destabilisation in countries like Brazil and Nicaragua. Besides shrinking civil space, it also resulted in increasing pressure on rights, specifically SRHR. More details can be found in the DtZ End Evaluation report (pages 53, 74-75, 87). Thirdly, sexual exploitation is more and more linked to **organised crime** and human trafficking. In many countries, there is a link between brothel owners, human traffickers and law enforcement. Corruption and protracted processes in judiciary systems either prolong or entirely inhibit the prosecution of perpetrators of SEC. Although the DtZ programme partners have long worked within the limitations that these practices create, their safety is becoming an increasing concern in recent years. Partners experienced threats from criminal gangs or perpetrators so safety measures have been put in place, for example extra police surveillance in red lights districts and close collaboration with law enforcement.

A positive development during the programme period is that **male victims** of SEC seem to be more on the radar and more recognized as victims, although there is still more work to be done with boys, families, communities and authorities, and more knowledge and data is required to gain a better understanding of the number of boys affected and how their gender affects their vulnerability and how it should inform preventive and responsive measures. DtZ has contributed to this by developing a toolkit for practitioners on how to improve their services to boys, please see Chapter 5 for more detail.

Another trend that brings hope for DTZ's work is that the **private sector** increasingly recognizes and acknowledges its role in child protection and prevention of SEC. Later in this report, the collaboration and contribution of DtZ to the sustainable change in the private sector is described in chapters 2 and 5.



Chapter 2: Achievements of the DtZ programme in 2020

This chapter describes the main results and achievements of the DtZ programme in 2020. The programme was implemented until the end of October, to be able to finalise reporting with our partners in time within 2020. Note that this chapter focuses mainly on the behavioural changes and outcomes that were reached with contributions of the Alliance, instead of describing the activities and outputs. In annex 1, an overview of the outputs of 2020 and 5 years DtZ can be found. At the end of the chapter, we reflect on the main achievements and some of the challenges of the Alliance during this 5 year programme.

2.1 BRAZIL

Country specific context

Covid-19

The Brazilian socio-political context has been shifting constantly, due to unstable political leadership under President Bolsonaro, this has been especially the case since 2019. Civil society has witnessed a progressive dismantling of public policies in sectors ranging from education, culture to social welfare, directly undermining some of the key social rights and progress made. The lack of priority and resources directly affects the failure of social assistance policies aimed at children and youth. The Covid-19 pandemic increased an already difficult situation. With regards to sexual exploitation, children have become even more exposed to violence at home or on the streets. The exacerbation is noticeable, on a daily basis, in the pre-existing and now increased manifestations of structural inequalities (gender, class, race, etc.) and social exclusion by society, including government members. **This crisis has the potential to halt or even reverse the progress made in recent decades in terms of gender equality, inclusion and rights of children.**

Covid-19 and the infection control measures have been affecting children and adolescents in different ways, especially in their development. There is no doubt that girls are the most vulnerable, affected by the secondary impacts of the disease, due to the harmful social norms and discrimination based on gender and intersectionality (age, class, race, territory, etc.). Many caregivers lost their jobs during the pandemic, which increased the chances of children and adolescents being sexually exploited or having to start to work early to maintain family income and housing. Many girls are at risk of having an early pregnancy due to lack of guidance from primary health care services, which had their actions diverted to assisting the victims of Covid-19.

Policy Change

At the local level, the pandemic has shown how much CSOs still need to struggle to effectively see rights guaranteed. There is discontinuity of the Covenants and suspension of public notices, protection programmes are halted and resources through the Child and Adolescent Funds are redirected, leading to the collapse of the services for victims of sexual violence and a stop of the State Plans for child protection.

The National Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents (CONANDA), the main space for formulating and monitoring public policies for children and adolescents reverted to legal measures as the government **threatened to withdraw the effective participation of civil society.** In 2020 civil society chaired CONANDA but this position ceased to exist by the end of 2020, and the new president will be a representative of the government.

Achievements per Actor in 2020



Children

Adolescents and their guardians that were sensitized and prepared to identify and report cases of sexual violence in their communities received more awareness raising, in addition to sensitizing new people to SEC. The institutional unit in Bahia (Lar Pérolas de Cristo) organized **successful online meetings, workshops and web-debates with the adolescents**. A work plan for these workshops contained the following themes: Covid-19 and mental health, fears and insecurities during the Covid-19 pandemic, 'I am a mobilizer during the Covid-19 pandemic for the protection and care for the people around me': #QUARANTINE YES VIOLENCE NO.

The workshops were given to adolescents in institutional care situations, guaranteeing spaces for them to speak and to be heard, as well as to have opportunities to mobilize peers around child protection during the pandemic, and to maintain **contact with the adolescents to monitor** who has access to the internet to share information and challenges that the adolescents are experiencing, as well as developing a national meeting on Racism and Anti-racism with the adolescents.

Another significant achievement is the participation of **adolescents in the Municipal Committee for Public Policies for Girls and online Committee in times of the pandemic**. DtZ provided opportunities for adolescent mobilizers to support awareness raising activities, mobilise their peers and leaders in society for the protection of children. Girls were specifically targeted within the communities. In addition there was an increased need for mental health, so DtZ also carried out **socio-emotional care meetings** with the adolescents mobilizers through the School Clinics. These School Clinics were expanded to the municipality of Mata de São João, with individual and collective therapeutic listening with volunteer psychologists in highschools.

The **National Girls' Meeting** provided a space for the adolescent mobilizers where they would feel assisted and supported during the Covid-19 pandemic. The girls that participated produced a letter, which was disseminated and handed over to the governments.



Communities

The DtZ programme has effectively contributed to promoting protective factors in targeted communities, turning these into safer spaces for children and adolescents. In 2020, DtZ mobilised people and carried out **awareness raising activities during the Carnival campaign**, reaching 281,313 thousand people. During lockdowns the project **supported caregivers, guardians and local communities to listen to awareness raising and community mobilization activities online**. Local collaborations were developed with governmental and non-governmental institutions in the municipalities, in order to guarantee the access and sharing of information necessary for the communities to prevent SEC.

Local Campaigns to Protect Children and Adolescents in times of the pandemic were developed and supported, and information was shared through interviews, information cards (with 70.000 caregivers), training cycles, virtual meetings and live broadcasts. Technical support was provided in meetings with community leaders from the states of *Maranhão* and *Piauí*, as well as giving assistance to the professionals of the institutional care units to develop activities with mothers.

In order to strengthen families and communities to tackle violence against children, DtZ provided spaces for dialogue, training and welcoming so that families and communities could deal with this issue in an open, safe and judgment-free manner, thus removing key drivers of underreporting including shame, taboo or stigma.



Government and Law Enforcement

The Down to Zero Programme worked on the Government Pathway at the local level, in the state of Bahia, and at the National level, through lobby & advocacy. However, due to the specific and deteriorating political context of Brazil, advocacy activities were also directed to include not only participation in dialogues specific to combating sexual exploitation, but also the lack of civil space towards safeguarding participation of civil society, especially at the national level.

At the local (municipal) level, DtZ had demonstrable results in the commitment to fight and prevent SEC in Bahia. SEC has become part of the local policy agenda and an integral part of public policies. The municipality is now part of the Child and Youth Protection Network, and collaborates with state prosecutors, public defenders and other civil society organizations.

DtZ **conducted training sessions** with professionals of the Protection Network of the Municipality of *Camaçari*, and ensured provision of technical advice in cooperation with Institutions in the state of Bahia. The main objective of these training sessions were to enable dialogue with the strategic players of the Child and Adolescent Protection Networks about possible ways to promote and defend human and children's rights.

Parallel to these training and sensitization sessions, DtZ has also developed **technical advisory services** in the Municipality of *Camaçari* for the expansion of the services of Specialized Listening and Protected Testimony for children, and to approve the flow of referrals necessary for legal processes. Also the Municipal Plan for Childhood and Adolescents of the Municipality of *Camaçari* was finalised and approved.

DtZ was able to support, guide and make the necessary referrals where children's rights were violated. In certain contexts, it was necessary to redesign the flow of assistance and services of the network for child victims and/or witnesses of violence and DtZ assisted in the construction of the Covid-19 Municipal Pandemic Response Plans. The Alliance also participated in the revision of the National Ten-Year Plan for Childhood and Adolescence.

At national level, ECPAT Brasil continued to lead advocacy efforts in key forums at federal level like CONANDA (National Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents) and its inter-sectoral Commission to combat Sexual Violence against Children. After the installment of president Bolsonaro in 2018, most of the previous advances and good relationships were dismantled. From then onwards, combatting the setbacks and preventing spaces of participation (such as CONANDA) from being dismantled or reformed to prevent the participation of civil society has remained the main focus of advocacy efforts at national level.



Private Sector

The closure of businesses and social distancing measures made the project shift focus to conduct awareness-raising activities and the dissemination of materials instead of training activities. Publicity materials for the campaigns of Carnival and later in the year were distributed through the road tolls as well as in the tourist spots. Also some live

broadcasts were carried out, and some companies shared campaign publicity materials on their social networks.

DtZ **successfully pursued a partnership** with the State Secretariat of Tourism of Bahia and the Municipal Secretariat of Tourism of *Camaçari*, so that tourism professionals registered in the secretariats (tourism guides, tourism agents, businessmen at the branch of tourism) were sensitized for combatting Child Labor and Sexual Violence against children during the summer and carnival festivities, as well as for distributing publicity materials to their clients.

One noteworthy setback was that the National State Tourism Secretariat did not eventually commit to the agreements signed during the first two years of the DtZ programme, which were related to the implementation of the Terms of Commitment of Ethical Conduct against Sexual Exploitation in Tourism. The private sector committed to include sexual exploitation on the training agenda for key staff participating in training, they were sensitized and committed to share findings and the methodology with their peers.

Exploring different strategies to successfully engage with the private sector, DtZ with the ECPAT Brasil Network better appropriated the instrument of The Code. The organization became a local code **representative (LCR) and facilitated a working group** with the federal government to publish a national code in synergy with The Code. With the change of government, the national code underwent alterations, which limited monitoring activities. DtZ focused on raising awareness of The Code among the private sector audiences and also explored how SEC issues and Child protection may be the focus of the tourism sector and businesses in recovery and post-Covid-19 reopening.

2.2 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Country specific context

Covid-19

The Covid-pandemic in 2020, which resulted in a national quarantine, hampered the implementation of activities to a certain extent, therefore a lot of activities were done online. The measures obviously affected the children, young people and communities and meant a total shutdown of the travel and tourism industry in the country, impacting that area of work very much as well.

Dominican behavioural and legal specialists indicated in El Día in September 2020 that Covid-19 measures have led to increased violence and sexual abuse against children because of decreased supervision and negligent treatment of children. The increased isolation, the closure of schools and the economic crisis especially of informal and low income sectors, with general acceptance of violence against children and women, increased the risk of SEC for children and youth. The download of SEC material on the internet has increased since the beginning of the pandemic and the online material being produced in the Dominican Republic increased in 2020, according to UNICEF.

At the same time, child protection structures and services were under pressure to respond due to national lockdown measures, this led to closing of services, limited access to communities, families and children. Government institutions faced difficulties to fund services due to extra expenditures for emergency response. The normalization of sexual violence and the difficulty to reach out to face-to-face services to report cases also hindered the identification and report of cases. The child protection system faced difficulties for case management especially within Covid-19 context as it still does not have a virtual platform where data can be stored, monitored and easily managed when a multiple institution intervention is needed.

Policy Change

2020 was permeated by the political agenda due to the Presidential, Congressional and Municipal elections. Initially in February and May, the elections were postponed until July (jointly at all 3 levels), when the opposition party (Modern Revolutionary Party) won. Contacts have been made with the new institutional management of the National Council for Children and Adolescents to continue preventing sexual exploitation of children. The new management is still in the process of hiring staff and action plans are not yet known.

At policy level, the elimination of child marriage was again on the agenda of the new legislature 2019-2020. By the end of December 2020, the new elected president has publicly supported a law proposal to eliminate child marriage, the proposal has been approved by the Upper Chamber of Congress early 2021.

In terms of advances in public policies regarding protection of children, it is important to highlight that the inter-institutional committee for the implementation of the public policy "Roadmap for the prevention and elimination of violence against children" has reviewed the protocols for response and follow-up to cases of the Local Protection and Restitution of Rights Boards, which were then approved by CONANI (the governing body of the Protection System).

Achievements per Actor in 2020



Children

In total 9,468 children (5,602 girls; 3,866 boys) were reached by the programme with awareness raising and training and services to raise issues of SEC and gender equality among their peers (2,134), how to report cases (4,276) and child victims or children at risk received specialized services (660).

For children and young people main achievements are related to adolescents and **youth participation at community and political level**. At least five youth networks developed proposals to submit to their local authorities after having received training to advocate for child rights and protection against SEC. This demonstrated that girls and young women are increasingly empowered and taking action to protect themselves. For example, last October a group of young men and women presented the need for a center where young people can go for comprehensive services to the mayor in Punta Cana and other public institutions (Tourist Police, Attorney General Office). The initiative was well received by the Mayor and a center was created and inter-institutional collaboration has started to provide services to adolescents and young people in health, psychosocial care and recreation. Another proposal for the Municipality of Quisqueya was street lighting: youth from that community wanted to eliminate dark / unsafe streets and reduce robberies, rapes and even disappearances of children, as most of these incidents happen on streets that are completely dark. This proposal was welcomed and realised.

Some of the youth members have **joined community based protection mechanisms** to continue their participation in decision-making spaces and to influence and promote actions to prevent SEC.

Another highlight is the reintegration of 15 young mothers, victims of abuse, who have been trained for self-employment in La Altagracia as part of the psychosocial support of the project. The biggest challenge is the

access to child friendly and gender sensitive services both for children and families, due to the lack of resources (technical and administrative) for the protection system at local level. Partners continue to work with families and youth and promote positive parenting to protect children from sexual abuse.



Communities

The pandemic obviously posed challenges due to the quarantine, but also provided opportunities to engage with communities online, allowing the programme to reach an even higher number of community members. This also had to do with the fact that the pandemic and quarantine posed additional risks of SEC, alarming more community members to take part in such activities. To promote greater awareness of gender equality in the families, the programme addressed issues such as the importance of equal treatment between girls and boys (e.g. the high domestic burden of girls and women), the challenges of being a girl in this patriarchal society, and the need to protect both girls and boys from sexual exploitation.

The signs show that parents and guardians not only learned how to report cases of SEC, but also showed a high level of awareness recognizing that they are replicating **violent parenting patterns**, which they learned in their childhood. This is a great step forward as it improves the emotional bond between children and their primary caregivers and promotes the prevention of sexual violence against children. These actions impacted 3,551 parents (1,337 male; 2,214 female) who are willing to change ideas, beliefs and practices to protect their children from sexual exploitation.

DtZ supported 74 **child protection committees at community level** and established 46 effective **referral systems** to report SEC cases. These committees are formed by community leaders who are trained on child protection and reporting mechanisms, so that they can support children and families in reporting and following up on cases. They also learn who are the actors within child protection systems at local level, this is important especially for isolated community members so they know who to turn to.

The main challenge is the lack of discretion and confidentiality in the handling of information and case management from the local protection system which leads to fear of retaliation against them or their families by the perpetrators. This is a pending task for the protection system, to gain the trust of the population so that among communities and duty bearers, the routes of denunciation, timely attention and restitution of rights to children and adolescent victims of SEC are effectively implemented.

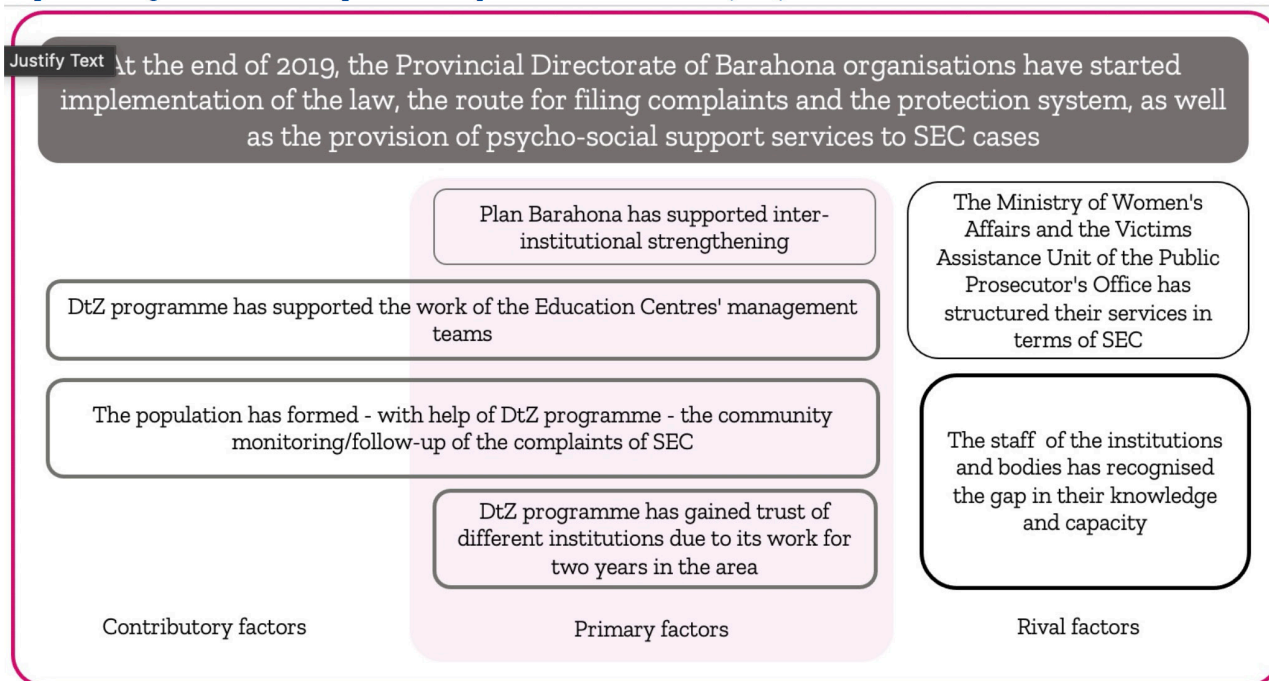


Government and Law Enforcement

According to the signals gathered, government officials entered into dialogue with CSOs and youth agents about SEC. An online round table was formally recognised as part of the national response to violence against children in the country, co-led by DtZ's partner. This space promotes greater consistency with the institutions of the protection system. Significant efforts were made to **promote inter-institutional coordination**, for example in Barahona province authorities showed greater commitment to improving case management. Inter-institutional coordination through virtual spaces obtained good results for the follow-up of cases among the different actors. These spaces also included representatives of the Local Boards for Protection and Restitution of Rights, which are part of the formal child protection system at community level. In La Altagracia province, a space for dialogue on SEC was created among school directors, public health, women's health, municipal council, NGOs, Catholic and evangelical churches, trade unions and business sector, among others. This implies progress in facilitating inter-institutional coordination for case management.

