

# Final Evaluation of END OSEC: A Model Response to Online Sexual Exploitation of Children

PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NETWORK (PCMN)



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PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S  
MINISTRIES NETWORK



#END OSEC

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## ACRONYMS

4Ps	Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program
ATIP	Anti-Trafficking in Person
CIACAT	City Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking
CRN	Child Rights Network
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSWDO	City Social Welfare and Development Office
DepEd	Department of Education
DOJ	Department of Justice
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
FBO	Faith-based Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
IACAT	Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking
HTPEP	Human Trafficking Prevention Education Program
ICAC	Internet Crimes Against Children
ICMN	Iligan Children's Ministries Network
IJM	International Justice Mission
KII	Key Informant Interview
LGU	Local Government Unit
MDT	Multi-disciplinary Team
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NBI	National Bureau of Investigation
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OSEC	Online Sexual Exploitation of Children
PCMN	Philippine Children's Ministries Network
PIMAHT	Philippines Inter-Faith Movement Against Trafficking
PNP-MFU	Philippine National Police-Mindanao Field Unit
PNP-WCPC	Philippine National Police - Women and Children Protection Center
PTA	Parent-Teacher Association
RIACAT	Regional Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking
SK	Sangguniang Kabataan
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound
TIC	Trauma-Informed Care
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
VAWC	Violence Against Women and Children
VIDI	Video In-depth Interviews
VD	Viva Denmark

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Figure 1. Project Results Framework

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The End Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (End OSEC) Project: A Model Response to Online Sexual Exploitation of Children is a 2.5-year project implemented in Dasmariñas and Iligan cities by the consortium composed of Viva Denmark (VD), Philippine Children’s Ministries Network (PCMN), and International Justice Mission (IJM) Philippines. The project aims to enable the Philippine child protection system to protect children from online sexual exploitation and improve access to justice for OSEC victims by eliminating existing barriers to the delivery of effective prevention, rescue, and restoration services to children at risk or victims of OSEC. The target groups include key preventive actors, justice operators, aftercare providers, and 15,000 vulnerable children.

This final evaluation was carried out to inform the project management and donor about the project’s accomplishments, impacts, gaps, and challenges in the implementation. The assessment seeks to answer key questions as per the evaluation criteria relating to Effectiveness, Efficiency, Relevance, Coherence, Sustainability, and Impact.

The evaluation used a mixed methods and participatory approach to address the specific objectives of the assessment framed around the project’s logical framework and indicators. The evaluation was carried out in Dasmariñas and Iligan cities. The evaluation team conducted a document review, 2 surveys, 6 focus group discussions (FGD), and 17 key informant interviews (KII) to capture the required data. A validation workshop with project implementers was organized to present the initial results of the study for verification and further sense-making before the preparation of the report.

## KEY FINDINGS

The following are the key findings of the key evaluation questions:

**Effectiveness.** Based on project monitoring data, 25% or 1 of the 4 outcome indicators and 89% or 8 of the 9 output indicators had been achieved by the end of the project. The Covid-19 pandemic hampered project implementation and had a massive effect on meeting project goals. While the project’s strategies had been adapted in response to the pandemic, meeting some of the project’s objectives had proven difficult.

Nonetheless, the project had been especially successful in forging partnerships with a diverse range of stakeholders to reduce existing barriers to the delivery of effective prevention, rescue, and restoration services to children at risk or victims of OSEC. Government agencies, both preventive actors and justice operators, as well as civil society organizations (CSOs)/faith-based organizations (FBOs) were highly engaged in the project. Hence, partners gave the project a high rating in terms of effectiveness. They commended the End OSEC project’s outstanding partnerships with various stakeholders for effective implementation, noting that the project collaborated closely with local governments, government agencies, schools, CSOs/ FBOs, youth, and the community to achieve its project goals, particularly since OSEC is not yet a priority issue for these entities.

In terms of capacity building, justice operators’ survey respondents found the training they participated in to be extremely (42%) and very effective (42%) in addressing OSEC for them and their organizations. They also indicated that they were able to apply the End OSEC project’s training in their work. As law enforcers, they immediately put their knowledge to use, especially

during rescue operations, OSEC referral, open-source investigation, Trafficking in Persons (TIP) -OSEC case management, and Video In-Depth Interviews (VIDI) kit interviews with child victims.

However, the evaluation team observed some key issues in the monitoring and reporting of project results. Some outcome and output indicator measures were unclear, complex, and difficult to quantify, making it challenging for the project to count the results and warranting the revision of some indicators. As it currently stands, outcome and output level indicators and monitoring data did not appear to accurately reflect the extent of the project's results.

**Efficiency.** The project reached most of its output and outcome indicators amidst the challenges of project implementation brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. Strong partnerships and alliance building, formal partnerships with government agencies and CSOs, PCMN's CSO accreditation in project areas, and the use of online/blended modalities for implementation during the pandemic had all been observed to enable the achievement of outputs and outcomes.

However, some project objectives were not met such as the number of children rescued and the number of rescue operations supported, which were understandable given the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. Implementation setbacks such as mobility restrictions were imposed and the project's partner, the Philippine National Police (PNP) became one of the frontliners in the national Covid-19 response, directing their efforts on helping curb the spread of the virus. In addition, a lack of an operational plan at the start of the project was identified as a contributing factor impeding the timely achievement of project results.

Nevertheless, even with the delays and challenges of Covid-19, the project, which was designed with pre-pandemic framework, was able to adapt to the changing context by modifying project strategies, such as shifting to online/remote as well as blended implementation modalities and realigning project activities and budgets.

**Relevance.** Evaluation findings showed that the End OSEC Project was, to a great extent, highly relevant and responsive to the needs and priorities of project partners and beneficiaries. The project's comprehensive approach to OSEC was based on the consortium's exceptional track record and experience in implementing similar OSEC projects across the country. These interventions were founded on global and national programs aimed at combating OSEC and promoting child protection and development. Assessments were conducted at various levels to ensure that the project interventions were appropriate and compelling solutions to the OSEC problem. The project's design and implementation strategies were largely guided by the local context as well as the needs of the beneficiaries and key partners. As the project design was comprised of two main clusters of interventions: those directed at the children to raise awareness and reduce their vulnerability to OSEC, and those directed at government institutions to increase their capacity to eliminate existing barriers to the delivery of effective prevention, rescue, and restoration services to children at risk or victims of OSEC, these key project interventions were found to be relevant to the context and needs of children and government institutions, in addressing critical gaps in knowledge, skills, and practices to effectively tackle OSEC. Further, the project's actions continue to be highly relevant and much needed, especially in view of the current Covid-19 pandemic, which puts children at an increased risk of OSEC. The project also modified some its strategies to adapt and respond to the needs of the communities during the pandemic.

**Coherence.** Evaluation findings revealed that project interventions complemented and were consistent with other CSO and government initiatives and responses against OSEC. The End OSEC project demonstrated that collective actions are effective and sustainable in responding to

a complex problem such as OSEC. Since the scale of the problem necessitated multi-stakeholder collaboration, the project took the lead on highlighting this issue, urging the government to take immediate action to resolve the worsening OSEC situation in the country, both at the national and local levels. The project joined forces with local governments, government agencies, CSOs/FBOs and volunteers to address this alarming situation and provided a platform for them to collaborate.

**Sustainability.** The End OSEC Project had built-in strategies in the project design and implementation to sustain efforts and approaches beyond the project. Project strategies had been directed at the structural level by building capacity and strengthening systems for addressing OSEC. The multiple project interventions had sustainability pathways to respond to the interconnected barriers to providing effective prevention, rescue, and restoration services to OSEC victims. More specifically, the actions were designed to foster institutional and policy-level sustainability. Technical assistance was given to key preventive actors such as the Department of Education (DepEd), schools, City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO), and local governments; key justice operators such as the Philippine National Police Women and Children Protection Center (PNP WCPC), Department of Justice (DOJ), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Inter-agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT); and aftercare service providers such as private shelters and residential care institutions. With capacity-building support, preventive actors, justice operators, and aftercare providers were able to improve their services in response to OSEC. These initiatives appear to have a good foundation for continuing beyond the project, as these agencies continue to apply the new knowledge and skills they learned from training at work. In terms of policy, the project made significant strides in advancing the OSEC legislative agenda at the local and national levels. The passage of Anti-OSAEC and Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons laws are a highly sustainable achievement, increasing the gains of project results. Moreover, partners are also committed to continue Anti-OSEC advocacy initiatives in their communities after the project ends.

**Impact.** The project, to a great extent, contributed toward enabling the Philippine child protection system to protect children from OSEC and improve access to justice for OSEC victims. Project efforts led to the enactment of Anti- Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) Law (RA 11930) and the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2022 (RA 11862) in 2022, which are significant in addressing the specific nuances of the OSEC and TIP issues. These policy developments are excellent ways to ensure the sustainability of programs, projects, or activities despite changes in leadership both at the national and local levels. Moreover, findings from the surveys, KIIs, and focus groups indicated that the End OSEC project positively contributed to building the capacities of its stakeholders across all levels and sectors, including children, towards knowledge, skills, and practices in OSEC prevention, rescue, and restoration.

**Lessons learned.** While working under unusual circumstances brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, the project learned many valuable lessons that affected project implementation. Some of the identified lessons include the importance of having an emergency or business continuity plans in place to adapt and respond quickly during emergencies and disasters, planning the project's staffing requirements to ensure smooth project implementation, and establishing the project's monitoring and evaluation system to regularly assess the project's progress and provide implementers and other stakeholders with continuous feedback on implementation. Project of this scale with multifaceted interventions may require a longer duration. The consortium may need to examine and assess the design and scope of similar future projects vis-à-vis timeframe. These were some of the lessons to be learned for future programs and projects.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are presented to the project for consideration in future programming that aims to address OSEC and other similar child protection issues.

- Prevention

- Focus initiatives on strengthening the family to prevent OSEC. Future projects should be designed to promote family and children's well-being as well as economic stability in the home. Actions should aim to help low-income families find gainful employment or start small businesses in order to foster economic security at home and to prevent and respond to OSEC. Interventions would include family strengthening sessions and livelihood support to parents.
- In addition to school and online campaigns against OSEC, conduct targeted barangay-level house-to-house campaigns, particularly in high-risk areas, to ensure no one is left behind. Since children spend most of their time online, there is a need to intensify the campaign. Direct interaction with families and children in vulnerable areas will make a difference. Targeting parents would be effective because they play a vital role in protecting their children from all types of harm, including OSEC.
- Integrate awareness activities and strategies in existing community activities (i.e., ERPAT, Mother's Class, 4Ps training, PTA meetings) instead of organizing separate activities and leveraging engagement with organized groups (i.e., women's groups, 4Ps, PYAP, SK, churches) in the community as avenues for awareness-raising activities, especially for parents.
- Intensify the use of social media platforms to raise OSEC awareness and prevention and reach out to more children, as almost all children are active on social media. Involve youth advocates and children in the design, creation, and dissemination of social media content that will attract and engage their peers. Social media posts should be appealing to the target audience and contain only key messages.
- Continually engage and build the capacity of children and youth groups to take lead in awareness raising campaigns among their peers in the school and community, as well as to do lobby and advocacy work at the community level.
- Engage young leaders, celebrities, influencers, and known athletes to serve as anti-OSEC champions to be able to penetrate a wider audience through the traditional and social media.
- Improve collaboration with DepEd by training more teachers and increasing their capacity in handling disclosures, psychological first aid, identifying red flags, and reporting and referral of cases, as they are the ones to whom children would report OSEC incidents based on the study findings. These trainings can be incorporated into offline or virtual in-service trainings (INSET).
- With the passage of the Anti-OSAEC Law, similar OSEC projects should enjoin private sector stakeholders such as internet service providers, social media companies, telecommunications providers, and the media in OSEC awareness and prevention efforts.

- Rescue

- Continue to strengthen law enforcement agencies' capacity and equip them with advanced technology training for investigators to combat OSEC, such as link analysis tools, digital forensic investigation, and emerging tools used by perpetrators.
- Provide trained OSEC investigators with computers, communication equipment,

hardware, and software tools.

- Restoration
  - Enhance the intervention for aftercare support. OSEC survivors have been through severe trauma, and they must rebuild their lives from the ground up in order to fully heal and bounce back and avoid becoming future victims or, worse, perpetrators of violence themselves. Hence, aftercare is highly crucial and should be strengthened.
- Project Management
  - To address the M&E issues identified, the project should ensure that future programming includes a well-constructed results framework with SMART indicators, strategies, and activities. These indicators should be regularly monitored and reported. A Monitoring and Evaluation officer should be hired to develop and manage the M&E system of the project/organization.
  - At the start of the project, the consortium should create a project operation manual (POM) to guide implementing partners in effectively managing the project. The POM should define institutional roles and responsibilities, as well as establish a clear system for managing and implementing the project in both normal and emergency situations.
  - Staffing should be planned and documented so that staffing requirements including capacity and specialization, capacity building support, and performance management are all clearly defined and met.