The lack of resources (human, financial and structural) and gender approach remain the main challenges for the protection system at the national level to work in a timely manner for the prevention, response and attention to cases of SEC. However, some advances have been made such as the **finalization and approval at central level of CONANI** (governing body of the National Protection System) of the protocols for Local Boards that define their role and responsibilities for the report and follow up of child protection cases. The revision of these documents were made by the inter-institutional committee of which DtZ is a member. See also the DtZ End Evaluation report Contribution Analysis 7 (page 72-73).

Figure 11 CA 7 demonstrating significant contribution to Barahona Provincial Directorate organisations implementing the law and the protection system for SEC victims (IO 4)



Private Sector

The 2020 pandemic resulted in a closure of the entire travel and tourism industry by the government, halting this work temporarily after a first good kickstart at the beginning of 2020. The sector only slowly reopened in October 2020. In the meantime, relationships and contacts were kept alive online. Companies indicated willingness to

continue the work post-Covid-19.

In all intervention areas there are signs that the **formal touristic sector is committed to SEC prevention**, including the staff at personal level with their families. 539 staff of 95 companies in the travel and touristic sector have been trained on SEC prevention, which also impacted at community level, since the workforce in hotels are parents or guardians. Due to the training, children are more protected within the tourist areas but also in their communities.

Awareness raising for child protection and prevention of SEC among private sector personnel (involving parents) promoted reflections that tend to lead to changes in ideas and beliefs, but changes in practices also require prevention, attention and timely response by duty bearers.

The openness by the private sector throughout the implementation of the project in the country demonstrates the commitment of the companies to combat SEC, even some taking a solid step by joining The Code.

2.3 LATIN AMERICA (BOLIVIA, COLOMBIA, NICARAGUA, PERU)

Country specific context

Colombia

In addition to the Covid-19 crisis, Colombia also faced a social and political crisis in 2020. The economic crisis derived from the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in a lack of access to food security, an increase in violence and a lack of access to education, both for the Colombian population and Venezuelan migrants, this increased the vulnerability of children and women facing SE. The Colombian Institute of Family Welfare reported 214 SEC cases from March to June 2020 and Legal Medicine reported 5,227 violence against children cases from March to July 2020. SEC and human trafficking (of migrant- and indigenous women and girls) are in some way "justified" since the exploiters become "facilitators of opportunities" to face scarceness. A report delivered by Human Rights Watch warns about the devastating economic and health effects for the Wayuu indigenous population. The state's efforts were mainly focused on confronting the pandemic, violence problems were neglected. On the other hand, armed groups have imposed their own pandemic measures in some parts of

Colombia, making it difficult to access food or health services in some areas. In August 2020, there were five violent massacres, where 28 people were killed, most of them adolescents and young people.

Peru

Peru has been the second most affected country by the pandemic in Latin America and has the highest mortality rate per inhabitant in the world. The Iquitos region had the highest impact at national level in the months of April and May 2020 and UNICEF estimated that in the educational system 44% of the students were without activity in that region. As of June 30, 67,712 violence cases and 600 girls' rape cases were dealt with by the Peruvian's national helpline. The Ombudsman's Office registered 4,051 reports of missing women and girls between January and September 2020, of which 2,894 are minors. Online SEC cases have also increased from 143 cases per month to 189 in June 2020. Many of the protection services stopped attending face-to-face, implementing digital platforms and the service operators did not have enough capacity to respond to the drastic increased demand.

Between July and September 2020, almost 3 million Peruvians were still without jobs. Many parents have gone out to work informally, even with their children, at great risk for potential Covid-19 transmission. Regarding youth participation, existing barriers have increased for child leaders in communities where domestic violence and extreme poverty prevail.

Bolivia

Also in Bolivia the Covid-19 pandemic added a health crisis to an already ongoing political crisis at the end of 2019. This led to an economic crisis in a large part of the population whose livelihood comes from the informal market. The pandemic had a direct impact on the lack of access to food security, health, education, and violence increased. Basic health services not related to Covid-19 care were interrupted and schools were closed, widening the educational gap between public and private schools, in addition to removing children from their protection networks.

Based on an investigation on the pandemic effects on children, a DtZ partner identified during the quarantine 35 new web pages with 2000 pornography ads, online and face-to-face dating, photo sharing and webcam services by WhatsApp of which 40% had a pimp involved and of which 60% were under 18. The impact of Covid-19 points to considerable effects on children and adolescents' lives, such as premature or forced entry into the labor market, school dropout and backlash and the absence of adequate nutrition, conditions that threaten to deepen inequality breaches existing in the short and medium term and give way to greater exclusion, precariousness, and violence, consequently, putting children and young people at high risk to get involved in sexual exploitation.

Nicaragua

The pandemic added additional challenges to the recent years of violence, job loss within the construction, commerce, and tourism sectors had a high social and economic cost. According to the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, a decrease in GDP of -5.9 % and an increase in poverty by 15.1 % equivalent to 350,000 people is expected by the end of 2020. The Legal Medicine Institute in its statistical bulletin for the 2020's second quarter reflects that the legal medical expert opinions carried out for sexual violence amounts to 986 cases, of which 799 cases were below 18, females being the majority. Despite the fact that there was no quarantine and activities did not stop, the child protection system responses were affected and were also taken on by civil society organizations.

A number of reforms and laws favorable to protection were approved in 2020: including amendment to constitution articles that allows the punishment of those guilty of hate, degrading, humiliating and inhuman crimes; the relaunch of the Women's Police Stations within the National Police and the special Cybercrime Law. However, gaps are still evident in terms of budget designation, applying public policy means, barriers to access to justice, and the absence of an Ombudsman System, among others. At the same time, social, cultural, and knowledge barriers predominate, such as the adult-centered vision, the patriarchal system, gender inequalities, violence tolerance, lack of information in families and communities about their rights and obligations regarding SEC and the promotion of good relationships between adults and girls.

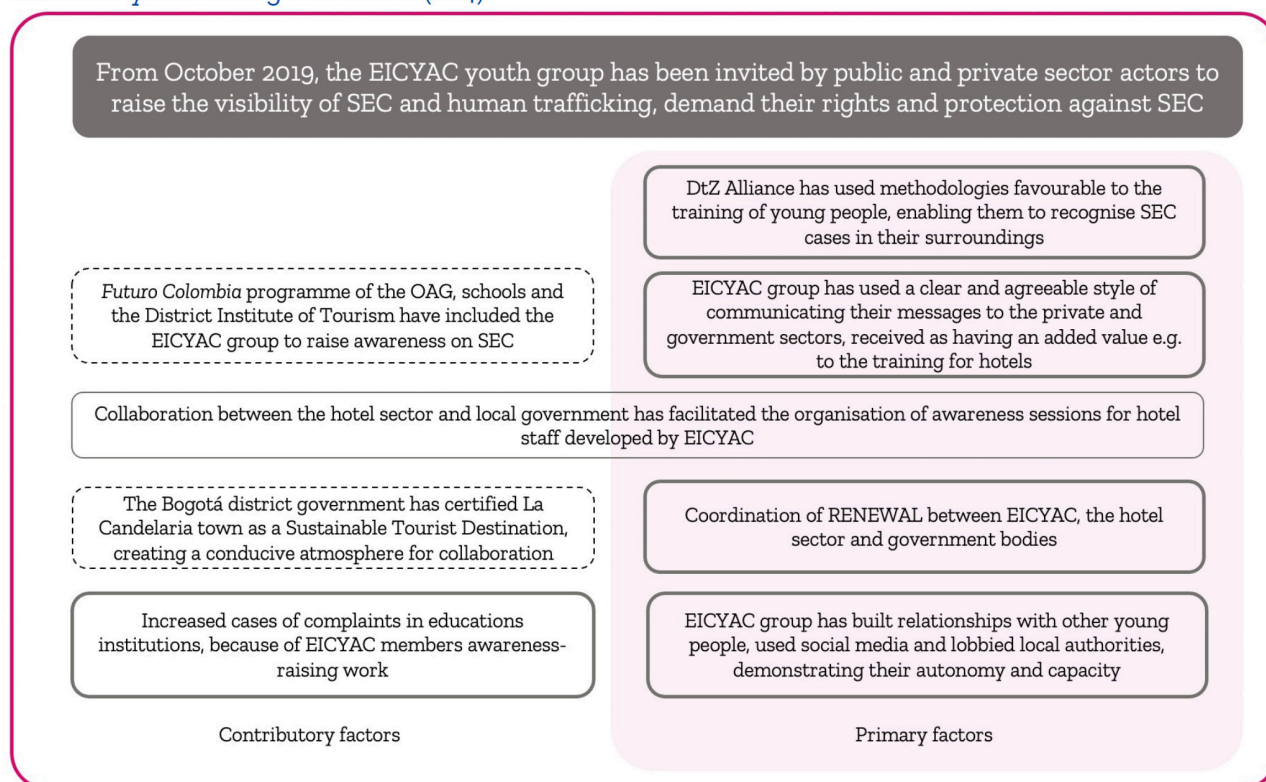
Achievements per Actor in 2020



Children

Colombia: The EICYAC youth group in Bogotá and La Guajira (70 young people) continued as a young leaders network with a multiplying effect, meaning that they **demand from the communities and the government to guarantee children's rights** (see Contribution analysis 4 in the DtZ End Evaluation report - Page 58-59). They have developed reflection processes with peers focused on SEC and human trafficking identification, reporting routes and rights violations. In 2020 they resumed awareness raising activities in schools (reaching 600 adolescents) and carried out virtual campaigns. The **youth leaders were strengthened as agents of change** and they established dialogues between the La Guajira (Bogotá) and Cartagena groups resulting in a national action plan. They also developed online meetings with youth groups across Latin America, with youth groups' participation from Mexico, Argentina, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. In addition they've successfully developed methodologies based on theater and music which are used among peers. For advocacy purposes, the young leaders participated in La Guajira in the Confederation of Adolescents and Youth Network of Ibero, in events led by the Ombudsman's Office and in the Colombian Tourism Network (Destination united against SEC) that includes 11 national destinations. In Bogotá, children participated in Childhood and Adolescence Committees with the government and Attorney General's Office.

Figure 8 CA 4 demonstrating significant contribution to children acting as agents of change within the community and local government (IO4)



Peru: A great achievement is the **formation** of the Organization of Adolescents in Action Creating Hope in Lima, consisting of 30 adolescents who have been participating in the programme since 2018. They developed an action plan focusing on SEC and the right to physical and mental health. Some of its members carried out an internship at the National Assembly of the Consultative Council of Girls, Boys and Adolescents of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations. Despite the huge digital breach in the Iquitos' community, local leaders have held meetings, participated in EICYAC Colombia events, and held artistic prevention contests. The Lima and Iquitos leaders, together with Bolivian groups (80 youth in total), managed a **binational event** in which they presented their concerns about SEC to the authorities. As these leaders come from environments characterized by discrimination, violence, and leadership barriers, they were trained in rights and soft skills for families, schools, and community advocacy. The leaders were highly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, due to the economic crisis, and the high mortality rate in their communities, for this reason grief and resilience workshops were developed.

Bolivia: 4 **Municipal Child Committees** were created, involving 97 boys and 117 girls in 2 border municipalities and 2 urban ones. These committees identified and supported a population at high risk of SEC during lockdown measures. They also involved other peers in the training processes and participated in discussions at the local and regional level with representatives from Peru and Colombia. They **lobbied for a Specialized Ombudsman Office** that responds to the increase in child sexual assault cases, and they appealed to authorities for virtual trainings to take place at schools. Specialised services are provided to girl victims through the shelter, including working with families and developing strategies to improve economic empowerment. In 2020, 149 (84 girls and 65 boys, victims who received care in the past years) obtained gastronomic assistant diplomas, as part of **entrepreneurship opportunities** to ensure economic rights and prevent exploitation.

Nicaragua: 200 children from 5 communities have **established themselves as a Network** against SEC, they are recognized by their peers, their community, public institutions, and private companies. They are part of the Youth Club of the Ministry of Health, carrying out actions for SRHR among peers. They coordinate closely with the Community Protection Committee through reporting, activating the referral system and tightening the ties between protective adults and children, a significant change compared to the baseline. Within the network, there is a group of self-managed communicating girls and boys who carry out advocacy actions through media prevention campaigns. The **active participation of boys** in prevention and advocacy demonstrates the change in behavior in the face of patriarchal messages received from home and their community. On the other hand, boys' exploitation is still largely invisible, discriminated against and stigmatized. A good result of the work with victims is that they have their life plans as an outcome of the received care.



Communities

Colombia: In La Candelaria (Bogotá) we worked with a group of female artisans that are leaders of households who have been victim of domestic and sexual violence, their involvement was key to the identification, reporting and visibility of such violence. They developed a communication strategy and **advocacy plan with public, private and community sectors**. One of the leaders was part of the Coordination Table with the Secretariat for Women in the certification of La Candelaria as a sustainable tourist destination. In La Guajira, the Wayuu leaders training continued and the community **designed an action plan for preventive actions** in neighboring communities and generated a community protection network. The strategy included communication material in the local language. As a result, the Wayuu leaders were invited to be part of a multisectoral plan with the district table against SEC led by the Tourism Directorate. The pandemic had a high impact on the Wayuu indigenous population, generating spaces that were used to continue the SEC desensitization and the need to protect the communities' children.

Peru: The protection committees reached inter-institutional alliances with the municipal government and the education sector, for their sustainability. In Lima and Iquitos, the committees carried out a **pandemic impact diagnosis** to identify the increase in child labour, school dropouts and loss of contact with children as well as violence cases, the impact on mental health, and the digital breach. Given the findings, they adjusted their plans and activities. **Two participatory monitoring mechanisms were established**. In alliance with the Management of Women and Equality of the Lima Metropolitan Municipality, the Community Ombudsman Network was strengthened, made up of 350 women leaders and grassroots social organizations leaders, they made a plan to monitor 11 districts with a high SEC prevalence and improve services for victims. The Carabayllo Plan for Participatory Monitoring and Surveillance of Public Policies on Human Trafficking and SEC was prepared with the Organized Women's Network.

Bolivia: The Local Community Councils **initiated to bring together more social organisations**. This shows that the councils are increasing their sustainability through strategic alliances. They have monitored high vulnerability areas and developed reporting routes in urban, rural, and peripheral areas. These routes were presented to local authorities to advocate for protection systems' improvement and are the basis for **self-managed prevention activities**. Nowadays, the councils promote prevention fairs and require municipalities to include organizations working on child rights. In La Paz, the council managed a space for mobile Ombudsman offices for children. The next step is the consolidation of specific areas or secretariats for child rights advocacy within the Local Community Councils organizational structure.

Nicaragua: The main achievements are the integration of 5 communities in a **Community Protection Committee**; the Multisectorial Group formation in the Masachapa community that integrates the private sector, public sector, community and leading childrens' network; the committee's **advocacy actions in local political spaces**; and the capacity of the committee to accompany victims in case reporting processes and follow-up. This led to behavioral changes in the community in norms and beliefs about SEC. Given the country's socio-political situation, the committees did not develop enforcement actions and public policy monitoring, since expressing their demand in national public spaces could put them at risk by being considered contrary to the government. Despite this, they have strengthened their relationships with public education and health institutions at local level, for victims school reintegration and to carry out victims' family visits together with the Ministry of Family in order to give greater emotional support.



Government and Law Enforcement

Colombia: Alliances with local and national governments were strengthened with policies and plans against SEC. DtZ provided technical assistance to the Local Operational Committees for Children in Bogotá and the Intersectoral Committees in La Guajira. In Bogotá, the DtZ partner assumed the coordination of the SEC Social Committee within the Certification of La Candelaria as a sustainable tourist destination framework. In La Guajira, work continued with the intersectoral committee¹⁶, prioritizing the migration issue, joint prevention campaigns and positioning SEC prevention in the tourism reactivation. At the national level, efforts were made to **make the existing breaches in care for victims during the pandemic visible** and the survivors' educational reintegration, demonstrates the high impact Covid-19 has on children from mining families, migrants, and refugees' context. The committee also requested prevention campaigns with schools and performed actions with the Judicial Police. The collaboration with the Attorney General's Office strengthened human trafficking proactive investigations. Finally, technical assistance was provided on the triple border with Peru and Brazil to evaluate possible human trafficking cases of indigenous Ticunas, which was coordinated with the DtZ partner in Peru.

Peru: The multisectoral Subcommittee of the Action Plan for Children Result 14 made a diagnosis and recommendations to the government, presenting **9 critical nodes in victims' care and guidelines**. Two important binational spaces were created: the Peru- Bolivia Meeting 'Madre de Dios and Pando Human Trafficking Victims' (more than 200 justice operators attended the meeting and signed agreements); and the Peru- Bolivia Civil Society Meeting 'An Analysis of Public Policies in Peru and Bolivia against SEC'. The Management of Women and Equality was strengthened and they accompanied the participatory monitoring processes, and had meetings with youth leaders. **Listening to youth leaders' voices** has been crucial to improve their work plans. At the same time, the protection committees' experience in schools was presented to the Ministry of Education, this generated interest in replicas in other municipalities. Finally, the State's SEC care and protection teams were strengthened during the pandemic, through listening sessions as part of the resilience strategy to improve care.

Bolivia: The **Bolivian Police and Human Trafficking Divisions were strengthened**, they implemented new specialized areas for cyber patrol, investigation and missing persons, and immediate reaction; a model replicated in all municipalities involved in the programme. Specific SEC actions were included within the State's Multisectoral Plan to Combat Human Trafficking. As a result, the **Ombudsman offices for children created specific areas for SEC cases intervention**, implementing two models: The Mobile Ombudsman office based on the community model and the Ombudsman office's Specialized Criminal Area that addresses SEC crimes. In Santa Cruz, the government services that provide care to victims included SEC prevention actions, victims' legal advice, and reintegration. Strategic alliances with the national and local governments were consolidated, allowing the Bolivian police and justice operators to be trained in SEC approach. Finally, the State followed-up on recommendations for the Law 263 modification: Comprehensive Law to Combat Human Trafficking, in terms of increasing the budget for the Human Trafficking areas, the incorporation of cybercrimes, and concrete actions for victims' social and economic reintegration.

¹⁶ The committee brings together the Ombudsman's Office, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), Aldeas Infantiles, Colombian Migration, International Organization for Migration (IOM), World Vision, USAID, ProFamilia, Save the Children and Unicef

Nicaragua: In coordination with DtZ, the Public Ministry facilitated sexual abuse victims' psychological care, legal support, and follow-up on prosecution, training for community protection committees (CPCs) on legal framework issues, and reporting route process. Subsequently, the agreement with the Supreme Court of Justice resulted in the accreditation of **CPCs as Judicial Facilitators** of the Protection Committee members. DtZ coordinated with the Ministries of Health and Education to improve **reintegration in schools** of children at risk and SEC survivors and dissemination of Regulation 031 (Norms and Protocols for the Prevention, Detection and Attention of Intrafamily and Sexual Violence). By doing so, Health Center staff improved victims' specialised care and home visits to vulnerable children. One of the programme's strategies was to constantly call attention to SEC with local political leaders, giving the possibility of gradually opening spaces for dialogue with the State. Although the outcomes are concrete, it should be considered that since April 2018 some public institutions have not established dialogues with civil society organizations, limiting the scope on this pathway.



Private Sector

Colombia: In 2020, DtZ's work was focused on maintaining the achievements from previous years despite the pandemic. In La Guajira, together with the local government, awareness raising activities were developed for companies to highlight the need for SEC measures in reopening the travel and tourism sector. A **tourism providers' Situational Diagnosis** was developed together with 19 companies to identify the impact of Covid-19 to the sector and the application of codes of conduct. As a result, DtZ did virtual training for the adoption of "The Code" and **10 companies from Bogotá and La Guajira adhered to The Code**. It should be noted that tourism providers expressed their interest in prevention processes regardless of the situation in which they find themselves during the pandemic. We also worked with already certified companies proposing reinduction of processes and reviews of the application of their prevention policies, and 7 companies did refresher training.

Peru: The **protection policy of 9 companies** and of the Peruvian Association of Incoming and Internal Tourism Operators has been developed, highlighting that unions generate a cascade effect with their associates. An intervention methodology for rural community tourism has been developed with a tourism agency in Cusco. The virtual course "Girls, Boys and Adolescents Sexual Exploitation Prevention in Tourism and Travel" was developed in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism, summoning 200 tourism service providers and as a sustainable collaborative strategy with the state. An important step towards achieving the final outcome has been the **formation of two regional Fly Free Movement committees¹⁷** in Iquitos and Lima. In Lima, the coordination is done by representatives of the Peruvian Association of Tourism Law and the Peruvian Female Association of Tourism Companies' Executives, and the Air Transport Association and the Peruvian Travel and Tourism Agencies Association also participated. In Iquitos, the coordination is done by a representative of the Commerce and Tourism Regional Directorate and the Migrations representative, with involvement of the Citizen Security Regional Management and various hotels and hotel chains.

Bolivia: Despite not having a national regulatory framework on codes of conduct for private companies, companies and hotels were certified with "The Code" and promoted prevention actions even after being affected by the pandemic. The **"Safe Terminals" strategy** for child protection on interdepartmental trips is successfully consolidated, which unites travel companies with the Tourism Police, Traffic Police, the Ombudsman's Office for Children, terminal administrators and municipal guards. DtZ promoted this model, and it was adopted by various municipalities on their own initiative. In the same way, the model with a **community approach called "Free SEC Tourist Destinations"** was consolidated in the department of La Paz, from which we worked with transport unions, artisans, restaurants, Ombudsman's offices for Children, tourist guides, local leaders, trained hotels and native communities. All participants are now committed to SEC prevention, identification of SEC cases and referral to the corresponding authorities through participatory protocols.

¹⁷ The Down to Zero program in Latin America has had a strategy based on the generation of the Regional Fly Free Movement (Vuela Libre), which promotes the local movements' construction for organization, advocacy and lobbying focused on SEC issue's positioning. This has allowed sensitized actors from the public, private and community sectors to have the option of being activists on the issue. The Fly Free Movement has an organizational structure in each country.

Nicaragua: Through collaborative work between the leading youth network and the protection committee, 3 artisanal fishing cooperatives attached to the Ministry of Communities and Family Economy were identified as key stakeholders, two of them made up of men and one made up by women. Training sessions were carried out for cooperatives which led to the generation of their codes of conduct. It is important to highlight the active role of the youth network in this process, they gave recommendations and suggestions that were incorporated into their codes. **The cooperatives are active in protection**, they have modified practices in their work performance and are now part of the Multisectoral Group with the government, children, the communities, and other key actors (churches, seafood stores owners and merchants). The Multisectoral group has managed to **coordinate with the local National Police** for day and night police surveillance in high-risk places and the cooperatives provided diesel for the police surveillance. It has also coordinated with the Mayor's Office for the installation of streetlights in high-risk areas.

2.4 INDIA

Country specific context

Covid-19

The unprecedented coronavirus pandemic has caused widespread suffering to the unorganised, informal workers, children and families living in difficult circumstances, such as the ones living in red light districts and slum areas, and migrant populations. The government imposed the lockdown measures for India's 1.3 billion inhabitants on March 24, 2020. According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy on 12th May over 122 million people in India already lost their jobs. Around 75% of them were small traders and daily wage-labourers, many of them migrants from other parts of the country. Existing vulnerabilities of children have been amplified by the pandemic and its lockdown measures.

Because of increased poverty, isolation, domestic violence, school closure, limited access to child protection services and disrupted safety nets, the number of children becoming victims of human trafficking, abuse and exploitation increased drastically. Families indicated that they are under pressure to give their children to human traffickers, who promise to help their child find work and shelter elsewhere, because they cannot meet their basic needs.

At one point during lockdown measures in India, over the course of 11 days, 92,000 cases of child abuse in the family and in the communities were reported to the government helpline (www.childlineindia.org). The shelter home of Sanlaap near Kolkata received from July till September a number of 71 girl victims of SEC, this is an increase of 30% compared to before the pandemic. According to the report of the National Commission for Women, domestic violence reached the highest peak in the last 10 years.

Natural Disaster

End of May Cyclone Amphan left parts of India, especially West Bengal, devastated. Slums have been completely destroyed, the streets were flooded, electricity was cut off and families lost their homes. This in combination with the effects of Covid-19 made many children in rural areas of West Bengal even more vulnerable to become victims of trafficking. Therefore the Alliance in India reallocated some budget to respond to the emerging needs of children and families in West Bengal (South 24 Parganas) in order to prevent young girls and boys becoming victims of trafficking.

Policy Changes

A new Bill that took effect on September 29, 2020, tightened and restricted the existing Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA 2010), which regulates the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or donations by individuals, associations and companies, by Indian non-profit organisations. This Bill has left non-government organisations very worried as many organisations fear losing their FCRA certificate. So far this has happened to several (international) NGOs (non-DtZ partners) for being critical about the human rights situation in the country. The provisions lay down that renewal of license will happen every six months provided the applicant is e.g. not convicted for triggering communal tension and not guilty of diversion of funds. One of the implications of the Bill impacting the DtZ Alliance is the prohibition of transferring or sub-granting any of the foreign funding to other organizations, whether registered or unregistered under FCRA. This resulted in partners having to contract staff directly in all the areas where they work instead of subcontracting CBOs in those areas. Another implication is that organizations need to be cautious about their outings, restricting them

to be critical towards the government, as they fear losing their FCRA license.

A positive policy change was the Social Security Code. The Social Security Code 2020 provides for setting up a social security fund to provide welfare benefits like pension and cover for medical costs for all workers. Workers in the unorganised sector, such as migrant workers, gig workers and platform workers will also benefit from this. It would mean that workers in the unorganized sector in the tourism and hospitality industry will be better protected, making them less vulnerable to trafficking and SEC, provided the employers and local governments abide by it.

Achievements per Actor in 2020



Children

Children in the DtZ geographical areas are **taking well informed steps** and are aware of various support services including the concerned authorities to approach and the best way to take action. Boys and girls have shown their **agency by initiating their own actions to protect other children** and to raise awareness about SEC and child protection issues with their peers. They showed the courage to stand up and speak out, towards their parents, their peers and the authorities. It is a big achievement that a big group of girls (previously or currently living on the street) have taken an example of the child clubs in their districts to **organise themselves**, as these girls have never before been part of such groups. As meetings were not possible, Whatsapp groups became very important to “meet” and exchange information between children. Due to Covid-19, children organized themselves online for the first time. Some children prepared a list of guidelines on **how to report** cases of child sexual exploitation during the Covid-19 lockdown using a WhatsApp group, since the Child Helpline was not functioning to its full capacity due to the pandemic. Another example are the 40 children (10 boys and 30 girls) that spoke to the **District administration** in their respective districts through an online discussion on the need for accessing quality support services like counselling during the lockdown measures. As a result, vulnerable children (migrant children living in roadside huts and street connected children) were receiving protection services during the lockdown restrictions. Also, children have shared their safety and security concerns with the **tourism service providers** and sought their support towards child protection. These initial interactions helped tourism service providers who are often their family members, neighbours or from the same community to recognise the actions that could be taken by them as part of their operations towards child protection. This shows a high level of child empowerment and their identity as change agents.



Communities

The DtZ Alliance in India used small scale relief activities in the communities as a strategy to keep in touch with the community members and to have various **dialogues on the importance of child protection** during the Covid-19 lockdown measures. Several cases of child sexual exploitation were identified by community members and followed the reporting process during the lockdown, this helped binding the communities together.

Signs of change show that community members are being vigilant which is the most important step towards preventing SEC. This year we have seen many cases in which communities, also in red light areas, **have taken action, reported cases** and supported rescue operations of DtZ partners and police. For example in Murshidabad district, after a notification of community members, the DtZ partner has been able to rescue 9 minors who were sexually exploited in two hotels with the help of police and the Hotel Owners Association.

Signs of change are identified that show that communities (including youth and women’s groups) are **taking ownership for the protection** of children as duty-bearers and role models, taking action proactively in creating an environment without stigma and providing support in reintegration and trafficking prevention. Even in very conservative villages, such as the fishing communities in Puri where talking about SEC in itself is a taboo, we see a significant change. In June 2020, 14 fisherfolk groups in these communities agreed to take severe actions if child sexual exploitation is taking place in their communities. In these fishing communities especially the incidence of boy children being sexually exploited by travelers and tourists (often by females), is high. Furthermore, 698 women from 60 self help groups in one of the fishing communities passed resolutions to **work against social stigma** associated with sexual abuse of children and provide support to the families of victims. This is part of building a support structure to welcome children back in the community from whatever situation they come, including victims of SEC. It is significant as the communities need to understand that stigma needs to be avoided in order to reach reintegration and prevent revictimisation.



Government and Law Enforcement

During lockdown measures, meetings with government officials and LEA had to be postponed, cancelled or took place online. But we still see that some local governments have been **taking proactive action** to address issues related to SEC. Capacity enhancement training resulted in several positive actions.

For example, the Subdivisional Magistrate of Rajnagar has **implemented the guidelines** on how to report cases of child sexual exploitation during the Covid-19 pandemic, prepared by child club members. Also, compensation was released from District Child Protection Unit to 6 child sexual abuse survivors (victims of trafficking) in Purias as part of their rehabilitation process. Also the Subdivisional Magistrate of Chattarpur District has reached out to extremely vulnerable children with relief measures along with medical care since March 2020. This builds upon activities of the Child Advisory Group that was set up under DtZ in 2019.

Furthermore, one of the **DtZ partners has been selected as a trainer** for the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officials on the theme of SEC. The inclusion of SEC and trafficking in the curriculum of the IAS officials is a significant sign for us because it shows that these issues are being recognized by the Indian government. This is the result of 4 years of lobbying with the IAS by the DtZ India Alliance.

Furthermore, the DtZ partner in West Bengal got the opportunity to interact with the Judiciary from different levels because they also **visited the Sneha Shelter** as per the order of the Supreme Court. In May 2020 the High Court Judge visited the shelter, and additionally the District Judge visited the shelter twice to discuss SEC and the lengthy judiciary process. This is a big achievement, as it seldom happens that a High Court Judge visits a shelter with SEC victims, leading to increased child friendly justice.

In West Bengal the DtZ partner succeeded in their lobby towards the Anti Human Trafficking Unit in South 24 Parganas to form a multi stakeholder **WhatsApp group for taking prompt action** and coordination in trafficking and SEC cases. Currently this group has 146 members from relevant government bodies, child protection units, LEA and CBO's, administered by DtZ.



Private Sector

In this last year of DtZ we see that the private sector (organized and unorganized tourism sector) has **initiated independent actions to combat SEC**. This shows that there is an ownership of the cause and a clear understanding of their role in combating SEC.

During the lockdown measures, the DtZ Alliance has reached out to the tourism service providers (unorganised tourism sector, e.g. guides, transporters, tuk tuk drivers etc.) through relief activities. During these relief activities we have been able to facilitate several discussions on their response to child protection in the post-Covid-19 situation. In various places, this resulted in drivers and guides **reporting cases of SEC** and child trafficking. For example the Guide Association of Dharohar has implemented their code of conduct on addressing child protection issues during the lockdown by reporting 15 cases of SEC. They were very rigorous during this period and indicated they really wanted to take up this role and responsibility of being vigilant during lockdown.

Furthermore, the DtZ India Alliance conducted **3 refresher trainings at request** of ACCOR with the Child Protection Committee Members and their frontline staff within each of their 15 properties in India. The training looked into how to uphold the policies and procedures during the pandemic, what adaptations during the pandemic were necessary and what to specifically look for as signs during this pandemic. Secondly, ACCOR requested DtZ India to develop a SOP for them during crisis time. This is an addition to their existing Child Protection Policy.

2.5 INDONESIA

Country specific context

Covid-19

The Government of Indonesia issued large-scale social restrictions at national level to inhibit the spread of the virus. Currently, Jakarta and Surabaya remain among the worst hit cities. While in Batam and Lombok, gathering is still possible while following the health protocols as the number of Covid-19 cases is relatively low. The pandemic immediately affected how services are provided to child victims and their families. At community level in Jakarta, the state-owned CBCPMs are paralyzed, with no activities at all for ten months. The pandemic also affects the budget reallocation policy at the local government level, most of the budget has been reallocated to Covid-19 response.

Since children are required to study from home, a DtZ survey revealed that children between 10-17 years do not feel comfortable **being online** because they were exposed to pornography, inappropriate advertisements, and strangers asking for their photos and sending messages showing their private parts. The research also showed the importance of caretaker supervision and educating parents and children being safe online, particularly on the risk of online SEC.

Beside online SEC, the reporting of cases involving other forms of violence against children continued to rise. As per Nov 2020, the MoWECP database reported a total of 9,089 cases of violence against children, compared to 8,488 and 7,253 cases in 2019 and 2018. Furthermore, the number of cases of Child Marriages in Indonesia has significantly increased which poses a threat to children. In particular, it threatens girls' right to a full course of education and (sexual and reproductive) health, it increases their vulnerability to domestic violence and divorce and increases their risk to sexual exploitation. The Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (MoWECP) recorded an increase of 24,000 child marriage cases during the pandemic. Broken homes, dropout from school and less school activities during the pandemic are mentioned as the push factors. Many parents think that marrying off their children at an early age is part of the solution to solving economic problems. The Indonesian parliament has agreed to raise the **legal minimum age** at which girls can marry to 19, however, the law also allowed girls of any age to be married off with permission from local authorities and religious courts.

Policy changes

In January 2020, as a result of the National Census on the Life Experience of Children and Teenagers done by the MoWECP, the President of Indonesia instructed relevant ministries and institutions to carry out **massive reforms in the system** that deals with cases of violence against children. The MoWECP's role has been expanded to also include more integrated and comprehensive management of cases and not only coordinate and synchronize policies. The Ministry of Home Affairs launched a decree which obligates local governments to increase the allocation of budget to implement child protection policies including those related to SEC prevention and case handling. Unfortunately, before these progressive acts were carried out Indonesia was hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Another set-back is that the **anti-sexual violence bill** (RUU-PKS) has not yet been passed by parliament. The enactment of this law is important as it lists various forms of sexual violence as criminal offences including sexual exploitation, forced marriage, forced prostitution, sexual slavery and sexual abuse - regardless the gender. In July 2020, the House of Representatives' Legislation Body officially dropped the law from the list of national legislation programmes, which means that the deliberation is once again delayed to next year (2021).

Achievements per Actor in 2020



Children

Several child groups were able to **talk about their rights** and make annual work plans with community groups and local authorities. One girl that is actively promoting child rights on social media, was invited by CRC Asia to join the regional #CovidUnder19¹⁸ virtual Skills Camp programme in September 2020, and as a speaker in the #CovidUnder19 launched on December 9th, with the presence of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children.

Despite the pandemic, the children and youth groups under the DtZ programme continued their activities in promoting SEC prevention, mostly through social media. In Lombok, the children from six villages have their **own media campaigns** and continue conducting regular meetings to discuss the situation of children in their area. They incorporated traditional games, a "literacy corner" for younger children who have difficulty in learning due to Covid-19 and encouraged their peers to report their observation on violence against children in the villages.

In Batam, 2 girls and 1 boy members of the 2nd generation of RAEKSA (child group) facilitated the establishment of the 3rd generation of RAEKSA with 11 **new members** (3 boys & 8 girls). They also facilitated focus group discussions with peers about cyber bullying, child labor and trafficking. In August 2020, RAEKSA members organized the National Children's Day in Batam by initiating a vlog competition for children on being happy and safe at home during Covid-19.