## I. INTRODUCTION

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

Table 1. Basic information about the project

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>End OSEC: A model response to online sexual exploitation of children</b>
<b>Timeframe</b>	2.5 years (Jan 1, 2020- June 30, 2022)
<b>Budget</b>	43,328, 333 EUR (PHP 30,213,040)
<b>Location</b>	Dasmarinas City, Iligan City, Philippines
<b>Target Beneficiaries</b>	15,000 vulnerable children including 75 rescued children
<b>Target Groups</b>	Key preventive actors, key justice operators, aftercare providers
<b>Implementing Partners</b>	Viva Denmark, Philippine Children’s Ministries Network, International Justice Mission

Philippine Children’s Ministries Network (PCMN) is a network of Christian organizations working for the protection of children which responds through: (1) building capacities of the networks and partners, (2) engaging partners, developing, and linking local networks, (3) empowering partnerships on programs, projects, (4) convening network organization and (5) mobilizing financial and technical resources.

The End Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) Project: A Model Response to Online Sexual Exploitation of Children is a 2.5-year project implemented by the consortium composed of VD, PCMN, and IJM, and partner shelters and centers in Metro Manila, Dasmarinas, and Iligan

cities. The project aims to enable the Philippine child protection system to protect children from the online sexual exploitation of children and improve access to justice for OSEC victims by eliminating existing barriers to the delivery of effective prevention, rescue, and restoration services to children at risk or victims of OSEC. Figure 1 illustrates the project's Results Framework.

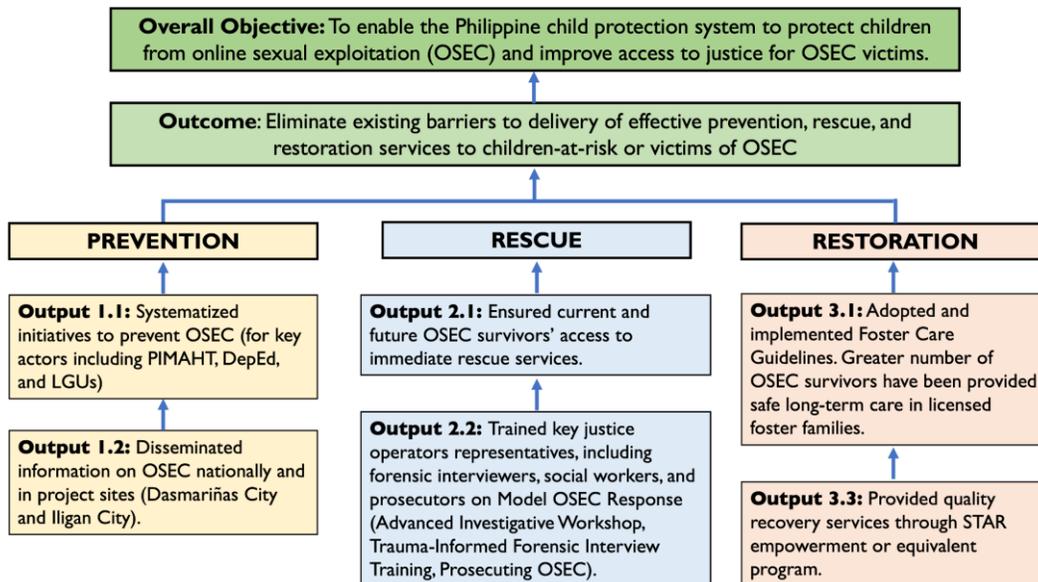


Figure 1. Project Results Framework

## ABOUT THE FINAL EVALUATION

### Purpose

The final evaluation aims to determine the impacts of the End OSEC project. The assessment covers the entire project and informs the project management and donor about the project's accomplishments, impacts, gaps, and challenges in the implementation.

As the project's implementation concludes on June 30, 2022, the final evaluation provides findings specific to outcomes. All the outcomes aim to contribute to the development of bodies of knowledge relevant to the prevention of OSEC, enabling the justice system, and creating more effective approaches for the restoration of exploited children.

### Objectives

The objective of the final evaluation is to provide findings and recommendations to all project stakeholders.

Specifically, it aims to achieve the following:

- Provide an assessment on goals and outcomes and measure the **IMPACT** of the intervention.
- Determine whether implementation of activities and outputs are **RELEVANT** in the areas where the project is being implemented and to the specified final beneficiaries or the children and families vulnerable to OSEC.

- c) Review project implementation process/es and find what was or was not EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT, and SUSTAINABLE vis-à-vis targeted or expected long-term goal of the E-OSEC project.
- d) Assess the COHERENCE of the intervention including the compatibility with other interventions and responses by CSOs and government authorities.
- e) Derive lessons learned and provide technical recommendations for improving and enhancing outcomes for future interventions.
- f) Provide clear and evidence-based guidelines or approaches to addressing OSEC in terms of prevention, or rescue, and/or restoration.

### Evaluation Questions

The assessment seeks to answer key questions as per the evaluation criteria relating to Effectiveness, Relevance, Efficiency, Sustainability, Coherence, and Impact. Table 2 presents the key criteria and questions for this evaluation.

Table 2. Evaluation Criteria and Key Questions

Criteria	Key Questions
Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To what extent were project objectives/target outcomes achieved/not achieved?</li> </ul>
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How efficient are the project implementation processes vis-a-vis targeted or expected long-term of the End OSEC Project?</li> </ul>
Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To what extent were the initial activities and outputs of the project relevant to the target areas and beneficiaries or the children and families vulnerable to OSEC?</li> </ul>
Coherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To what extent is the project intervention compatible with other interventions and responses by CSOs and government authorities?</li> </ul>
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How far did the project contribute to enabling the Philippine child protection system to protect children from OSEC and improve access to justice for OSEC victims?</li> </ul>
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What aspects/elements of the project contribute/not contribute to the sustainability of the End OSEC initiative beyond the project life?</li> </ul>
Lesson learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What are the significant lessons learned from the activities being implemented by the project?</li> </ul>

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### Approach

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development - Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) criteria were used as a framework for the design of this evaluation. The evaluation used a mixed methods approach framed around the project’s logical framework and project indicators to address the specific objectives of the assessment. Following a participatory approach, it involved all project stakeholders including children, youth, parents, government and CSO partners, local communities, and project implementers in key evaluation tasks, including gaining their perspectives on the project’s implementation. The evaluation team carried out the evaluation in a rigorous manner to ensure that information is valid and reliable and based on quality data and analysis.

### Evaluation Areas

The final evaluation was conducted in Dasmariñas City, Cavite, and Iligan City.

## Data Collection Methods and Sample

The evaluation team used the methods listed below to collect and review data.

- *Document Review.* The evaluation team examined and analyzed existing project documents including but not limited to the following:
  1. Project concept/design documents including amendments/ changes in the results framework
  2. Monitoring data and reports – including baseline reports, midterm assessment report
  3. Technical progress narrative reports (quarterly, annual)
  4. Partnership and Program reviews
  
- *Surveys.* Online and face-to-face surveys were conducted with children and key justice operators to capture relevant information and get a better understanding and insight into the implementation and result of the project and elicit recommendations moving forward. Interview schedules were developed per target group corresponding to the data required from them. The evaluation team developed the survey questionnaire for the study in collaboration with the End OSEC Project team. Pre-testing of approved tools and mock surveys were facilitated to check the tools. Questionnaires were modified based on the context and results of the pre-tests. Review and finalization of survey tools and drawing of the sample were carried out in coordination with the End OSEC Project team. KoBoCollect, a mobile data gathering tool was used in the surveys. Research assistants were supervised to ensure reliable and efficient data collection. Consent was sought from parents and schools for the children’s survey. Children’s assent to survey participation was also requested. Likewise, consent from justice operators was obtained prior to answering the questionnaire.

A total of 263 child respondents participated in the endline blended survey (online and face-to-face) on digital behavior. While the endline survey's design aimed for an even distribution of respondents, 263 participants were from Iligan, and 26 respondents were from Dasmariñas. The sample size was calculated with a 95% confidence level and a margin of error of 5%. A simple random sampling was drawn from the list of students who participated in OSEC awareness-raising activities with the assistance of the PCMN project staff.

Table 3. Children Survey Respondents

Area	Male	Female	Total
Dasmariñas City	6	20	26
Iligan City	49	188	237
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>263</b>

Around 36 justice operators participated in the online survey. It represented 10% of the total population of key justice operators who participated in the training activities conducted by the END OSEC Project.

Table 4. Justice Operators’ Survey Respondents

Area	Male	Female	Total
Region 4A	0	3	3
NCR	11	21	32
Region X	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>36</b>

- *Focus Group Discussions (FGD)*. Group discussions with youth, parents/adults, and project staff were facilitated to capture their experiences with the project. Participatory tools were developed to guide the groups in portraying their expectations, experiences, feedback, and other insights into what went well and what went wrong, as well as their recommendations, for moving forward. Table 5 shows the breakdown of the respondents in the FGDs. A total of 8 youth advocates, 8 parents/adults, and 12 project staff members participated in the 6 focus group discussions.

Table 5. FGD Respondents

Groups	No. of FGDs			Male	Female	Total
	National	Dasmarinas	Iligan			
Youth	-	1	1	2	6	8
Parents/ Adults	-	1	1	0	8	8
Project Staff	2 (PCMN & IJM)	0	0	4	8	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>

- *Key Informant Interviews (KII)*. In-depth interviews were conducted with representatives of key stakeholder groups, including the beneficiaries, to generate relevant information and get a better understanding and insight into the project's outcomes and implementation. Key informants were also asked to answer a scorecard to rate the effectiveness of the project in achieving its target objectives. The interviews were done either face to face or remotely, depending on the preference of the identified informants. Table 6 presents the KII sample size. A total of 17 key informants were interviewed for this evaluation.

Table 6. KII Respondents

Area	Project Implementers	Government Agencies	CSO/FBO	Total
Dasmarinas City	0	6	1	7
Iligan City	0	6	2	8
National	2	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>

- *Validation Workshop*. A validation workshop with project implementers was organized to present the initial results of the study for verification and further sense-making before the preparation of the report.

### Ethical and Child Safeguarding Protocols

Ethical and safeguarding protocols were put in place to protect the privacy and confidentiality of respondents, especially the children, during the conduct of this evaluation. Consent and assent procedures were set up and implemented during the data collection. (See Annex 1 for the detailed Ethical and Child Safeguarding Protocols.)

### Data Management and Analysis

Both raw and encoded data were stored in a cloud-based storage system since the study was conducted in different areas of the Philippines. A cloud-based storage system allowed the

research team to work remotely. The interview data that were collected by field researchers were transcribed and encoded.

Qualitative data from the desk review, KIIs, and FGDs were transcribed and encoded and later consolidated and processed using content and thematic analysis. Quantitative/ survey data from Kobo were downloaded and cleaned in MS Excel and processed through Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) to generate descriptive statistics. Data from the different tools were used to triangulate, validate and/or provide a substantial explanation of the findings of the evaluation. The overall findings per criteria served as the basis for the conclusions and recommendations.

### **Challenges and Limitations**

The evaluation team encountered the following constraint during the evaluation process:

- **Data collection.** The evaluation team experienced delays in data collection due to challenges in coordination of activities i.e., non-responsive focal persons and partners, and unavailable respondents. This was addressed by seeking help from PCMN to follow-up partners. The evaluation team also waited for the availability of informants for the interviews.
- **Low Participation of Children in Dasmariñas for the Endline Survey on Digital Behavior.** The endline survey was designed with even distribution of child respondents from Dasmariñas and Iligan cities. In Dasmariñas, the DepEd was the main partner in conducting the online survey with children. They identified the participants and provided the survey link to them. However, since the survey was conducted during summer vacation, only several children participated in the online survey. In Iligan, a list of child respondents was provided. Hence, both online and face-to-face survey was carried out. To address the low survey participation in Dasmariñas, more child respondents from Iligan were surveyed. In the presentation of study findings, both the baseline study results of Dasmariñas and Iligan were presented as reference.
- **Low Participation for Key Justice Operators Survey.** The target sample size for the justice operators survey was not met due to a low response rate. Consequently, the survey result may not be representative of the group, and it may also be difficult to determine whether a specific finding is accurate.