¹⁸ <https://www.crcasia.org/covidunder19/>

Meanwhile in Jakarta, one of the DtZ partners has reached 6 boys and 16 girls who worked as call girls and were connected by close friends and a pimp, and 20 children who dropped out of school and were working/hanging out in cafes. DtZ partners also facilitated 10 SEC victims in business development training. The facilitator trained them to develop their own business plans, including financial management. After the training, 4 young people have started on trial to develop their online business as part of entrepreneurship training programmes for youth survivors of SEC.



Communities

Community Based Child Protection (**CBCP**) groups are the local champions to continue the sustainability of the programmes. They have been trained, facilitated and coached on their roles in SEC prevention and case management including reporting and reintegration. They became resource persons and speakers in meetings with children, parents and local government, initiating campaigns on SEC prevention, or providing support to child victims. They are also able to facilitate the establishment of new CBCP groups in other villages outside the DtZ area. Some CBCP groups such as those in Lombok and Batam managed to link their programs to the local government resources as one of the strategies to hold local governments accountable for the protection of children from SEC.

In Lombok, the CBCP groups conducted situation analyses of SEC during the pandemic together with child groups. The results were presented to the village government who agreed to allocate some of the Village Fund for children and CBCP groups in 2021. Meanwhile in Batam, there are 12 CBCP groups in 12 urban-villages that have been formed and trained on SEC issues. They are **taking steps to organise themselves even more efficiently**; one of them changed from a community group into a local foundation and provides informal education and awareness about SEC, 11 other groups decided to unite into one coalition at city level aiming to strengthen the advocacy for child protection at city level.

The CBCP groups in Jakarta prepared an urban-village annual work plan (under city government), including child protection programs and the flow of case referral mechanisms related to SEC. They also involved child victims and at risk of SEC in advocacy and delivering child labor programs to the sub-district. The village government promised to support their proposed programs on SEC prevention. In Surabaya, some parents of child victims initiated a support group to strengthen each other in child recovery and legal processes. In 2020, the 4th paralegal training was conducted with extra precaution on Covid-19 protocol.

At national level, the Alliance has been collaborating with other **CSO networks to support the joint evidence-based advocacy** to the government at national level particularly on SEC issues. DtZ continued to support the NGO Coalition in writing the Review Report on the UN CRC implementation in Indonesia, which will be the main document for the 2nd Alternative Report to the government UN CRC implementation report.



Government and Law Enforcement

In Lombok, local government officials started to **work closely with communities** in case reporting and built a referral system in providing services to child victims. In Surabaya, the Child Protection Government Unit of Tulungagung district agreed to work together with CSOs in handling SEC cases in their area. An MoU is drafted with the local government unit, currently still under review.

As part of the advocacy work, DtZ connected MoWECP and Google Indonesia to **collaborate and share budget** in a pilot project of Trust & Safety Internet training in three cities and a digital parenting module development. The plan to expand the areas had to be postponed due to some changes in Google internal structure. Up to now there is no sign of realizing the plan. In addition, MoWECP has allocated their budget to replicate DtZ's work using CBCPM method to strengthen communities in prevention and reporting of SEC as part of an MoU for 2019-2020.

In Oct 2020, DtZ together with the Indonesian Tourism Board (GIPI) managed to include the Ministry of Tourism in an online discussion titled 'Reorganizing A Child-Friendly Tourism Post Pandemic Covid-19'. It was concluded that the country is eager to put tourism as one of the business sector **recovery plan priorities**.

Also in Oct 2020, DtZ and the Indonesia Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis (INTRAC) held an online meeting entitled 'Mapping Out The Development and Vulnerability of The Abuse of Financial Means and Financial Products for The Purpose of Sexual Exploitation of Children'. Aiming to build a space for dialogue with INTRAC analysts, it was concluded that more data mapping is needed to analyse how financial transactions are used to facilitate SEC. Concrete initiatives were gathered, amongst others to include this topic in the new DtZ programme 'Building Back Better in times of Covid-19, fighting SEC on the rise'.

40 prosecutors were trained on child rights, SEC, Indonesian laws related to SEC and Civil law and the code of ethics for prosecutors related to SEC. Another series of online training for judges was done in October on Sexual Exploitation of Children as a criminal act and its legal mechanisms.

DtZ also directly **provided legal services** to child victims and children at risk of sexual exploitation by collaborating with the local LEAs in handling legal cases. In Surabaya, a state prosecutor approved the provision of health and psychological services for the child victim as an important part of the child recovery. Another prosecutor requested the court to separate the child victim from the perpetrator, and put the case as her first priority. These are significant signs of change, and they continue to **ask DtZ partners for advice and guides** in applying child friendly protocols. Nevertheless, child victims and their families informed the DtZ team that the child-centered legal provisions are not sufficiently and uniformly followed in the processes and procedures related to investigation, decision making and prosecution by LEAs. There is still a need for improvement in knowledge of SEC and implementation of child-friendly legal instruments and procedures at national and local level.



Private Sector

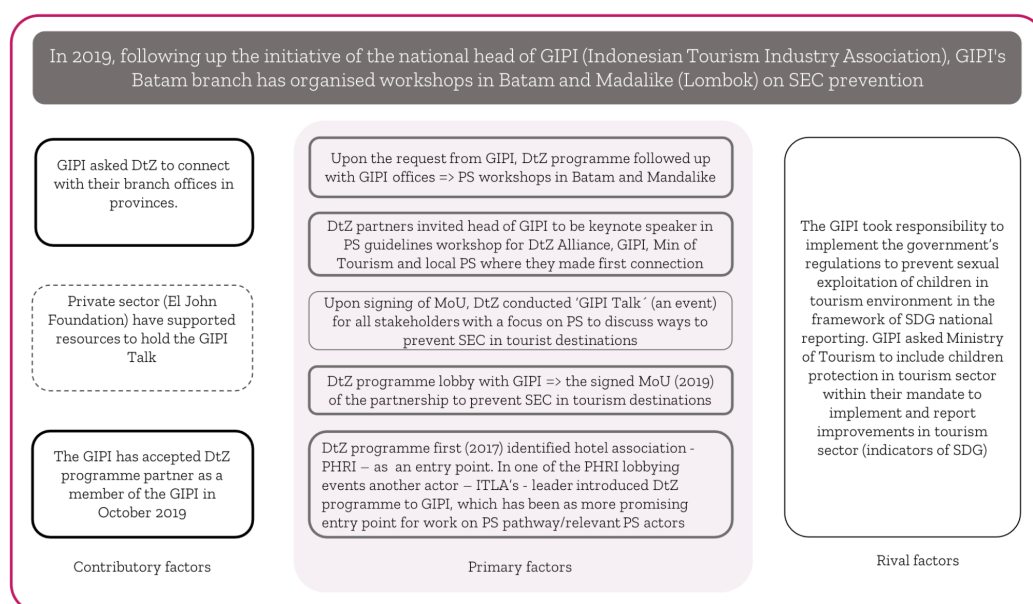
In 2020, the plan on reviewing the Ministry of Tourism regulation with GIPI was cancelled due to Covid-19. However, other forms of collaboration were held i.e. writing a joint press release on The World Tourism Day¹⁹ and having a discussion on 'Reorganizing A Child-Friendly Tourism Post Pandemic Covid-19'.

Besides the travel and tourism sector, DtZ **also approached the businesses hosting online platforms**, such as Google, Facebook, LINE, Telkom, and TikTok. In July 2020, DtZ conducted a campaign with LINE Indonesia in commemoration of National Children's Day which was published in LINE Instagram and application. ECPAT was also been appointed by Youtube as the 'Trusted Flagger' on reporting child sexual abuse materials (CSAM). Later in 2020, ECPAT conducted training on Trusted Flagger to the other DtZ partners and several follow up discussions on CSAM reporting to YouTube through ECPAT.

In 2020, 22 journalists and 16 editors were trained as members of the Alliance of Independent Journalists (with MoWECP as observers). The training aimed to **increase the capacity of journalists** in covering child-friendly news, and at the same time to gather input from the editors on media roles in child-friendly news coverage. It was discovered that (1) there is no specific guideline for media in covering issues related to violence against children and women, (2) lack of capacity development activities for media related to gender and children perspectives, also interviewing children and women, (3) lack of opportunities for media to discuss violence against children and women cases with government. The results will be presented to MoWECP who has just developed a guideline on child-friendly media.

Towards the end of implementation, DtZ started to **build relations with financial companies** such as Western Union, Monay Gram, BCA etc. It was the first awareness raising activity to financial companies which opened their eyes on the urgency of financial companies to put attention on suspected transactions for SEC purposes.

Figure 6 CA 2 demonstrating significant contribution to the private sector entering into dialogue with CSOs on prevention of SEC (IO1)



¹⁹ <https://ecpatindonesia.org/berita/peran-usaha-wisata-dan-perjalanan-dalam-menghadapi-eksploitasi-seksual-anak-selama-pandemi-covid-19/>

2.6 THAILAND

Country specific context

Political context

In late February 2020, the dissolution of an opposition political party triggered student protests against the government. The protests stopped during the Covid-19 lockdown period and re-started in July. Demonstrations in Bangkok against the government demanded the resignation of the Prime Minister, and a reform of the constitution and of the Thai monarchy. In October and November, the “pro-democracy” protests escalated, despite the issuance of a decree banning demonstrations, and some protest leaders were arrested during crackdown operations that involved violence. This troubled political context has had a deterrent effect on foreign investments, which are desperately needed as the Thai economy, particularly the travel and tourism sector, is severely affected by the strict lockdown measures taken by the government to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Covid-19

The emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic in Thailand has led the Thai Government to take some preventative measures including lockdown and curfews. Covid-19 played a significant role in the increase in the numbers of cases of online sexual exploitation and abuse. The US Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2020²⁰ reported that traffickers increasingly induce young Thai girls and boys to perform sex acts through videos and photos on the internet, sometimes by blackmailing victims with explicit images.

ThaiHotline and Thai representative of the INHOPE network (a global network of hotlines combating online Child Sexual Abuse Material) receive every month around 800 reports of child sexual abuse materials which are often connected to sextortion and sexting cases. However, this has doubled during the Covid-19 lockdown measures, between March and June 2020. Most victims of cases reported to ThaiHotline are boys and girls (similar numbers) aged between 12-16 years old. It is highly likely a consequence of the Covid-19 lockdown measures; children spending more time online due to the closure of schools (until July 1st), and entertainment places (where sexual exploitation of children takes place) were closed. As a result, many girls were sexually exploited through online platforms to generate income to support their families, which were deeply impacted by the economic crisis caused by the pandemic.

Achievements per Actor in 2020



Children

In 2020, 292 children (25 boys and 267 girls) were trained on how to report SEC cases through DtZ project interventions. Following the training sessions, 28 children contacted any of the DtZ Alliance members to report SEC cases. Due to the Covid-19 lockdown measures the number of reports have decreased, but also due to lack of trust of children and young people in the justice system and in the police, who humiliate them (particularly transgender children) and do not even register their complaints.

1,209 children (306 boys and 903 girls) have received **specialised services**, such as shelter, health services, educational services, despite Covid-19 preventative measures that have hampered partners to provide regular support. A big gap remains regarding the follow up of victims after their repatriation back home, especially when this is in a neighbouring country. One of the main issues was Covid-19 which has hampered family visits/follow up visits by partners’ staff due to lockdown measures in several provinces/cities. Only 15 children were reintegrated in a sustainable manner within their families and communities (4 boys and 11 girls). They all have a home, a family and an income generating activity.

In 2020 trained **youth leaders initiated their project proposal** and implemented peer education, awareness raising campaigns, peer support and reported the situation of children who are at risk to key duty bearers. The core leader reflected that it was the year of being proud as they were fully involved in the prevention of SEC activities from planning, preparation to implementation, and they did this by themselves. We also got cases reported and provided special services to victims of SEC by working closely with multi-disciplinary teams, e.g. legal assistants, interview cases and rehabilitation. DtZ also facilitated **two youth forums**; in October the

²⁰ US Department of State (2020). Trafficking in Persons Report 2020. [online] US Department of State. Available at: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report/thailand/>

Children Forum was organised with an exhibition and panel discussion on 'Voice of Children against SEC', presented to duty bearers and TV media. In November youth leaders initiated a theatre performance and presented their recommendation on online SEC to Government and related organizations.

In addition, **DtZ produced a series of 12 short videos** focusing on specific SEC and child sexual abuse related themes, which were released once a week on Facebook and Twitter and followed by a session on Facebook live during which Childline staff engaged with young people online through games and quizz on SEC. There were 47,606 views and 3,340 likes and 5,524 comments on the 12 episodes between July and September 2020.



Communities

During Covid-19 lockdown measures, community work was extremely difficult. DtZ managed to adapt and to provide generating income support to 21 families of SEC victims to support them to address the negative consequences of the Covid-19 measures. Once lockdown measures were lifted, DtZ **trained 70 community members** (30 males and 40 females) mainly teachers in Pattani and in Chiang Mai, on child online protection measures and how to implement such measures in their schools.

DtZ continued working with Chiang Rai NGO Coordination Committee for the Protection of Children and Women (with 13 NGOs), to discuss the issue of SEC, how to increase child protection, and create a **work plan to build the capacity of multi-disciplinary teams** to assist child victims more effectively. The group organized a workshop on the topic "Interpreters to protect the welfare of human trafficking victims" in 10 languages. Participants gained necessary knowledge and skills, conscious mind/ethics and realized the roles and duties of the interpreter in the process of helping to protect victims of human trafficking. They've created a list of interpreters that can facilitate the protection of victims of human trafficking in Chiang Rai Province.



Government and Law Enforcement

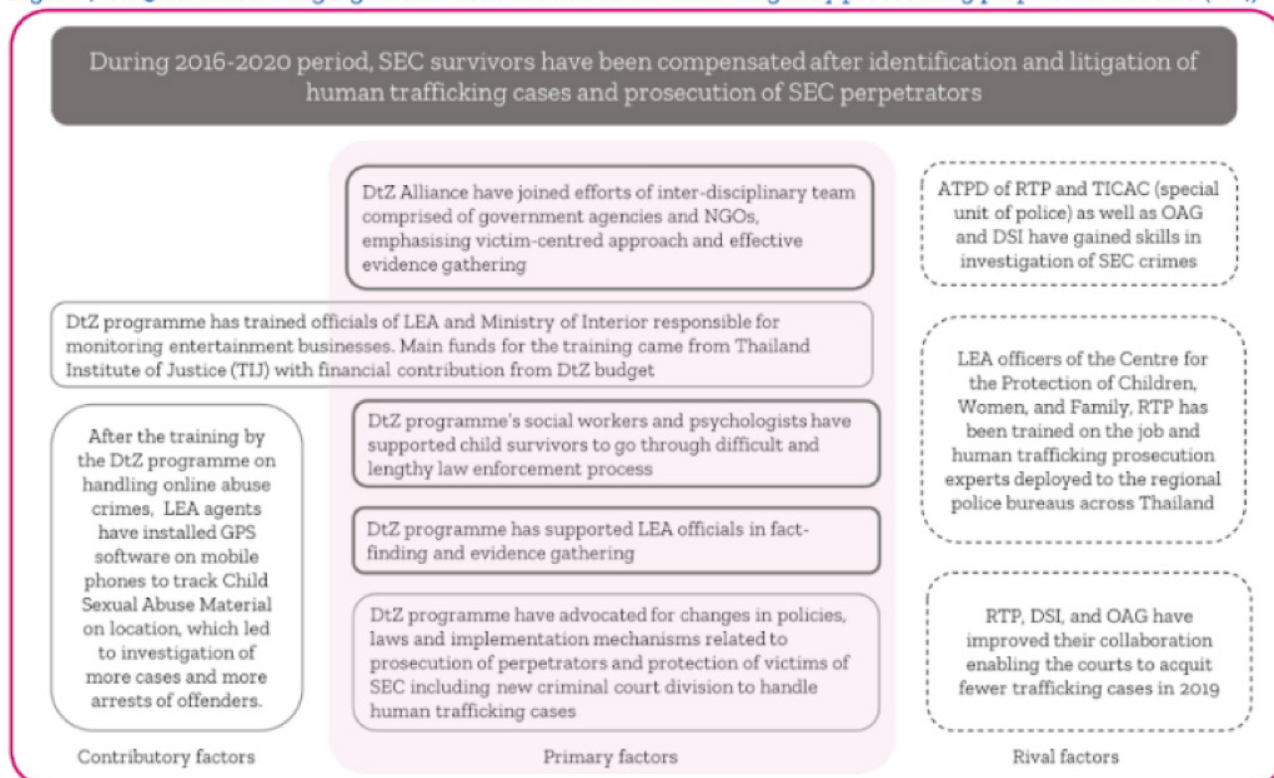
In 2020, DTZ partners have been very actively involved in advocacy work despite the Covid-19 context. They have been in regular contact via online platforms with influential decision makers, to move forward the adoption process of the draft law on child online protection, which aims at criminalising online grooming, livestreaming of child sexual abuse and sextortion. Unfortunately the law has not yet been adopted in 2020. In addition, DtZ's lobby and advocacy efforts with the **Ministry of Education have been very successful** as a Center for the Protection of Students against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse was created in July 2020. This center aims at receiving report cases of SEC in schools and universities either public or private, and will refer them to adequate support services. This mechanism is expected to contribute to curb the level of sexual abuse, violence and exploitation by teachers of students. ECPAT Foundation Thailand and the "Child Safe Friendly Tourism" network organizations co-organized a meeting with representatives of the Department of Tourism, Ministry of Tourism and Sport, Department of Child and Youth, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Representative of the Royal Thai police, etc. It was discussed to **integrate the standards of Northern Thailand as a National tourism standard** to protect children from sexual exploitation and trafficking.

DtZ provided **training on child-friendly justice techniques**, child online protection and online ways to handle SEC cases to 24 police officers who are expected to be integrated in a newly Police Cyber Crime Bureau, established by the Royal Thai Police in 2020 to oversee all cybercrime related offenses, including online sexual exploitation. A sustainable change recognized in the DtZ End Evaluation is the increase of compensation for victims, due to support, training and advocacy with LEA (see contribution analysis 3 below- page 45-46). The number of law enforcement officials by the DtZ project has been quite limited due to the limited online training equipment available at Royal Thai Police level in the Covid-19 context.