### 3. KEY FINDINGS

The findings address the key evaluation questions identified in the Terms of Reference, based on the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development - Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) evaluation criteria of effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence, impact, sustainability, and the additional criteria of lessons learned.

#### 3.1. RESPONDENTS' PROFILE

##### CHILD RESPONDENTS

The children's online survey had 263 child respondents. The vast majority of participants (90%) were from Iligan City, with only 10% from Dasmaringas City. Respondents in Iligan came from the project's nine (9) barangays, while those in Dasmaringas came from Dr. Jose P. Rizal Senior High School and Bautista Elementary School.

Table 7. Distribution of Child Respondents

Location	Frequency	%
<b>Dasmaringas City</b>		
Brgy. Sto. Cristo (Dr. Jose P. Rizal Senior High School)	10	38%
Brgy. Sampaloc 4 (Bautista Elementary School)	16	62%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Iligan City</b>		
Dalipuga	36	15%
Mahayahay	29	12%
Maria Cristina	26	11%
Poblacion	27	11%
Saray	20	8%
Suarez	28	12%
Tambacan	27	11%
Tibanga	15	6%
Tubod	29	12%

<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>100%</b>

As shown in Table 8, more than two-fifths (41%) were 16-17 years old, 39% were 13-15 years old, and 21% were 10-12 years old.

Table 8. Age of Respondents

<b>Age Group (Years)</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
10 - 12	54	21%
13 - 15	102	39%
16 - 17	107	41%
Total	263	100%

Participants were predominantly females (78%) with 19% males and 3% LGBTQI.

Table 9. Gender

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Female	205	78%
LGBTQI	8	3%
Male	50	19%
Total	263	100%

Most participants were Roman Catholics (79%), followed by Muslims (10%), Protestant Christians (8%), and others (3%).

Table 10. Religious Affiliation

<b>Religion</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Islam	26	10%
Protestant Christian	20	8%
Roman Catholic	208	79%
Others	8	3%
Total	263	100%

All (99%) child respondents were enrolled in school except for 1% or 2 children who were not attending school and working. More than half (53%) were in grades 7-10 or junior high school, 29% in grades 11 and 12 or senior high school, and 17% in grades 4-6 or elementary school.

Table 11. School Attendance

Are you in school?	Frequency	%
In School	261	99%
Working	2	1%
Total	263	100%

Table 12. Grade Level

Grade Level	Respondent	%
Grade 4-6	44	17%
Grade 7-10	140	53%
Grade 11-12	77	29%
No School	2	1%
Total	263	100%

Nearly all respondents (95%) were living with their parents, while 5% were living with grandparents, aunts/uncles, and other relatives.

Table 13. Children's Living Situation

Who are you living with?	Frequency	%
Aunts/ Uncles	5	2%
Grandparents	6	2%
Living with Parents	250	95%
Other relatives	2	1%
Total	263	100%

Almost half (43%) had seven or more family members at home, 39% had five or six, and 17% had four or fewer family members. This means that most respondents had beyond the national average household size of 4 as of the 2020 Census.

Table 14. Household Size

Number of Household Members	Frequency	%
4 and below	46	17%
5 or 6	103	39%
7 or more	114	43%
Total	263	100%

Forty-three percent (43%) of respondents were beneficiaries of the government's 4Ps or Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, indicating that they came from low-income households.

Table 15. 4Ps Beneficiary

4Ps beneficiary	Frequency	%
No	150	57%
Yes	113	43%
Total	263	100%

## KEY JUSTICE OPERATOR RESPONDENTS

With regard to the justice operators survey, there were 36 justice operators who participated. The bulk of respondents (89%) were from Metro Manila, while 8% were from Region IV-A and 2% were from Region X.

Table 16. Distribution of Justice Operator Respondents

City	Frequency	%
NCR/Metro Manila	32	89%
Region IV-A	3	8%
Region X	1	3%
Total	36	100%

Most respondents (83%) were in the 20-30 age group, followed by 11% in the 31-40 age range, and 6% were in the 41-50 cohort.

Table 17. Age of Respondents

Age	Frequency	%
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20 - 30	30	83%
31 - 40	4	11%
41 - 50	2	6%
Total	36	100%

Of the 36 respondents, the majority (67%) were female, while 33% were male.

Table 18. Sex

Sex	Frequency	%
Female	24	67%
Male	12	33%
Total	36	100%

The vast majority were single (89%), with only 11% married.

Table 19. Marital Status

Marital Status	Frequency	%
Married	4	11%
Single	32	89%
Total	36	100%

Most participants (81%) did not have children, while 19% did.

Table 20. Do You Have Children

Do you have children	Frequency	%
No	29	81%
Yes	7	19%
Total	36	100%

All justice operator respondents were police officers.

Table 21. Main Occupation

Main occupation	Frequency	%
Police Officer	36	100%
None	0	0%
Total	36	100%

A sizable proportion had 1-5 years of government service, while 6% had 16-20 years. 3% each served for 6-10 years, 11-15 years, and 21-25 years.

Table 22. Respondents' Years of Government Service

No. of Years in Government Service	Frequency	%
1 - 5	31	86%
6 - 10	1	3%
11 - 15	1	3%
16 - 20	2	6%
21 - 25	1	3%
Total	36	100%

## KII RESPONDENTS

Table 23 presents the profiles of key informants from government agencies, CSOs, and youth organizations.

Table 23. KII Respondents' Profile

Partner/Stakeholder	National		Dasmariñas		Iligan/Mindanao		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
DepEd	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
WCPC - MFU	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
PNP Women and Children's Desk	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Iligan Lanao Action for Wellness (ILAW)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

CSWDO	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Iligan Children's Ministries Network (ICMN)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
CSO Partner	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Sangguniang Kabataan	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Victory in Christ Christian Fellowship International	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Dasmarinas II LEO Club	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Youth for Safety Iligan	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Project Implementer - Management	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Project Implementer - Finance	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>

## FGD RESPONDENTS

Table 24 shows the profiles of FGD respondents, which included youth advocates, parents, VAWC officers, teachers, PCMN and IJM project staff.

Table 24. FGD Respondents' Profile

Participants	National		Dasmarinas		Iligan		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Youth Advocates	0	0	1	3	1	3	8
Adults/Parents - VAWC Officers, Teachers	0	0	0	4	0	4	8
PCMN Project Staff	2	4	0	0	0	0	6
IJM Project Staff	2	4	0	0	0	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>

## 3.2 EFFECTIVENESS

To what extent were project objectives/target outcomes achieved/not achieved? How effective/ineffective is the project implementation process/es in terms of achieving the targeted or expected long-term goal of the End OSEC Project?

This section assesses the extent of the achievement vis-à-vis the project's logical framework. The technical progress/narrative reports until 30 June 2022 were the primary sources for this finding and were further substantiated by data from the surveys, KIIs, and FGDs.

**OUTCOME: ELIMINATE EXISTING BARRIERS TO DELIVERY OF EFFECTIVE PREVENTION, RESCUE, AND RESTORATION SERVICES TO CHILDREN-AT-RISK OR VICTIMS OF OSEC**

Data show that the End of OSEC Project achieved its objectives to a great extent. Notable progress was made in delivering project results. The project made a significant contribution to eliminating existing barriers to deliver effective prevention, rescue, and restoration services to children at risk or OSEC victims. Despite implementation challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the limited project timeframe, the project achieved most of its objectives.

Table 25. Outcome Achievements as of 30 June 2022

PROJECT INDICATORS	FINAL TARGET	CURRENT ACHIEVEMENT	EVALUATION OBSERVATION
<b>Outcome: Eliminate existing barriers to delivery of effective prevention, rescue, and restoration services to children-at-risk or victims of OSEC</b>			
% of children engaging in high-risk online behavior	25% reduction from baseline figures in high-risk behaviors online	13% increase in the number of children engaging in high-risk online behavior	Not achieved. As specified in the project's logical framework, the endline study results on children's digital behavior were compared to a baseline study conducted in Dasmariñas in 2019.
Number of children rescued through the project	75	19	25% achieved. The Covid-19 pandemic hampered the rescue efforts.
Proportion of survivors reintegrated in their families or provided alternative family care	25%	19% (19 out of 98) or 24% (19 out of 79) if children admitted in 2022 who have not yet been reintegrated are included	76% achieved.

Justice Operators' level of compliance with existing OSEC legal framework	Medium to high	High to Very High	Achieved. The respondents were all police personnel.
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**OUTCOME INDICATOR 1: PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN ENGAGING IN HIGH-RISK ONLINE BEHAVIOR**

The results of the children's digital behavior endline survey showed an increase in children engaging in high-risk online behavior. The latest survey confirmed that majority of child participants shared their feelings and personal details online with strangers, using the project's proxy indicator for high-risk online behavior, that is the number of children who share their feelings such as likes and dislikes and personal information such as name, age, sex, etc., online with a stranger.

According to the endline results, a large percentage (62%) disclosed their feelings (personal likes/dislikes) to a stranger online, and nearly half (46%), shared their personal information online. When compared to the 2019 baseline study in Dasmariñas, which found that 48% of child respondents online shared their feelings and personal information (33%), the endline results demonstrated an upward trend. Similarly, while the Iligan baseline in 2021 was not used in the computation of the outcome indicator on children's high risk online behavior, and only served as reference, the endline result showed that the proportion nearly doubled when compared to the baseline study results in Iligan, where around 35% of child respondents disclosed their feelings and 22% shared their personal details online with a stranger.

Although the 2022 endline study results showed that children are becoming riskier online than in 2019, external context, among other factors, should be taken into account. The Covid-19 pandemic has ramped up children's internet use in the past two years, with mobility restrictions and the shift to online learning. Only 40% of child respondents were online daily in the 2019 Dasmariñas baseline study. However, the current endline study found that nearly three-quarters of child respondents, or 73%, were online daily in 2022. It is also worth noting that the survey was conducted during the summer vacation when children had more time to spend online which could partly explain the result. Nonetheless, as a result of the pandemic, more families and children now have access to the internet at home for online classes, giving children a legitimate reason to be online every day. This demonstrates that children are spending more time online than they have ever been, implying that they are more connected and comfortable with the internet, but they are also more vulnerable to OSEC than ever before. It is also important to note that most child respondents (72%) felt safe online even after hearing about other people's negative internet experiences, indicating a lack of deeper understanding about online safety and belief in the no touch, no harm myth. Furthermore, while they know what safe and unsafe online practices are, they are selective in taking precautionary measures and still opt to take risks. For example, there is a decline in sharing personal details such as phone number, home address, school, age, and photos of themselves to a stranger online. However, they are keen on adding strangers to their instant messenger contact list. This indicates that it takes additional support to translate knowledge or awareness about OSEC into behavior and practice change. Further follow-up sessions or discussions are needed to increase behavior change among children over time regarding online safety.

The endline survey delved deeply into children's online behavior, with some data points compared to the 2019 Dasmariñas baseline survey, as well as the 2021 Iligan baseline for reference.

The endline result confirmed that the great majority (88%) of child respondents had internet access, with only 12% having no internet access.

Table 26. Access to the Internet

Do you have access to the internet?	Frequency	%
Yes	232	88%
No	31	12%
Total	263	100%

More than half (57%) accessed the internet at home, while some used Pisonet (17%). Others used cell phone data (14%) or went to internet shops to access the internet (10%).

Table 27. Location of Access to the Internet

Where do you usually access the internet?	Frequency	%
At home	150	57%
Piso net	46	17%
Mobile smartphone	37	14%
Internet shop	27	10%
Neighbor's house	2	1%
School	1	0.4%
Total	263	100%

Almost three-fourths (73%) of respondents were online daily, while 16% were online 2-3 days a week. Some 7% were online 4-5 days per week, and 5% were online 6 days per week. The majority (39%) were online all day, while others were only online once per day. Some (20%) went online 2-3 times per day, and 19% went online 4-5 times per day. However, it should be noted that the survey was carried out during the summer break when there was no school and children had more free time to use the internet.

Furthermore, when compared to the Dasmariñas baseline of 40% in 2019 and the Iligan baseline of 50% in 2021 of those who were online daily, the endline data represents a substantial increase.