In addition, DtZ has conducted legal procedures and advocacy in relation to the Victoria's Secret case, in which 2 owners were found guilty but are not yet prosecuted.²¹ A taskforce was created including a DtZ partner where they discovered bribery was involved. As a result this will be further investigated by the authorities.

²¹ <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1509894/more-suspects-nabbed-in-victorias-secret-case>

Figure 7 CA 3 demonstrating significant contribution to the LEAs diligently prosecuting perpetrators of SEC (IO4)



Private Sector

With regard to online SEC, the DtZ Alliance has **worked very closely with major Internet content providers** such as Google and Facebook which have both played a very important role in responding actively and in a timely manner to programme's analysis of content marked as containing SEC related material and take it down. **Google**

also has committed to sign an agreement with DtZ partners in Thailand on safe Internet, CSAM screening process, and implementing prevention actions in schools in February 2020.

DtZ has also worked very closely with DTAC, one of the top three Internet Service Providers in Thailand to develop child online interventions co-led with DTAC. For instance, DtZ and DTAC organised the Young Safe Internet Leader Camp in May and July 2020. The online event involved 500 students and 40 teachers from 20 schools. Children developed child online protection projects to be developed in all 20 schools involved in the project, with support from DtZ project and DTAC.

In May 2020, Tik Tok and Joylada also contacted the DtZ Alliance to discuss ways to fight SEC, and encourage safe Internet among their users. DtZ Alliance discussed with Tik Tok and the Department of Children and Youth (Ministry of Social Development and Human Security) the **development of a joint MoU** aimed at launching a national campaign on online protection, particularly online SEC offenses, through Tik Tok, which is the most popular online platform among children and young people in Thailand. 20 staff from DTAC, Tik Tok and Joylada were trained.

In February, 21 hotels in Chiang Khong District of Chiang Rai **signed and adopted their Child protection Policy and Code of Conduct** to eradicate child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. The situation of the Covid-19 pandemic affected travel and tourism sectors, many hotels/tourism closed and laid off their staff. In October, 122 hotel staff (24 face-to-face and 98 online) of the Hotel association in Chiang Rai Province were trained on increased harm of SEC and how tourism companies can increase child protection.

2.7 PHILIPPINES

Country specific context

Covid-19

The Philippines has been badly affected by the global Covid-19 pandemic, with a state of emergency throughout the country since March 8, 2020. The priority of all government departments in 2020 has been the Social Amelioration Program to respond to Covid-19. The Local Government Units have been overwhelmed and tourism income (a major source of income) has been drastically reduced. It is estimated that around 10 million workers may lose their jobs this year because of the pandemic. The impact has been felt by the most vulnerable - the poorest families with children and other marginalized groups in communities.

With most of the population shifting to online means of communication due to the Covid-19 measures and a lack of tourism to the Philippines, child rights advocates warned against a different kind of pandemic: online sexual exploitation of children. Various groups and studies have monitored a worrying increase in the number of online sexual exploitation cases involving children in recent months. From March 1 to May 24 2020, during the national lockdown measures and extended community quarantine, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children had received 279,166 reported incidents of online SEC, 264% increase compared to the same period last year.

Children and women's groups in the Philippines stepped up their efforts as domestic violence rates began to climb under the growing stress of lockdown measures and economic hardship. CSOs have also acted as crucial intermediaries between vulnerable communities and local governments, particularly for populations who find it threatening to engage with authorities. The Covid-19 pandemic has shone a light on the crucial role of civic spaces at a time when shrinking funding and democratic backsliding have made vibrant and open civic spaces increasingly difficult to sustain.

Progress per Actor in 2020



Children

Significant progress has been made with children participating in decision-making within the family, community and local government regarding their rights. 4 Child/Youth organisations were formed, including the Tubigon Youth Peer Educators (TYPE) in Bohol with more than 100 members and supervised by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office. ECPAT Youth and Children Advocates' (EYCA) proactive involvement towards protecting children inspired local children and youths to be advocates. In October 2020, EYCA and TYPE organized and collaborated in conducting an online educational awareness session on the issue of Online sexual abuse and exploitation of children. All members of TYPE participated. In Cebu, children and youth groups have had their share in the provision of **support to their peers through online campaigns** in their respective social media pages/groups. Also during lockdown the child groups initiated discussions between peers on SEC and child protection. These groups of children and youth informed DtZ staff about cases that they can no longer address or are beyond their capacity. Also, after DtZ interventions, 12 survivors (8 boys, 4 girls) from Bohol and Metro Cebu decided to pursue their education, leaving the dysfunctional and risky environment behind for a better life.



Communities

Families and community leaders have become **more proactive in responding to the needs of child victims** and children at risk. For example, 2 concerned female community members in Cebu asked 2 Facebook users to delete lascivious posts involving children, 3 Youth Councils from Bohol organized and conducted community education among youth and children, and 16 families of SEC victims in Metro Cebu supported their life plans. Victims develop a life plan with support of DtZ to enable them to contribute to their family's income despite the pandemic through alternative livelihood activities (e.g. selling local products or other goods, either online or offline). The efforts done by the Alliance in conducting Community Education particularly on the Children's Rights and issues of SEC and the One-on-One Home Based Follow-up, Counseling, and Family Development were highly significant contributions to the signs of behavioral changes that took place in the community.

However, it remains a challenge to have ownership from the communities to raise this issue and take ownership of the steps to stop SEC, as this is historically socially accepted. During Covid-19 pandemic, communities had other priorities and difficulties which led to only small steps of change in this pathway.



Government and Law Enforcement

DtZ's partnership with the Department of Tourism was further improved with the **development of a module on Advocacy for Ordinance on Child Protection** in Travel and Tourism during the community quarantine. The training module includes the topics on Gender-Responsive Ordinance, Public-Private Partnership, and the importance and content of a local ordinance on Child protection in Travel and Tourism. This resulted in the adoption of an Ordinance for the Protection of Children in Travel and Tourism in Central Luzon. It is hoped that this will continue to expand in other areas with the private and public sectors involvement. In addition, awareness raising was done to effectively combat SEC by the Local Government Units (LGUs) of Bohol, Boracay and Cebu through a forum conducted by the Women and Child Protection Center. This forum was about how to provide Covid-19 safety measures to sexually abused children, a child advocacy programme, a workshop on effective child labor referral flows, and online training for the 15 primary and 17 secondary teachers on the issue of online SEC and Safety Tips Online.

The formation of **Regional Council Against Child Labor** was realised with the help of the DTZ Alliance. This is an important step because NGOs are also part of this interagency council and they push for more coordination and monitoring of cases of Child Labor including SEC.



Private Sector

Private sector actors in Travel and Tourism continued their support in online SEC and SEC prevention, amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, through **monitoring of compliance to Child Protection policies** despite being closed from April to June 2020. 5 companies put-up posters or signages on anti-trafficking, prevention of sexual harassment and discrimination of SEC victims. And an influential national TV network ABS-CBN discussed the impact of the pandemic on child protection and SEC. The main achievement in this pathway is the collaboration between the Department of Tourism (DoT, part of the government) and the private sector. DtZ has the full collaboration with the DoT nationally, they initiate training modules for local ordinances to make regulations and monitor these for the private sector. Already in 2017 we have reported about the ordinances enhancing measures and protocols for the private sector, this work continues on a structural basis. Overall, it shows the private sector is aware of SEC and their role in addressing it, and they start to take measures in child-friendly policies and mechanisms.

2.8 INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

International context

Covid-19

The social, political and economic situation has significantly changed as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. It has impacted entire communities and children's lives, and in consequence Alliance members' work at national and local levels. In March-May 2020, six major international events were cancelled or postponed due to Covid-19. These included: ITB Berlin and India, a conference in Malaysia with the private sector, South Asia UN Business and Human Rights Forum in Nepal, the WTTC Global Summit in Mexico and the National Forum on Tourism in Myanmar. In June-October 2020, several events were reorganized online. These included the UN Business and Human Rights Forum in the Asia with a session on "Rethinking the restart of tourism in the Asia-Pacific region while managing adverse impacts on child rights" with the private sector, intergovernmental bodies and NGOs and the 1st International Mekong Summit, including a panel on the sustainability with child protection in focus.

Achievements per Actor in 2020



Private Sector

Private sector engagement continues to be strong, both globally and via Local Code Representatives (LCRs). Despite some Code member companies closing their operations in 2020 due to Covid-19 financial losses, 22 **new companies became members of The Code** (The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism), committing to take practical steps to protect children. The new members include InterContinental Hotel Group, one of the biggest hotel chains in the world with nearly 1 million guest rooms.

Sensitisation of companies on SEC has continued online despite the lack of in-person tourism fairs and events. New key private sector actors have also developed a strategy to protect children. The Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) Destination Criteria v2.0 included **a child protection performance indicator**, based on the recommendations of ECPAT International. The current Criteria B5 call upon destinations to have laws, practices and established codes of conduct to prevent and report on human trafficking and sexual exploitation. This was an important step, because new tourism associations and private sector actors were reached to become members.

DtZ continued to advocate with international and regional intergovernmental bodies to create an enabling environment for the private sector to engage in child protection, develop ethical policies and take action; the three main achievements are described below.

The UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics, that explicitly refers to children's rights and the protection of children from sexual exploitation was signed by Indonesia that became its first signatory. It is a significant step towards the ratification of the Convention, which was adopted during the UNWTO General Assembly in 2019. With the travel and tourism sector currently facing the biggest crisis in its history, DtZ keeps advocating with countries to use this pause as an opportunity to realign tourism with ethical standards.

Following the adoption of the SECTT legal checklist (a tool designed to guide national legislation to further protect children from exploitation) by ASEAN countries in 2019, DtZ developed a country analysis based on the 24-points of the legal checklist, covering Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Americas. The country analysis covering over 40 countries will be published in 2021 by ECPAT International, in cooperation with the regional bodies to allow for monitoring the progress as part of institutional arrangements.

DtZ, in cooperation with ECPAT, other NGOs and national governments in the Americas developed the first **regional overview on child protection standards**. The report gives a clear picture on how codes can be streamlined and how to collectively work to protect every child in the region from all forms of sexual exploitation. This is important because with restarting travel and tourism after Covid-19, there is a big risk that offenders that are now grooming children online will travel to meet them in person when travel restrictions are lifted. The report was launched in December 2020 during an online annual meeting of the Regional Action Group for the Protection of Children in the Americas (GARA).

2.9 REFLECTION OF THE DOWN TO ZERO PROGRAMME 2016-2020

At the end of 2020, MDF evaluated the Down to Zero programme in all countries, data was compared with the baseline that was conducted in 2016. Children were consulted, as well as other stakeholders in four case countries (Colombia, Dominican Republic, Indonesia and Thailand). The DtZ End Evaluation Report provides an extensive description of the effectiveness and achievements of the DtZ programme over five years. Below, the Alliance shares some of the main insights on the achievements in addition to the End Evaluation conclusions.

The Theory of Change (ToC) approach with the four pathways has proven to be logical for the interventions and clear to structure the programme. The programmatic ToC defined clear concepts within the four pathways with numerous stakeholders and levels of change in each pathway. The translation into country-specific ToCs with more context-specific details provided a valid guidance for the country's interventions. Intermediate outcomes were not always in the same sequence but the ToC provided the required flexibility.

The DtZ programme had good results despite the challenges working on this complex and sensitive issue. The Covid-19 pandemic added a huge challenge in the final year but partners were able to adapt well to the new situation by going online and using other methods to stay in touch with their target groups and working on sustainability. Also socio-political environments were in some countries very challenging, notably in Latin America but the DtZ Alliance was still able to achieve the envisioned outcomes despite the sometimes limited social space to work and ongoing unrest.

In the children's pathway, all countries had very good and sustainable results. Children and youth initiated actions themselves and have managed to organize themselves well in networks, talk about their rights with peers but also within communities and with authorities, they seem to have more and more impact on the dialogues with authorities and are more empowered. They have increased their knowledge and know very well about SEC risks. They also increasingly and successfully (due to Covid-19 but also due to the interests of

youth) use online campaigns to raise attention for SEC and for child rights in general. In the early years, mainly vulnerable children were willing to act as agents of change or champions for advocating for child rights. In the last years of DtZ, it appears that child victims also wanted to play this role more and more.

DTZ EVALUATION REPORT:

In terms of programme effectiveness in reaching the ultimate outcomes of the children pathway, significant progress has been made in empowering child survivors and children at risk to act as agents of change.

Across the board, children have improved their knowledge of and access to (protection) services, while the greatest improvement has been seen in boys and older girls at risk. The first instance of support remains the families and child-friendly CSOs and the access to and trust in public institutions has improved, more so in Asia. In some places, children are aware of risks and ways of protection but have less knowledge of technical vocational education and training (TVET), recovery, and reintegration. Most children know how to report SEC cases to police and if and when they overcome their hesitance, they do so, albeit mostly indirectly (through staff of the DtZ Alliance, parents, or neighbours). There are many examples of children flagging the cases and risks to DtZ and/or community-based child protection mechanisms (CBCPM), some to law enforcement agencies (LEAs) through CBCPMs and few directly to the (community-level) LEAs. Finally, children placed trust in each other much more than in 2016 and they are outspoken about SEC risks/cases. A stronger increase is seen in children at risk mobilising as groups. Children's agency is evident where both girls and boys act as peer educators, volunteer or actively participate in DtZ programme activities. Although not all across the board, there are many examples of children engaging with the government or advocating for their rights as a group. The main programme contributions to these changes have been directly working with children, raising their awareness on SEC, its risks and protection mechanisms, providing/facilitating children's access to services, training children in reporting cases and raising an SEC issue among their peers. In addition, the programme has worked with communities to set up functional CBCPMs as well as with governments to support them in improving their preventive work and services for SEC survivors.

In the community pathway, DtZ achieved good results in most of the countries. Community members are more organised in CBCPMs and take ownership by themselves to protect the children in their community, to increase reporting of SEC cases and improve protection mechanisms. Different actors have increased knowledge about the risks for children and young people and know what to do about it. In some cases they developed joint strategies and advocacy plans with local authorities, set up youth networks and local (informal) private sector initiatives. Community work was very difficult during Covid-19 pandemic, some isolated communities were hard to reach and they had other priorities and faced economic, social and health issues. However, sustainable change was achieved by setting up protection committees including teachers, partners and children. Even during the pandemic when children were not able to attend classes, the committees continuously functioned with coordinated actions.

DTZ EVALUATION REPORT:

In terms of programme effectiveness in reaching the ultimate outcomes of the communities pathway, overall considerable progress has been made in targeted communities offering better protection to child survivors and preventing children from becoming (re-)victimised.

Community members are more aware of the SEC as a crime, knowledgeable about and less hesitant to report SEC cases. In many instances, they do so through CBCPMs. Advantageously, there are many more CBCPMs in place, becoming increasingly professionalised and experienced in dealing with SEC. Insufficient amount of and capacity within the complaint mechanisms are behind the low numbers of SEC reports. In some communities, these numbers are also caused by deep-rooted mistrust in the police, disbelief in attaining justice through litigation and the fear of reprisals from alleged perpetrators. Furthermore, primary caregivers are not always helpful in reporting or even addressing SEC. Nevertheless, there are successful programme strategies to overcome these obstacles, mainly through connecting community groups/CBCPMs with LEAs at the community level. There are few but strong examples of community leaders/opinion multipliers publicly demonstrating their determination to change existing practices for a safer environment for the children. The main programme contributions to these changes have been raising awareness of community members with children at risk of SEC, establishing referral systems and supporting child protection committees as well as providing families of child victims with support services such as counselling.

In the government pathway, in many countries there is good cooperation with (local) authorities, monitoring and referral mechanisms have slowly improved despite all the challenges. In many cases there is involvement of youth and child protection committees at local level. Also collaboration with Ministries of education to improve reintegration and attention for SEC at schools. Despite the weakening of protection systems in some contexts, DtZ partners were able to create possibilities of involving local authorities with solid relationships. Working with local governments and creating alliances has opened doors to involve duty bearers and reach more effective results, also during the Covid-19 pandemic with virtual sessions reaching even more public actors.

The achievements in working with Law Enforcement differs a lot per country. In all countries we provided training and provided support with legal services. There is more awareness about child-friendly services and its importance for child victims, but it has not structurally changed yet. Commitment and capacity and consistency of LEAs is sometimes too low to change current practices within a relatively short time frame. Nevertheless, in some countries DtZ has achieved good collaboration and there is more ownership with police and awareness for child-friendly services and justice to fight human trafficking related to SEC, also cross-border.

DTZ EVALUATION REPORT:

In terms of programme effectiveness in reaching the ultimate outcomes of the government pathway, in some countries significant progress and in others moderate progress has been made in governments and the judiciary system applying policies, plans of actions, budgets, and protocols to effectively address SEC. In the government pathway, since the MTR, dialogue between the government and the DtZ programme has advanced to coordination/collaboration and support in service delivery to SEC survivors. There are still government plans to address SEC developed at the sub-national level. Governments are seen to allocate budget to actions against SEC at both the national and local levels. Changes in national policies take a long time to be achieved or are attained in an unplanned/unexpected way. There are signs of governments implementing policies and guidelines. In the law enforcement agency pathway, there are examples of LEAs applying child-friendly protocols, especially due to cooperation with the programme. Facilitation of reporting by the police remains at a low level, even in the more enabling environment, e.g. in Indonesia and Colombia. A lack of capacity, support from other LEAs, and corruption within the police remain key causes for this. There are few examples of police successfully facilitating SEC case reporting with the support of the DtZ programme. Significant progress – due to the programme’s contribution and prioritising anti-trafficking measures – is seen in investigating SEC crimes in some countries (Thailand and Colombia), while the investigation is only translated to conviction and compensation for SEC survivors in a few cases (Thailand). Among the reasons for the success here are the increased capacity of relevant government agencies, inter-agency collaboration and the political support of prosecution processes. The main programme contributions to these changes have been raising the awareness of governments and LEAs on SEC including through media campaigns, training them on the risks and prevention of SEC, lobbying government offices responsible for children’s well-being, and supporting the police in improved SEC case reporting and investigation.