Table 28. Frequency of Internet Use in a Week Compared to Baseline Data

How many days a week do you go online or use the internet?	Frequency	Endline (%)	Dasmariñas Baseline	Iligan Baseline
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Daily	191	73%	40%	50%
2 - 3 days	42	16%	44%	23%
4 - 5 days	18	7%	9%	4%
6 days	12	5%	4%	4%
Total	263	100%		

Table 29. Frequency of Internet Use in a Day

How many times do you go online or use the internet in a day?	Frequency	%
Whole day	102	39%
Once a day	59	22%
2-3 times a day	52	20%
4-5 times a day	50	19%
Total	263	100%

Most respondents (62%) were online between 2 and 5 p.m., while others were online in the early evening or between 5-7 p.m. (61%) and evening or between 8 and 10 p.m. (61%). Many children were online in the late hours. Almost a quarter (24%) were online at midnight or between 11 p.m. and 12 a.m. and 10% were online between 1 to 5 a.m.

Table 30. Time Children Go Online

When do you usually go online?	Frequency	%
Afternoon (2-5 pm)	163	62%
Early evening (5-7 pm)	160	61%
Evening (8-10 pm)	160	61%
Before lunch (9-11 am)	142	54%
Lunch time (12-1 pm)	118	45%
Early morning (6-8 am)	106	40%

Midnight (11-12 am)	62	24%
Very early morning (1-5am)	27	10%

Regarding daily online usage, 44% of child respondents spent 6 to 12 hours online. Some 21% spent 1 to 2 hours online daily, and 18% spent less than an hour online. Around 17% spent 3-5 hours online per day.

This is also a significant rise over the Dasmariñas baseline of 10% and the Iligan baseline of 16% of those who spent 6 to 12 hours online.

Table 31. Number of Hours/Day Spent Online Compared to Baseline Data

On average, how long are you online daily?	Frequency	Endline (%)	Dasmariñas Baseline	Iligan Baseline
6-12 hours	116	44%	10%	16%
1-2 hours	55	21%	29%	24%
30-59 minutes	47	18%	26%	3%
3-5 hours	45	17%	22%	29%
More than 12 hours	0	0%	0%	9%
Total	263	100%		

A large proportion of participants (73%) used their smartphones to access the internet, while others (26%) used a desktop or laptop computer (1%).

Table 32. Gadgets Use to Access the Internet

What gadgets do you use when online?	Frequency	%
Mobile phone/cellphone	191	73%
Desktop computer	68	26%
Laptop	3	1%
Tablet	1	0.4%
Total	263	100%

Children owned the devices they used to connect to the internet (59%) while others used internet shops' (24%) and family members' gadgets (17%).

Table 33. Ownership of Gadgets Used for Internet Access

Who owns the gadget you are using?	Frequency	Endline (%)
Self	156	59%
Internet shop/Café/ Pisonet	62	24%
Family/Relatives	45	17%
Total	263	100%

According to child respondents, the primary reasons for using the internet were to watch videos (91%), connect with friends and family (77%), play games (69%), do school research (59%), and connect with other people and make new friends (44%).

Table 34. Reason for Internet Use

What do you usually use the internet for?	Frequency	%
Watch videos	240	91%
Connect with friends and family	203	77%
Play games	182	69%
School research	154	59%
Connect with other people/ gain new friends	116	44%

A sizable proportion (63%) of child respondents shared personal information with strangers online, compared to only 37% who did not.

Table 35. Shared Personal Information with a Stranger

Have you shared personal information with a stranger online?	Frequency	%
Yes	166	63%
No	97	37%
Total	263	100%

The majority (61%) shared their name with a stranger while others revealed their age (35%), email address (21%), phone number (18%) and where they go after school (18%). Some disclosed their school (14%), gave personal photos (14%), and home address (5%) to a stranger. When this is compared to the Dasmariñas baseline results, the top three personal information children shared with a stranger online were name (44%), age (41%), and school (38%) while Iligan baseline showed that children most often share to a stranger online their name (95%), age (16%), and photos of themselves (15%). It is remarkable to note that based on endline results, except for

giving out their names, there was a decline in sharing most of their personal information to a stranger online such as home address, photos, phone number, school, afterschool activities, and age.

Table 36. What Personal Information Children Share Online Compared to Baseline Data

Which of the following personal information have you shared with a stranger online?	Frequency	Endline (%)	Dasmaringas Baseline	Iligan Baseline
Name	160	61%	44%	95%
Age	92	35%	41%	16%
Email address	55	21%	22%	1%
Mobile phone number	48	18%	27%	2%
Where I go after school	47	18%	26%	2%
School	38	14%	38%	14%
Photos of myself	38	14%	30%	15%
Home address	12	5%	23%	6%

Similarly, the survey revealed that many children engage in risky online practices. The majority (77%) added strangers to their instant messenger contact list, 27% talked with someone they met online, another 27% talked on the phone with someone they met online, and 10% ended up meeting with someone they met online. When compared to the Dasmaringas baseline, there was a decrease in meeting in person, as well as speaking on the phone with someone they met online. However, there was a considerable increase in adding a stranger to instant messenger contact list and talking with someone they met online.

Table 37. Children's Unsafe Practices Online Compared to Baseline Data

Have you done any of the following online?	Frequency	Endline (%)	Dasmaringas Baseline	Iligan Baseline
Added a stranger to instant messenger contact list	203	77%	42%	19%
Talked with someone you met online	71	27%	14%	16%
Spoken on the phone to someone you met online	70	27%	40%	17%
Met in person someone you have met only online	27	10%	25%	8%

Total	263	100%		
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Child respondents used social media extensively. Almost all respondents had social media accounts except for one.

Table 38. Respondents' Social Media Accounts

Do you have social media accounts?	Frequency	%
Yes	262	99.6%
No	1	0.4%
Total	263	100%

Nearly all (94%) used Facebook frequently, followed by Tiktok (71%) and Youtube (68%). Almost half of those polled (43%) used Twitter, 37% used Wattpad, and 13% used WhatsApp. A few or 6 child respondents (2%) used online dating sites.

Table 39. Social Media Applications Children Often Use

If yes, what social media websites/applications do you commonly visit/use?	Frequency	%
Facebook	248	94%
Tiktok	187	71%
YouTube	179	68%
Instagram	177	67%
Twitter	114	43%
Wattpad	98	37%
WhatsApp	35	13%
Dating sites (i.e., Tinder)	6	2%

The vast majority (81%) knew all their virtual or social media friends. However, 19% of those polled did not know all their social media contacts. Those who did not know all their social media friends added them primarily to gain many friends on their list (14%).

Table 40. Know All Social Media Friends in Person

Do you know all your friends on your social media accounts personally?	Frequency	%
Yes	212	81%

No - To have many friends on my list	36	14%
No - Added for nothing	9	3%
No - For online selling	2	0.8%
No - For online gaming	2	0.8%
No - For fun	2	0.8%
Total	263	100%

Almost all (93%) of those polled received friend requests from strangers.