DtZ has built many effective relationships with private sector actors, with a tailored approach by sector, organisation and environment. In most countries, the partners focussed on the travel and tourism sector, but also effective collaboration with ICT businesses, companies working in mining, and informal private sector actors resulted in positive achievements in this pathway. Successful ordinances with governments and private sector were established for tourism regulations. Companies are more open to develop policies and adhere to The Code, and sometimes more proactively protect children and coordinate with other actors. Associations and trade unions represent a key access point to engage the private sector. Private sector has increased knowledge about child protection and motivations to contribute to change, whereby mentoring is key in this process. In addition, it was important to refer to key international conventions and frameworks such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Child Rights and Business Principles. More examples of DtZ’s work with the private sector can be found in the [Collected Best Practices and Lessons Learned](#).

DTZ EVALUATION REPORT:

In terms of programme effectiveness in reaching the ultimate outcomes of the private sector pathway, considerable progress has been made towards international, national, and local businesses, including the informal sector, actively engaging in the protection of children against SEC. While in some places the private sector has been unresponsive to the programme's attempts to include them in efforts of addressing SEC, in others companies continue to engage in dialogue with the programme, raise their awareness of SEC, show signs of commitment and produce content for reaching a wider audience (online content regulation by ISPs). In contrast to the MTR, in 2019-2020 many companies in the tourism industry have joined The Code with support from the DtZ country and international programmes. There are clear indications of signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs)/codes of conduct (CoCs) being implemented and while there is nondescript progress in the economic empowerment of youth, there are examples of companies (from very small to international) addressing SEC in their daily operations. The main programme contributions to these changes have been training and sensitisation of companies in tourism and transportation sectors, lobbying for child rights, developing a CoC or joining The Code, and market assessments to identify the most potential job opportunities for youth. The DtZ international programme has made a significant contribution to changes in this pathway. It has supported the country programmes in their engagement with companies through organising regional meetings, webinars and a working group, as well as providing guidance to become local code representatives (LCR) and supporting The Code member companies with training and technical assistance.

2.10 CHALLENGES

One of the challenges faced by the DtZ Alliance partners, and also acknowledged in the DtZ End Evaluation, is the **low number of children and families formally reporting SEC related crimes to law enforcement agencies**. Yet, children go to adults, NGOs or family/community members to report sexual exploitation. It is important that they know the routes of reporting and go to someone for support. Children and community members often have a lack of trust in the judicial system and fear of being humiliated by police officers who in several instances do not even register their complaint. Child victims have a strong willingness to move on with their lives and not to be dragged by events from the past years after the exploitation happened during lengthy legal proceedings. Although they often also experience difficulties in reintegrating into their family and community. Another challenging root cause for underreporting of SEC is the underlying social norms and acceptance of sexual exploitation and gender based violence in societies, they are hard to change and add to stigma and taboo. A positive note is that social media campaigns showed more reporting on SEC, also by the general public who shared signals of SEC with DtZ partners. DtZ made a good start to discuss this locally, but changing norms, values and behaviour take more time than only five years.

Another big challenge is the general weakness of many protection systems. There is a **lack of public officials' skills to effectively assist young victims**, their constant rotation due to changes in local and national governments, and the ineffective public policy implementation led to lack of protection for children and young people. The **bureaucracy and high turnover** in government offices was a barrier, as relationships had to be built over again or serious delays in specific processes were encountered.

The **evidence** and official data on the number of cases is a great challenge, with a general cases' under-registration and a lack of coordination between the different responsible institutions. There are still breaches and bottlenecks for optimal crime prosecution and criminalization, due to SEC cases lack of visibility in front of human trafficking cases.

In all countries, efforts must continue to be made so that states take concrete measures for the victims' **reintegration, incorporating access to education** through job opportunities for survivors and at high-risk youth. Within the limited budget this aspect is often not prioritized unfortunately. Effective models need to be developed for youth economic empowerment and structural job opportunities for survivors. There is a need for more structural and effective monitoring and reintegration systems, so SEC victims are not **revictimized in their society**. Beside putting more effort in expanding referral networks, more psychosocial and mental health support should be provided in the child protection systems. Child victims need time and holistic interventions before they are ready to fully reintegrate into society.

Chapter 3: Down to Zero Partnership

The Down to Zero Alliance has grown over the last 5 years to a valuable partnership with 5 (inter-)national NGOs being experienced in SEC response and prevention. In the DtZ End Evaluation, the implementing partners in the countries have conducted the Alliance Thermometer as a reflection on the collaboration, strategy, steering and processes, and learning. It was acknowledged that the collaboration between the implementing partners has increased with joint strategies and clear steering structures. PME tools have contributed to the effectiveness of the implementation and the Alliance members in the Netherlands have closely monitored the programme activities, as well as the collaborative and learning initiatives.

THE EVALUATORS CONCLUDE:

When looking at the programme efficiency in terms of partnership dynamics, we conclude that management arrangements and practices have matured, helping the DtZ Alliance to become a more vibrant and dynamic strategic partnership. Progress towards the development of a jointly-owned strategy is particularly obvious at the country level. Growth in connections and collaboration is visible at both the global and country level, with increased signs of harmonisation and the joint use of resources in implementation. The steering structure is clear and functional, but it also created and sustained a certain level of separation between the DtZ Alliance at the country and global levels that are primarily connected through the lead in coordination. Remarkable progress has been made in improving management and implementation processes, although the most sensitive processes related to financial management are seen as separate from programming and remain a point of attention. Finally, the aspect of learning and innovation is perceived with increasing criticism.

However, this reflects the increasing maturity of learning expectations, whereby simply making learning efforts is no longer sufficient and learning investments are judged by their professionalism and rate of return, in terms of delivering relevant and lasting learning effects.

Programmatic tools and practices that have contributed most to the dynamic partnership are country-specific theories of change (ToCs), annual outcome harvesting (OH) meetings, regional learning events, country partners having direct bilateral contact with the Alliance partner and rapid programmatic and budgetary adjustments during an emergency such as Covid-19.

The partnership with the Ministry is of value for the Alliance, where relationships with embassies and liaison officers were built during the DtZ programme to be able to respond or refer SEC cases if necessary. At the country level, the level of engagement depends on the role of the Embassies and the local capacity. At a minimum, they keep each other informed, but often they assist each other with contacts and, in some countries, embassies have supported aspects of the Alliance's activities. For example, in Indonesia the Alliance brought the importance of child rights into the annual Strategic Partnership Meeting in September 2019. The DtZ Alliance in Indonesia highly appreciated being part of the Strategic Partnership meeting and benefited from it, as it brought together many alliances under MoFA support, including the TEMPO Institute, one of the main media companies in Indonesia. In 2020, collaboration has been more difficult due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with shifts of priorities and limited mobility in-country.



At the Netherlands level we also appreciate the transparent relationship with the Dutch Ministry and discussions related to the programme. The SRHR partnership days and closing event were useful in sharing and connecting with other partners working on related subjects. The Down to Zero programme focusses specifically on SEC and contributes to the SRHR results framework of the Dutch Ministry with the following objectives and outcomes:

Result 1 : Better information and greater freedom of choice for young people (10-24 year) about their sexuality

	Objectives Dutch Ministry	Outcomes DtZ Theory of Change	Outputs 2016-2020
A	Promote active and meaningful involvement of young people in policy- and decision-making	Children participate as agents of change in decision-making within the family, community and (local) government regarding their rights, in particular their right to protection against SEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 11,928 SEC victims receiving specialised services (e.g. shelter, health services, educational services, legal aid) o 96,351 children trained on SEC and how to report cases o 36,587 children trained to raise issues of SEC among their peers o 77,485 children trained to advocate for child rights and protect against SEC
C	Boost access to and use of youth-friendly SRHR and HIV/AIDS services	Children (in particular child victims) access specialised services that protect them, help them rehabilitate, reintegrate and reduce their vulnerability to SEC	
D	Prevent and halt all forms of harmful practices against children and adolescents, including child marriage and FGM/C	All DtZ outcomes contribute to this objective, because this objective is in line with DtZ final outcome (halt all forms of SEC)	

Result 4: More respect for the sexual and reproductive rights of groups who are currently denied these rights

	Objectives Dutch Ministry	Outcomes DtZ Theory of Change	Outputs 2016-2020
A	Strengthen and promote use of global and (inter) national human rights frameworks for SRHR and HIV/Aids	Governments develop/improve policies and guidelines in relation to SEC. Law enforcement agencies diligently prosecute perpetrators of child sexual abuse and SEC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 1,874 meetings held with Government officials o 1,361 meetings held with police and judiciary on SEC o 35,302 government officials trained on SEC o 10,748 LEA officials trained on SEC
		Governments develop/improve policies and guidelines in relation to SEC. Law enforcement agencies actively investigate cases of SEC. Law enforcement agencies apply child-friendly protocols.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 166 media campaigns on SEC conducted o 341 lobbying and advocacy documents presented to government
B	Improve the enabling environment for sexual and reproductive health rights for all	Private sector effectively implements and monitors within their sector relevant codes of conduct or MoUs for child rights safeguarding, including the protection against and reporting of SEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 29,343 private sector staff trained on SEC o 2,432 companies sensitized on SEC o 182 market needs assessment scans in order to look for job placements, completed o 1,049 companies supported in developing an ethical company policy related to SEC
		Community-based child protection mechanisms and referral systems for victims of SEC are in place and are effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 676 effective referral systems established o 4,596 families of child victims receiving support services (e.g. counselling) o 935 child protection committees supported o 283,771 community members (with children at risk of SEC) participated in awareness raising activities

	Objectives Dutch Ministry	Outcomes DtZ Theory of Change	Outputs 2016-2020
C	Strengthen accountability mechanisms vis-a-vis governments, service providers and other actors	Governments develop/improve policies and guidelines in relation to SEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 1,874 meetings held with Government officials o 1,361 meetings held with police and judiciary on SEC o 35,302 government officials trained on SEC o 10,748 LEA officials trained on SEC o 166 media campaigns on SEC conducted o 341 lobbying and advocacy documents presented to government o 104 lobbying and advocacy documents presented to law enforcement agencies
		Governments allocated or increased budget to address SEC	
		Government developed Action Plans to address SEC	
		Law enforcement agencies diligently prosecute perpetrators of child sexual abuse and SEC. Law enforcement agencies facilitate the reporting of SEC cases and receive and file reports of SEC cases	
D	Help to end violence and discrimination against key populations, women and girls in relation to SRHR	Governments develop/improve policies and guidelines in relation to SEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 29,343 private sector staff trained on SEC o 2,432 companies sensitized on SEC o 182 market needs assessment scans in order to look for job placements, completed o 1,049 companies supported in developing an ethical company policy related to SEC
		Private sector effectively implements and monitors within their sector relevant codes of conduct or MoUs for child rights safeguarding, including the protection against and reporting of SEC	
		Community leaders, traditional and religious leaders publicly condemn values, norms and practices that contribute to SEC (and initiated discussions (=other outcome))	
E	Strengthen communities and advocacy networks to promote SRH rights for key populations*	Community leaders, traditional and religious leaders publicly condemn values, norms and practices that contribute to SEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 676 effective referral systems established o 4,596 families of child victims receiving support services (e.g. counselling) o 935 child protection committees supported o 283,771 community members (with children at risk of SEC) participated in awareness raising activities
		Community-based child protection mechanisms and referral systems for victims of SEC are in place and are effective	

*Note: The SRHR results framework of MoFA does not provide a definition on 'key populations'. The DtZ Alliance considers SEC victims and vulnerable children to SEC also as key populations, so that is how the Alliance contributes to objective 4E.



Chapter 4: Communication

The DtZ Alliance regularly communicated about DtZ's work through its own (social) media. In addition, three stories were published in *Vrouw* (Telegraaf magazine) in 2020 about the work of Down to Zero and the children we work with. One story included the effects of Covid-19 and the rise of human trafficking during the pandemic. Soon after the start of the pandemic and lockdown measures in many countries, an increase of SEC cases was noticed by DtZ partners. Human traffickers are taking advantage of the economic gaps of families who lost their income and feel desperate in this pandemic situation. On the other hand, DtZ also saw new opportunities, for example in India where tuk-tuk drivers feel responsible for their own town and they help DtZ partners to bring relief packages with an urgent message for parents: keep your children safe from sexual exploitation and human traffickers.

The private sector working group has made a statement for the tourism sector after the lockdown measures and regulations, to ensure child protection and sexual exploitation prevention specifically to be put on the agenda after restarting the tourism industry. It was shared through social media, websites and networks of all partners involved: SAIEVAC, AIPA, GARA, GSTC and others. ECPAT International promoted the call at the Mekong Tourism Forum and as a result they proposed to form a child protection working group and some members reached out to DtZ partners to cooperate, including Go12.Asia platform.

At the end of the programme, an animation video was developed to give more visibility to the Down to Zero Alliance (that still continues working together in 2021) and make the work more tangible. The video calls for follow-up of the programme because yet more work is to be done to fight sexual exploitation for children in Latin America and Asia.

In annex 3, an overview of communication activities can be found that resulted in increased visibility of Down to Zero to the Dutch public (and sometimes international experts in the sector).

Chapter 5: Learning agenda

5.1 ACTIVITIES OF LEARNING AND EXCHANGE BETWEEN PARTNERS IN 2020

Partner meetings that would normally take place internationally, for example for learning and exchange, took place online in 2020. Online meetings allowed us to be more inclusive and invite more people which is an advantage. Partners have been trained and supported in 2020 for online facilitation and use online tools like Mural. However, face to face networking was lost and discussions tend to become a bit more formal in online settings. This could be partly compensated by the fact that we have set up more meetings and partners have more opportunities to meet for learning and exchange internationally. Online webinars were held about:

- Discuss and define statement about restarting the tourism sector with attention for child protection
- Roll-out of the toolkit Bridging the Gaps and sharing experiences of working with boys
- Reflection on preliminary findings of the evaluators looking back at 5 years Down to Zero
- Exchange between SRHR partnerships and partners all around the world about youth participation and other relevant themes, organised by MoFA.

The Down to Zero Alliance has worked on the learning agenda since 2016. There were two central questions that the Alliance has focused on, about the private sector and child empowerment. In all countries there also have been localised learning activities. For example:

In India, DtZ partners have **developed child led indicators** with girls residing in the Sneha shelter through focus group discussions and workshops for advocacy on SEC. In addition, they have facilitated a **child-led research** to explore the meanings of terminologies. By doing so, more contextualised and effective empowerment strategies can be developed.

One partner in India finalized the **guideline for successful reintegration of SEC victims** based on the findings from the study on reintegration in December 2020. The study has been shared with various government stakeholders.

In Thailand, DtZ hired Dr. Wanida Paoin, a highly reputable Thai pediatrician and trainer, Head of the Child Protection Unit at Thammasat University Hospital, to provide training for partners. The training addressed the concerns of partners' staff and help them build their capacities towards providing **high quality support** to children and young people, boys, girls as well as transgender, and to help them **build resilience and self-confidence** to address and overcome the impact of sexual abuse or exploitation, aggravated by mental health issues.

In Latin America, **cross-border coordination** between the implementing partners of Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia to carry out binational or international activities has allowed joint learning about virtual youth empowerment and political advocacy. DtZ's partner in Colombia organised 2 regional spaces for reflection for youth leaders, in which the other 3 countries participated. In addition, in Brazil a situational analysis was done to know more about the link between migration and SEC. Key findings highlighted that, despite the context of the pandemic crisis, the issue of **migration still has a strong important role** in SEC prevalence with an international scale. Underreporting in this context is an even greater challenge.

In some countries (Latin America, Brazil, Indonesia), partners have generated various investigations to have **Covid-19 impact's** evidence at local level for the situation of SEC, and the Child Protection Systems. These studies have been used in advocacy processes.

The following learning activities were organised centrally by the Alliance focussing on the learning question about the private sector:

“How to engage strategically with the private sector to ensure that we realise meaningful private sector engagement?”

First, DtZ initiated an analysis of the codes of conduct on child protection for the travel and tourism industry in the Americas. Codes of conduct are an essential tool to guide actors on how to improve their policies and practices for child protection against sexual exploitation. The report, developed by ECPAT International and Regional Action Group of the Americas (GARA), analyses how these codes can be streamlined and collectively work to protect every child in the region from all forms of sexual exploitation. The report can be found here: <https://www.ecpat.org/news/codes-of-conduct-to-prevent-child-sexual-exploitation-in-tourism>

Second, since the Covid-19 pandemic there are many concerns that other economic and health priorities overshadow attention for child protection and (existing) policies. In the summer of 2020, DtZ organised a series of webinars “Restarting travel and tourism with child protection in focus”. The outcomes of the webinars informed a joint statement to lobby and advocate with relevant stakeholders to restart travel and tourism in a sustainable way that keeps children safe from all forms of sexual exploitation. The webinars involved speakers representing the private sector, governments and NGOs from India, Philippines, Colombia and Peru. Other NGOs participated in the webinars and contributed to the discussion; as well as to the formulation of the outcome document through an online survey. The call was launched on the occasion of The World Tourism Day 2020, in English and Spanish. As a result, Mekong Tourism Forum proposed to ECPAT International to form a child protection working group that is expected to be approved by their board in 2020. The statement can be found here: <https://www.ecpat.org/news/world-tourism-day-2020/>

Third, the Alliance wanted to collect best practices of working with the private sector to share amongst the implementing partners but also wider for other stakeholders working on prevention of SEC in this sector. A consultant analysed the methods, activities and lessons learned within the DtZ programme, including engagement of ICT/ISPs, government institutions to regulate PS, economic empowerment and job placements etc. The report was presented in a webinar and translated into Spanish, it can be found here: see [link](#). The following learning activities were organised centrally by the Alliance focussing on the learning question about child empowerment:

“What are effective child empowerment strategies, taking into account age and gender?”

DtZ developed a practical toolkit “Bridging the Gap” to support social workers and other practitioners in their knowledge and practices to work with boy-victims of sexual exploitation. The DtZ Alliance organised a series of 3 webinars to roll-out this toolkit, to increase awareness and knowledge, practice with the tools and share experiences amongst implementing partners. The toolkit is also translated into Spanish, Bahasa, and several local languages in India. The toolkit can be found here:

<https://www.terredeshommes.nl/en/latest/bridging-the-gap-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-of-boys>

5.2 REFLECTION LEARNING AGENDA 2016-2020

In Annex 3, an overview is provided of all learning products that the Down to Zero Alliance has developed during the 5 year programme. The Alliance and its partners were able to provide new insights and share knowledge within the sector of child protection. The implementing partners expressed a high appreciation for the moments of sharing and connection and the learning initiatives, while expectations of learning processes also increased significantly.

Child empowerment

Child empowerment strategies are extremely context specific and need to be understood from the context of the child e.g., living condition, age, gender, socio-economic positioning and their mental health situation. For boys, many DtZ partners adopted an additional strategy, giving them more time and space to acknowledge SEC as harmful for themselves and their environment. The toolkit about how to work with boys who are victims of SEC is very useful for partners to improve their adaptive strategies.

Children felt empowered with knowledge and skills resulting in collective actions, and most importantly the support and confidence of mobilized change makers that made children’s voices heard. Partners learned that it is crucial to enhance life skills and capability to support self and others, empower peer to peer child relationships, capacitate the children to voice out and mobilize other youth and children to act as an agent of change, as well as enhance their participation and involvement in decision making.

In the final year of DtZ, due to Covid-19, partners had to make more use of online technologies in reaching children. However, it is expected that partners continue using this approach also after the pandemic, as it is useful for this target group and has a big reach. For example, ECPAT Youth and Children Advocates (EYCAC) conducted online contests through spoken poetry and TikTok videos to raise the issue of SEC amongst peers.

Private sector

DtZ Alliance partners have learned to increase engagement with the private sector, including the importance of transparency in explaining who we are, what we do, why we do it, how we do it, and who will benefit. It is crucial to use the right wording/language with the private sector, for example sometimes it might be better to talk about Corporate Social Responsibility, sustainable development or human rights in general and avoid mentioning SEC in first instance. Partners learned it is often more effective to work with network organisations and associations, so they make a joint commitment to child protection for all member companies. The strategy that partners had adopted with the informal sector is to make them part of the project activities so that they can recognise the importance of their role in preventing SEC.

The project should also gain concrete collaboration from the government, especially the Ministries of Tourism, as a partner to gain credibility and participation from the tourism industry. Effective interventions are with public-private partnerships, whereby first collaboration starts with the government and jointly approaching the private sector actors. Capacity building, advocacy, and networking with the private sector are effective strategies. Strategic engagement can be reached by continuous lobbying and collaborating with the government (whether national or local) and the private sector itself through their association.

THE EVALUATORS CONCLUDE:

From the outset, learning has been one of the core collaboration areas, implemented through a joint learning agenda, designed to respond to learning needs by tracking and sharing best practices. During the MTR, the learning component of the DtZ Alliance received the highest appreciation, with partners praising the deliberate and diverse learning efforts, encouraged by a conducive learning climate and a shared sense of importance attached to learning.

Considering the above, it is remarkable that in 2020 learning and innovation has been self-assessed by the DtZ country teams with a lower score on average. Looking in more detail at what has happened in terms of learning and innovation, it does not seem that learning efforts nor results have much reduced. Country partners still refer to a variety of learning efforts and cite a range of learning examples including strengthening the connection between private sector and communities, the inclusion of violence against women and LGBTBI, and adaptations in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. At the same time, they still describe the learning climate as open and constructive and reconfirm the importance of continued learning and innovation.

Nevertheless, and informed by learning experiences to date, country partners express themselves critically, among others related to the absence of particular learning priorities (e.g. fundraising, working with the private sector, contextualisation of approaches), the limited relevance of learning (more than just sharing experiences) and the importance of having learning effects that last. Other observations relate to the need of sufficient resources for learning in the region, the need to be more inclusive (all countries/partners independent of the lead partner), the importance of identifying and sticking to common learning questions, and the ability to combine qualitative with quantitative information for knowledge building. Finally, the importance of clearly defining needs and expectations is stressed as a precondition for effective learning and innovation.

Based on this, it is clear that learning is still considered a core area of working in partnership. It appears furthermore that the initial emphasis on learning in the DtZ Alliance has resulted in rapid maturation of how learning is perceived and experienced. This means that the initial enthusiasm and satisfaction of being exposed to learning opportunities has evolved into more serious and demanding learning expectations. This implies that partners increasingly look for learning processes that are well-considered and carefully designed to ensure strong, relevant, and lasting learning effects.

5.3 GENDER AND INCLUSION

Since 2016, DtZ partners have a **growing understanding** of gender and the underlying norms and structures including gender inequality being one of the root causes of SEC. There are many differences between the partners in their experience and knowledge about gender. However on average, we can say that the inclusion of implementing gender strategies grew from collecting disaggregated data, train staff to be gender sensitive and ensure individual needs are addressed, to mainstreaming gender in all activities; like analyse different needs between boys and girls, include boys and men in relevant discussions and awareness raising activities, provide safe spaces for girls to talk about sensitive topics, and more and more inclusion of boy victims of sexual exploitation in our services and strategies.

In the last years of Down to Zero, after introducing the gender framework and MTR recommendations, there is an increase of knowledge, skills and resources. **The perception of gender is much wider now:** gender is included in social analyses and gender response strategies are being developed as a basis for programming. In addition, there is more awareness of non-heteronormative gender identities and invisibility of boys as a victim of sexual exploitation. Despite some signs of growing awareness of boys being victim of SEC, the problem continues to be relatively under-researched, unrecognized in relevant legislation and policy, and broadly unaddressed in programming.

A few examples of 2020 activities:

- DtZ in Indonesia improved knowledge with religious leaders on children's rights and gender equality to children and youth groups, this has shown a positive impact.
- In Latin America, female adolescents and women promoted gender equality and advocated public policies and local councils, where they did not have access to before. This generated more critical reflection on existing inequalities.
- In India, gender imbalances are always being discussed as every SEC case is related to gender issues. Challenging gender norms in society are integrated in the dialogues and workshops with children and communities, as well as in shelter homes.

In many countries, partners face difficulties in terms of skills and resources to conduct **in-depth gender inequality analyses including root causes**. Currently it is not structurally done but there is more attention for it. Without analysis it is hard to structurally address inequalities with underlying social norms and values, and be gender transformative. Partners see the importance of it but sometimes **lack the tools and instruments** as well as **staffing and hours** to do so. To be able to achieve structural change in existing systems and services in-country, more interventions with comprehensive analyses of underlying causes of inequalities and exclusion are needed. Therefore, in the Voice for Change programme the Alliance enrolled a gender transformative approach with tools, training and exchange between partners.

A few examples of 2020 activities:

- In India the police starts to realise boys can also be victims and the stigma for girl victims but it's only a very first step with some of the police officers we work with
- In Peru, older boys identify and question gender stereotypes, we have provided safe spaces to express emotions because this is not common. It can be a start of more structural change within the community but much more work to be done.
- A key success in Brazil is that CONANDA addresses specifically the needs of the LGBTQI community for the first time, it is very uncommon in Brazilian government to do so. It's a small but important step for future change.

Conclusions gender

Gender norms: DtZ interventions contributed to addressing the gender norms that are relevant among different actors (children and youth, families, communities, leaders, duty bearers). For example, reducing the acceptability of violence and abuse against children and youth, in particular girls and young women in all their diversity. Social exclusion and inequality is being addressed in awareness and advocacy actions at different levels (mainly local).

Boys and men engagement: DtZ works with and supports boys and men to promote gender equality, positive masculinities and address their gender-specific vulnerabilities. We aim to discuss stereotypes and imbalances that cause sexual exploitation or vulnerabilities for children, discuss power issues and protection.

Enabling environment, structures and services: DtZ did not yet achieve many changes in the wider environment of structures, systems, services in child protection systems, communities, governments and LEA to enable gender equality and inclusion. More in-depth intervention is required at all levels of the system to achieve change, more investments and time is needed.



Chapter 6: Sustainability

This chapter describes the sustainability of the Down to Zero programme, in addition to what has been written in the DtZ End Evaluation report (see box below- page 116).

Impact 5 years and beyond

The programme has contributed significantly to the lives and activities of the children and youth, caregivers, community leaders and civil society, government, professionals of the protection network and key actors in the private sector in all 10 countries where DtZ was implemented. Down to Zero was designed for sustainable impact with significant results to date, achieved through mobilisation, capacity building, and developing relationships with actors ranging from children to duty-bearers. This has led to established empowered youth (networks), an increase in protective family and school environments, more coordinated/strengthened child protection systems (CPS) and private sector stakeholders committed to the fight against SEC.

Firstly, the programme promoted sustainable impact by championing a **systems approach**,²² to ensure strengthening (existing) formal and informal child protection systems and mechanisms. By using a systems approach, the programme placed child protection and sexual exploitation of children within a broader perspective, considering the interconnectedness of children's rights and the complex causes and consequences of SEC. When applying this "system lense", multiple actors within and outside the CPS were identified with a responsibility and role to play in the fight against SEC. The programme promoted both horizontal, multi sectoral coordination, ensuring complementarity, efficiencies and integration with other social service systems (healthcare, legal, law enforcement, education etc.) and vertical coordination, linking formal child protection systems to community based child protection mechanisms which in so many contexts is a crucial actor to engage with when working towards the better protection of children in the long run.

The programme focused on **capacity-building** to further build (institutional) sustainability through equipping children and youth, parents and community members, child protection system actors (informal and formal, including the government and private sector) with the knowledge, skills and networks to uphold and demand for high quality, gender responsive services, and policy changes beyond the programme lifetime. By supporting CSO networks, including DtZ partners, to monitor the functioning of child protection systems in general and the implementation of policies related to SEC in particular, the programme supported local civil society to monitor, support and hold governments accountable.

The focus on **lobbying and advocacy** at all - *local, national and international* - levels aimed at delivering evidence-based recommendations widely and consistently across platforms, so that the prevention and response to SEC is front and centre of the child protection agendas (and long-term post-Covid19 recovery), and not side-lined after the end of the programme. The Alliance promoted budget commitments and endorsements of child friendly legal systems and worked with young people to be part of a youth network, raise their voice and employ their advocacy skills.

An important aspect are the **Multisectoral spaces** that were built with the private, public and community sectors, and children and adolescents, which are currently self-convened, self-managed and led by local stakeholders. Participatory monitoring plans were built that link the community and the government, and the protection committees were recognized as good practices by the states. **Child protection systems, government and the private sector** are all key to institutionalising lasting and comprehensive SEC prevention and response approaches when coordination and efficiency is embedded among them. DtZ promoted an ongoing multi-stakeholders approach building a common understanding of SEC and complementarity **within the system**; promoting a culture of collaboration to remain in place after robust adjusted referrals, protocols and guidelines have been built.

All the strategies engaged **children and young people** by putting them at centre stage, enabling them to be active agents of change to voice matters that affect them, seek and access specialized services and to express their needs towards parents, families, community leaders, school teachers and others.

Children and young people have shown great interest in collaborating with partners to reduce their

²² Links between comprehensive violence prevention and system-building approaches documented for example in <https://www.unicef.org/media/66741/file/Promising-programme-responses.pdf>

vulnerability. They have more knowledge on SEC and (how to) claim their rights, wider perspective of social reality, and greater leadership and participation in local decision-making spaces. Children, youth leaders and youth organisations have the capacity to organize themselves, advocate and demand their rights with local and national governments, as well as replicating prevention actions with their peers.

Civil Society Organisations and **youth advocates'** ability to continue their awareness raising and influencing activities without ongoing external support required them to have the skills and knowledge to organise effectively, develop and carry out advocacy strategies and tactics, and to raise their visibility. DtZ supported CSOs to collect data, analyse, strategize, network, and carry out evidence-based influencing activities. The Alliance strengthened the capacity and confidence of youth groups so they can advocate for child protection using campaigns, targeted influencing activities and digital youth platforms. Investing in these key actors resulted in a continued demand for SEC prevention and response and for accountability by governments, as main duty bearers and private sector actors and communities.

Parents, caregivers, community leaders and teachers/schools are instrumental to model the attitudinal and behavioural changes needed to sustainably tackle some of the key drivers of SEC; the underreporting, tolerance and culture of silence and impunity fuelled by the taboo surrounding the issue. DtZ worked closely with all to enhance knowledge of the heightened risks and prevalence of SEC including those as a result of the pandemic. The use of local tools and resources was supported, such as community-based referral mechanisms, protocols, and action plans, to develop and/or strengthen prevention and mitigation strategies, thereby ensuring local ownership and capacity to sustain SEC prevention after the programme ended.

At **Government** level, DtZ initiated approaches for more structural and coordinated processes, for example, regional governments coordinated actions with the community and the private sector implementing improvements in their services and campaign development. Local governments recognize community entities and/or youth groups as allied actors in children and adolescents' protection. At **LEAs** level, enforcement processes are established to enforce the victims' accompaniment process, non-revictimization, and justice reparation. It was possible to strengthen the governments' institutional capacities in terms of SEC and effective multisectoral spaces. SEC is included in many government plans.

In the **private sector** there is more awareness of the responsibilities to protect children, both in the informal and formal sector. The adoption of protection codes is sustainable and complementary. Having achieved a dialogue between the private sector and the government reinforces the sustainability of these processes, especially when ordinances or regulations are created. The formal sector (e.g. hotel chains, transport companies, internet service providers) is also increasingly requesting support for awareness raising and training of their staff and adherence to protocols such as The Code, or online content flagging mechanisms. The informal sector (e.g. tuktuk drivers or local cooperatives) organised themselves into associations and to formalise their work to be involved in the local child protection structures.

THE EVALUATORS CONCLUDE:

To conclude, the most likely results to be sustained post-2020 are those where behavioural changes of key actors have become closest to the description of DtZ 2020 (ultimate) outcomes, namely in places where (a) children groups are engaged with others to raise awareness on, ask for prevention and claim protection from SEC; (b) community groups are mobilised to prevent and report SEC as well as request support from government agencies and companies; (c) government agencies are skilled and experienced in preventive activities (outreach) and handling SEC cases; (d) LEAs are skilled and have modern technologies to investigate SEC cases as well as institutional support/backup to protect themselves and can reply on the prosecution; (e) companies are engaged in monitoring and adjusting their daily operations to prevent and report SEC. On top of this, the changes attained by the programme are most likely to be viable in places where the actors who are displaying the desired behaviours are connected with each other.

To sustain the programme results (i.e. attained behavioural changes), sufficient technical capacity on prevention, detention, facilitation of reporting, litigation, rehabilitation of children and work with children's families is needed as well as the capacity to translate gained skills, knowledge, or technology into practice. Sustaining these results also requires an apparent but often forgotten condition of earmarked funding. Opportunities to sustain results need monitoring and adaptive programming for their utilisation, and sustaining the motivation needs continuous attention from watchdogs and/or periodic assessment of progress in line with (internationally-) agreed criteria, support from CSOs and supportive legal and policy frameworks. A systematic reflection on the key programme assumptions has revealed, to attain, multiply and sustain the desired behavioural changes, some could not automatically be relied on but need deliberate action.

In terms of capacity that can feed the sustainability of results, **all DtZ partners have improved their organisational competency in five organisational dimensions:** (1) most partners have clear vision/mission statements that are well-known by staff and board, as well as internalised and applied in planning (governance); (2) finance staff competency, documenting and applied financial procedures has significantly improved, but also regular audits of the accounts (financial management); (3) partners systematically link their vision/mission with programme activities and practice evidence-based decision-making (programme development and monitoring); (4) most organisations have a strong mandate and track record in upholding child rights and using gender-mainstreamed approaches and majority – comprehensive child safeguarding policy (quality of results and programme); and (5) all partners have a solid understanding of children's rights in relation to government and international policies and have significantly improved their skills in developing relations with the private sector and media (effectiveness policy influencing and networking). Few remaining concerns are related to the scarce follow up on audits' recommendations to improve systems and procedures and insufficient resources to continue work without external support.

Chapter 7: Risks

In the inception report in 2016, an extensive risk analysis has been made. This chapter reflects on the risks that were foreseen and to what extent they were materialised during the 5 year programme. In most of the cases the mitigation measures were effective and limited harm to the programme or beneficiaries. In the right column this is explained, with a reference to the Annual Reports (AR) in which the issues were reported.

An additional risk that was not mentioned as a risk in the inception report (although partners were aware of it), was the risk of shrinking civil space. The space to act and to express themselves for NGOs declined in many countries, specifically in India, Bangladesh (until 2018 part of DtZ), Philippines, Nicaragua, Brazil. Partners faced restrictions in expression of human- and child rights (including SRHR rights), and obstructive legislation for social organisations. In these countries there is a growing restriction of freedom of the press, restricting the right to demonstration, and neglect of rights and social issues. A strong civil society is crucial for a society to function effectively and for the promotion of SRHR. Civil society is particularly important in giving a voice to people who would otherwise not be heard, and in holding governments accountable.

The DtZ programme adjusted the Theory of Change with some modifications in the intermediate outcomes after the MidTerm Review. However this was not related to any risks occurred, but to new insights during the programme implementation.

INCEPTION REPORT: Risk analysis Alliance

Risk	Identified Risk	Likelihood	Risk Mitigation Strategies	2020 Report
Internal Risks				Materialized?
Alliance Level	Tension, confusion, distrust between Alliance Members	Medium	<p>The agreed Governance Structure of the Alliance defines how members relate to each other, their roles and responsibilities and their decision- making powers. It also describes mechanisms to deal with disagreements.</p> <p>Criteria for successful collaboration within the Alliance are part of the monitoring framework and reported upon regularly. Open and frequent communication, taking time to express mutual understanding for the specific interests of the Alliance Member is one example of an important element in successful collaboration within Alliances.</p> <p>Criteria are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mutual respect, understanding and trust ○ Members share a stake in both the process and the outcome of the collaboration ○ Joint agenda setting 	No, the governance structure and agreed criteria for successful collaboration within the Alliance worked well.

Risk	Identified Risk	Likelihood	Risk Mitigation Strategies	2020 Report
Internal Risks				Materialized?
Alliance Member Level	Loss of knowledge and continuity in the programme due to staff - turnover or lack of access to the right information in a timely manner.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proper documentation of decisions taken within the Alliance by the Desk. ○ The MoU states that each Alliance partner appoints one dedicated contact person. This person has access to all the relevant information (i.a. because she/he is a member of the Steering Committee) and is tasked to disseminate this knowledge amongst other staff members in his/her organisation and to (possible) ○ successors. This will assure continuity and consistency. TdH has created a shared drive for all the Steering Committee members and a few other key staff members of the Alliance partners. This assures that all members have the same information at the same time, can contribute as equal partners and can check the history of each document. 	No, the mitigation measures were in place, including clear handovers in cases of turnover, so continuity was ensured during the five years.
Communication	Staff members who are not conversant in English do not get the right information in a timely manner.	Medium	Budget for translation when needed. Communication strategy includes measures to mitigate this risk, such as a key message about the programme that is translated into required languages.	Alliance documents have been translated into Spanish, for other local languages the country teams translated documents if required.

Risk	Identified Risk	Likelihood	Risk Mitigation Strategies	2020 Report
Internal Risks				Materialized?
Corruption	Risk of corruption, bribery, mis-management, misuse of funds, or fraud	Low/ Medium	All Alliance members and implementing partners have and abide by an anti-corruption policy. This policy describes what is being done to prevent corruption and fraud, as also the process to follow if corruption or fraud occurs. Incidences are reported immediately, also to the lead, who informs the Ministry, according to audit protocol. A report of incidences and follow-up measures are part of the financial monitoring system of the Alliance.	One case of weak financial management that led to the ending of a partnership in Bangladesh (see annual report 2018 page 20). One case of one staff member misusing funds (low amount) was reported to MOFA in 2019, appropriate action was taken
Child Safe guarding	Children in our programme exploited or abused by or others	Low	Each Alliance partner has and abides by a Code of Conduct, Child Protection Policy, Complaint and Reporting Mechanism. These will be shared to check for consistency and robustness. As a rule the policies of TdH will be used as the minimum standard. Each staff member and volunteer working for the DtZ programme, whether in an Alliance partner or implementing partner, is obliged to sign these policies.	Alliance members have internal mechanisms in place to report cases. No cases of safeguarding issues were reported. Furthermore, Child Safeguarding (policies) was part of the capacity development trajectories with partners.
Alliance, partners and MoFA	Conflict of interests of Alliance members, partners and/or MoFA	Low	The geographic division of the programme between partners, clarification of roles and responsibilities between partners working in the same country (in the ToCs), measures as described in the governance structure are all mechanisms to regulate processes and roles to avoid tension. Together with the monitoring mechanism mentioned in the first box this will lower the probability of this risk occurring. The Governance Structure also sets out a process to resolve a conflict or misunderstanding in the event that this might occur. Alliance members will sign a MoU that encompasses these regulations.	No, the geographic division, clarity of roles and MoU between members were effective.

Risk	Identified Risk	Likelihood	Risk Mitigation Strategies	2020 Report
External Risks				Materialized?
Political	Changes in staffing of national/ regional level government officials and law enforcement agencies due to elections or staff turnover.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep a wide base of lobby targets; do not build on a few allies only and utilise/ lobby with the full range of contacts available through all (levels of) organisations, institutionalise best practices. Arrange introductions as soon as new government employees have settled into their new jobs. If possible arrange training for a wider group. In some countries agreements can be put in writing, so that they can serve as a point of reference for the successors. 	<p>Yes, in all countries elections took place and relationships had to be built over again which caused delays. These were foreseen but outside our influence.</p> <p>In Brazil, the election of President Bolsonaro radically changed the commitment and engagement of government agencies to confront sexual violence (AR 2018 page 14 & 2019 page 13).</p> <p>Same for the Philippines where commitment for child rights declined after the election of President Duterte (AR 2016, page 5).</p>
Political	National governments will not increase their spending for service delivery as long as CSOs keep providing e.g. shelter, counselling, legal aid to victims. This has consequences for the sustainability of the programme.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep close ties with relevant government departments and continue to lobby for budget allocations for specialised services for victims. Involve government officials in our work to create an interest and understanding of its importance for the achievement of their own interests. Transfer our successful approaches to relevant government institutions and interest them to implement these more widely. 	Not reported during DtZ

Risk	Identified Risk	Likelihood	Risk Mitigation Strategies	2020 Report
External Risks				Materialized?
Political	Decision-makers and general public perceive sexual exploitation as something that affects girls only.	Medium/ High	Ensure that media and campaigns address norms and attitudes, ensure awareness raising activities include boys and men. Include a gender approach in all our work and disseminate this more widely.	Not specifically reported, however this remains a challenge in general in combatting SEC.
Political / Environmental	Unforeseen disasters or political unrest that create difficulties in reaching children and communities and/or disrupt the common state of affairs, o.a. shifting the priorities of governments and/or donors.	Medium	Develop contingency plan, flexibility in planning. Create possibilities to shift priorities to attend to the immediate needs and threats emerging in settings where the programme is implemented.	Yes Natural disasters: Indonesia earthquake 2018 (AR page 22), India cyclone 2020 (this report 2.4), Covid-19 pandemic all countries. Political unrest: Colombia (AR 2018 page 9), Nicaragua (AR 2018 page 10), Brazi (AR 2018 page 14)l
Financial	National elections may create changes at government level and may affect budgetary allocations, revision of available schemes for children victim of/or at risk of SEC.	Medium/ High	Take elections into account in the planning. Re-initiate advocacy and dialogue with newly elected government bodies.	Yes, elections took place in the following countries with impact on the budget available for child protection/ SEC: Brazil 2018, Philippines 2016, Nicaragua 2016, Indonesia 2016 & 2018, Bolivia 2019. Intensified advocacy took place.

Risk	Identified Risk	Likelihood	Risk Mitigation Strategies	2020 Report
External Risks				Materialized?
Security	Criminal gangs threaten staff, or personal insecurity of researchers or NGO staff	High	Security guidelines including safety training and regular monitoring of the security situation. Include security on the agenda of annual outcome harvesting meetings. Strong cooperation with other NGOs. In some countries strong links with the police force. Where appropriate support could be sought from appliance partners including the Embassies. In some countries publication of offenses and security breaches are published to avoid repetition and impunity.	<p>There was no mechanism agreed in the Alliance to report on security issues, besides the internal reporting mechanisms that all members have. No security issues were reported, however this is part of the partner's daily work.</p> <p>For example in India, partners have experienced threats from criminal gangs and perpetrators during the project period. Their staff is equipped to face these threats, safety measures are in place. Their engagement with law enforcement helped to manage situations of personal risks and insecurity.</p>

Chapter 8: Financial report

The total expenditure for 2020 was in line with the planned budget and activities, the total budget for the year 2020 was slightly higher than envisioned in the inception report. This is because of the final evaluation and some learning activities which were planned in 2020. The overall expenditure (2016-2020) is in line with the planned budget and activities. There are small variances in 2020 (see explanation below) but the 5 year (2016-2020) implementation is according to the budget.

There are more costs on the M&E budget line due to the end evaluation of the programme. We also diverted some of the budget from the overhead to the programme expenditure which explains the under utilization of the overhead.

Budget and expenditure 2020

Country	Budget 2020 €	Expenses 2020 €	Variation €	Variation %
Bolivia	264,170	309,649	-5,777	117%
Brazil	208,588	199,715	36,857	96%
Colombia	90,186	78,670	-3,450	87%
Dominican republic	204,230	255,180	-7,864	125%
Nicaragua	71,851	83,532	453	116%
Peru	72,506	78,323	-1,625	108%
India	330,276	324,670	4,823	98%
Indonesia	342,252	363,469	2,584	106%
Philippines	279,786	257,656	-11,903	92%
Thailand	413,140	389,415	-22,577	94%
Total program budget	2,276,986	2,340,281	-8,479	103%
Alliance Desk	105,642	72,452	2,701	69%
M&E budget central	66,197	196,936	39,979	297%
Learning budget	40,000	41,982	13,681	105%
Communication	30,241	29,827	-34,475	99%
Total alliance budget	242,080	341,197	21,886	141%
Overhead	227,069	161,914	14,683	71%
Grand Total	2,746,135	2,841,410	28,090	103%

8.1 COUNTRY BUDGETS

Where applicable, please find below explanations of the variances per country.

Bolivia: Due to the pandemic, funds had to be reallocated especially for outcomes 1 and 2 (working directly with vulnerable beneficiaries). Implementation had to be reduced in outcomes 3 and 4 as activities were limited for months due to the restrictions. In 2020 all remaining balances were spent.

Dominican Republic: Due to Covid-19, some rearrangements in the programme and admin budget lines were made, leading to slightly more time spent by project staff, communication took place online throughout the entire year. Actual costs were less than the budget. More time was needed to wrap up the programme as 2020 was the final year of the implementation and the final narrative and financial report, facilitating the audit of the projects needed to be done.

Working with the government sector required more effort than previously planned. Due to the lack of knowledge, technical abilities and low commitment to child protection policy, extra effort to sensitize and strengthen the capacity of child protection officials was needed which resulted in slightly higher costs in the government's pathway.

Nicaragua & Peru: Due to the pandemic, funds had to be reallocated especially for outcome 2 directly working with vulnerable beneficiaries and to be able to reach out to the community members. The total budget of the year 2020 was utilized including some small balances from the previous years.

India: The pandemic and sudden strict lockdowns in India led to immediate threats and survival needs for children and young people living on the street. A part of the budget was redirected to address the immediate relief of children and their families, as a preventative tool against trafficking for sexual purposes. This led to an increase of the expenditure in the children's pathway.

The FCRA account (government permission to be able to receive funds from international organizations) of one of the initial implementation partners in 2020 was frozen, so another partner was contracted. The setting up of a training programme for teachers, social workers and NGOs was therefore skipped, as that was the specific expertise of this partner. Instead the budget was shifted to the private sector pathway. Due to Covid-19 some activities in the community's pathway couldn't be implemented such as activities related to support after restoration for SEC victims which could not be done during lockdown as CWC (Child welfare committee) was not functioning at that time. For other activities the costs were lower than expected, such as capacity building for survivor groups, as these meetings took place online and hence the costs were lower. Also, interactions with the government were redirected online.

During the lockdown, the DtZ Alliance has reached out to the tourism service providers (unorganised tourism sector, e.g. guides, transporters, tuk tuk drivers etc.) through relief activities. During these relief activities we have been able to facilitate several discussions on their response to child protection in the post-COVID 19 situation. In various places, this resulted in tourism service providers reporting cases of SEC and child trafficking in the pretext of child marriage. Due to intensified activities in this pathway we see that there is an ownership of the cause and a clear understanding of their role in combating SEC, which is very important for the sustainability of the programme results.

Indonesia: In response to the Covid 19 situation, some budget from empowering children and administration has been allocated to support additional budget needs of safer and protective communities. The pandemic required Plan for example to develop a digital reporting system of child violence including SEC through Whatsapp, SMS and website.

Covid-19 halted the work for some parts of the year and much more has been organized online in terms of training and events. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, local government priority shifted from SEC prevention and response (as planned) to Covid-19 containment measures. In order to ensure that the government kept SEC on the agenda (especially during the pandemic), additional activities and resources were needed for lobby and meeting coordination. That is why, some budget from the children's pathway has been allocated to the government's pathway.

Additional budget was needed to follow up on the recommendations of the Creative Lab and we noticed that during the pandemic some private sectors were more accessible online. This opportunity to increase engagement with those private sector actors was taken.

8.2 CENTRALLY HELD BUDGETS FOR THE DESK, LEARNING, PME AND COMMUNICATION

The centrally held budget includes funds allocated to joint activities and supports functions, such as communication, the evaluation cycle, the Desk and learning activities. This budget is funded through contributions from all Alliance partners and managed centrally by TdH.

When looking at the 2020 budget we see a variance of 103%, due to the costs for the end evaluation. When we look at the overall budget 2016- 2020 we see a very small variance, less than 5%.

The End Term Evaluation was scheduled in 2020, which resulted in higher expenses. The budget of alliance PME has been distributed evenly throughout the 5 years but most of the funds have been used in 2018 and 2020 where the midterm and end evaluation were conducted.

We also had less costs under alliance management due to efficiency as the alliance management staff worked for both grants: Down to Zero and Voice for Change at the same time.

In 2020, the Alliance used less budget for learning than anticipated as some of the activities were conducted online which resulted in lower costs than earlier budgeted. The development of the toolkit for practitioners working with boys (Bridging the Gap) which started in November 2019 was completed in 2020.

The communication activities were conducted according to the communications plan and budget.





There are less overhead costs than planned as part of the budget was used for the program activities.

AUDIT 2020

The financial reports of the down to zero alliance members Defence for Children, Free a Girl, ICCO, Plan Nederland and Terre des hommes have all been audited. The auditor (PwC) has approved the financial reports. A copy of the audit report of each organization is attached to this report.



Annex 1. Results Framework

Children		Communities		Government/LEA		Private Sector	
 <p>Child victims and children at risk are empowered, act as agents of change and are able to protect themselves from (re) victimisation of SEC</p>		 <p>Targeted communities are safer, offer better protection to child victims and can prevent children from becoming (re)victimised</p>		 <p>Government and judiciary system applies policies, plans of actions, budgets and protocols to effectively combat SEC</p>		 <p>Businesses (local/intl) of at least 3 private sector industries are actively engaged in the protection of children against SEC and where possible their successful reintegration</p>	
2020	2016-2020	2020	2016-2020	2020	2016-2020	2020	2016-2020
43,770	77,485	2,025	4,596	335	1,874	2,475	29,343
boys and girls were trained to advocate for child rights and protect against SEC		families of child victims receiving support services		meetings with government officials held		private sector staff trained in SEC	
4,275	11,928	114	935	25,899	46,050	357	2,432
victims received specialised services by our partners		Child protection committees were supported		government officials and law enforcement officers trained		companies sensitized on SEC	
45,890	96,351	326	676	93	445	114	1,049
children were trained on SEC and how to report cases		effective referral systems were established		lobby and advocacy documents presented to government and to Law Enforcement Agencies		companies supported in developing an ethical company policy related to SEC	
4,237	36,587	115,302	283,771	231	1,361		
children were trained to raise issues of SEC amongst their peers		community members participate in awareness raising activities		meetings with law enforcement agencies held			
				37	166		
				media campaigns on SEC conducted			

Annex 2. Financial Report

See document attached 'DtZ Financial Narrative Report'.

Annex 3: Overview of DtZ products and visibility

Products developed by the Down to Zero Alliance (2016-2020):

- o Empowerment of child victims and children at risk of sexual exploitation. DtZ Alliance, June 2018
 - o **Literature review**
- o Best practices of collaborations between civil society organizations with the travel and tourism industry, DtZ Alliance for the Global Summit, June 2018
 - o **Leaflet best practices English**
- o Effective ways to engage the private sector: Guidance for civil society organisations working on child protection. DtZ Alliance, February 2019
 - o **Guidelines (English)**
 - o **Guidelines (Spanish)**
 - o **Guidelines (Bahasa)**
 - o **Video English & Video Spanish**
- o Bridging the Gaps, a toolkit for supporting boys affected by sexual exploitation and abuse. DtZ Alliance, September 2020
 - o **<https://www.terredeshommes.nl/en/latest/bridging-the-gap-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-of-boys>**
 - o **Guidelines**
 - o **Resource Pack**
- o Call for action: The Down to Zero Alliance launches a call for restarting travel & tourism with child protection in focus. 25 September 2020
 - o **<https://www.ecpat.org/news/world-tourism-day-2020/>**
- o Stories Behind the Numbers: Voices Behind the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation in Latin America, November 2020
 - o **<https://www.icco-cooperation.org/en/news/stories-behind-the-figures-voices-behind-the-fight-against-sexual-exploitation/>**
- o Analysis of the codes of conduct on child protection for travel and tourism industry in the Americas:
 - o **<https://www.ecpat.org/news/codes-of-conduct-to-prevent-child-sexual-exploitation-in-tourism>**
- o Analysis of best practices of working with the private sector, to be developed by DtZ Alliance, December 2020
 - o **Best practice and lessons learnt from working with the private sector (ENG)**
 - o **Best practice and lessons learnt from working with the private sector (ESP)**

Communication & visibility:

- o Photo exhibition: This is me. Humanity House November 2018. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (March 2019), the World Trade Center in Rotterdam (May 2019) and De Hallen in Amsterdam (July 2019).
 - o **Overview photo series**
 - o **Video This is Me**
 - o Guardian: **Thai children putting a brave face on sexual abuse**
 - o Volkskrant: **Seksueel uitgebuite kinderen geven zichzelf een gezicht**
 - o Announcements in Linda and Vrouw magazine
- o Vrouw magazine:
 - o Staff member talking: **Judith Flick, boos maar niet machteloos**. 19 January 2019
 - o Travel story (online): **De keerzijde van carnaval in Brazilië**. March 2019

- Travel story (2 pages): [Kinderen van de rekening](#). 20 December 2019
- Staff member talking: [Conny Toornstra: de strijd tegen seksuele uitbuiting](#). 15 February 2020
- Travel story (2 pages): [Vanaf mijn twaalfde werd ik seksueel uitgebuit door toeristen](#). 18 April 2020
- Staff member talking: [Carrie van der Kroon: meer handel in kinderen sinds corona](#). 13 June 2020
- Call for action: The Down to Zero Alliance launches a call for restarting travel & tourism with child protection in focus. 25 September 2020
 - [Call for Action document](#)
- Stories Behind the Numbers: Voices Behind the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation in Latin America, November 2020
 - [Web-article and posters of young leaders](#)
- Bridging the Gaps, a toolkit for supporting boys affected by sexual exploitation and abuse. DtZ Alliance, September 2020
 - [Web-article about the toolkit](#)

Other publications:

- Metro: [De Toestand in de wereld. October 2017](#)
- Trouw: [Van de crisis in Venezuela naar kinderprostitutie in Colombia](#)
- AD: [Deventer fotograaf toont donkere kant carnaval in Brazilië: uitbuiting van kinderen](#)
- Sevendays: [Jongeren Salvador protesteren tegen seksuele uitbuiting](#)
- Deutsche Welle: [Dutch NGO fights against child sexual exploitation in Colombia](#)
- Mondiaal Nieuws (BE): [Vechten tegen seksuele uitbuiting van kinderen Colombia](#)