Table 41. Receive Friend Requests on Social Media from Strangers

Do you receive friend requests from people you do not know on social media?	Frequency	%
Yes	245	93%
No	18	7%
Total	263	100%

The great majority (69%) of people who receive friend requests from unknown people ignore them, and 9% block the person. Some respondents, however, interacted with the stranger. 19% add the stranger and 3% converse with the person.

Table 42. Actions Taken on Friend Requests from Strangers

If yes, what do you usually do when you have friend requests from strangers?	Frequency	%
Ignore the request	182	69%
Add the person on FB	50	19%
Block the person	23	9%
Talk to the person	8	3%
Total	263	100%

A large percentage (60%) of participants said they have no friends who are foreigners, while 40% said they do. Most (57%) of those respondents with foreign friends did not communicate with them, while 43% did. Some 14% talked with their foreign friends once a week, 10% talked with them daily, 8% 2-3 times a week, and 6% sometimes.

Table 43. Foreign Friends on Facebook

Are you friends with any foreigners on Facebook?	Frequency	%
No	158	60%
Yes	105	40%
Total	263	100%

Table 44. Frequency in Talking with Foreign Friends

If yes, how often do you talk to them?	Frequency	%
I don't talk to them	60	57%
Everyday	10	10%
Once a week	15	14%
2-3 times a week	8	8%
Sometimes	6	6%
4-5 times a week	4	3%
Twice a month	1	1%
Once	1	1%
Total	105	100%

Child respondents' top three favorite online activities were watching videos or movies (90%), listening to music (76%), and chatting with friends (73%). Many also enjoyed playing online games (64%), doing research for school (54%), posting photos and videos (54%), and chatting with relatives (51%). Others enjoyed sharing photos and videos (49%), liking, and following posts (49%), sending messages (48%), commenting on posts (46%), chatting with new friends (31%), and sharing photos and videos (30%). They rarely used the internet for selling or shopping online (14%), making new friends on social media (25%), and sending emails (27%).

When compared to the baseline data, the top three favorite activities remained the same, with chatting with friends being the top activity in Dasmariñas baseline and watching videos or movies being the top activity in Iligan baseline, which is consistent with the endline data. Iligan's top three also included schoolwork research.

Table 45. Favorite Activities Online Compared to Baseline Data

What are your favorite activities when online?	Frequency	Endline (%)	Dasmariñas Baseline	Iligan Baseline
Watch videos or movies	237	90%	67%	78%

Listen to music	199	76%	66%	43%
Chat with friends	193	73%	69%	75%
Play online games	168	64%	58%	52%
Research for schoolwork	143	54%	59%	65%
Post photos and videos	142	54%	42%	39%
Chat with relatives	135	51%	61%	37%
Share photos and videos	128	49%	39%	30%
Like/follow/unfollow posts	128	49%	38%	29%
Send messages	125	48%	40%	38%
Comment on posts	122	46%	41%	36%
Chat with new friends	82	31%	33%	7%
Chat with people I only know online	80	30%	27%	6%
Send emails	72	27%	11%	1%
Find new friends in social media	65	25%	23%	2%
Sell or shop online	37	14%	9%	1%

Most child participants confirmed that they share personal information online with a stranger. A large percentage (62%) disclosed their personal likes/dislikes online. More than half (52%) openly expressed their personal views and opinions online and 49% showcased their talents/skills online. Nearly half (46%) shared their personal details online. Overall, endline results showed that there was an increase in sharing personal information online with a stranger when compared to Dasmariñas baseline.

Table 46. Information Shared with a Stranger Compared to Baseline Data

Do you disclose/share the following information online with a stranger:	Frequency	Endline (%)	Dasmariñas Baseline	Iligan Baseline
Personal likes/dislikes	162	62%	48%	35%

Personal views and opinions	138	52%	37%	14%
Talent/skills	128	49%	35%	19%
Personal details	122	46%	33%	22%

When respondents were asked to describe their online presence, for 40% of those polled, their online presence can be described as interacting with people they know personally, 19% had security settings that allow them to control who can see them, and 13% were often active with people they only know online. Around 10% had a public online presence, though they control who can find, see, and chat with them. On the other hand, 18% of them indicate that their presence is public and that anyone can find, see, and chat with them.

Table 47. Children's Online Presence

What is your online presence like?	Frequency	%
I only interact with people I know personally	106	40%
I have security settings and I choose who can see me	49	19%
My presence is public; anyone can find, see and chat with me	47	18%
I am often active with people I only know online	34	13%
My presence is public; but my setting selects who can find, see and chat with me	27	10%
Total	263	100%

The majority of children (71%) stated their parents have rules about their internet use, while 20% said they did not and 9% were unsure. This is an upsurge when compared to the Dasmariñas baseline data where only 66% said that their parents have rules on internet use.

Table 48. Parents Have Rules on Internet Use Compared to Baseline Data

Do your parents/guardian have rules about your internet use?	Frequency	Endline (%)	Dasmariñas Baseline	Iligan Baseline
Yes	186	71%	66%	71%
No	53	20%	24%	24%
Not sure	24	9%	8%	5%
Total	263	100%		

In terms of feeling safe online, most respondents (72%) said they sometimes felt safe online, despite hearing about other people's negative internet experiences, which made them more aware of the risks. Another 23% were confident in their online safety and ability to deal with a threat, while 15% had never encountered any threats or nuisances on the internet. On the other hand, 7% have had negative experiences with these dangers, and 4% were concerned about their online safety and were constantly on the lookout for potential hazards.

Table 49. Children Feel Safe Online

Do you feel safe online?	Frequency	%
Sometimes, although I have heard of people having bad experiences that make me more aware of the dangers	189	72%
Yes, I feel I can handle any threats or nuisances that come my way	60	23%
Yes, I never come across any threats or nuisances	40	15%
Sometimes because I have had bad experiences that make me more aware of the dangers	18	7%
No, I never feel safe online and I'm always thinking about the dangers	11	4%

Almost three-fourths of respondents (74%) saw sexual images or content, 19% were bullied by friends or acquaintances, 16% received unwanted approaches in a chat room, social networking site, or via email, and 13% were pressured by friends to do things online that they did not want to do. Moreover, 8% had inappropriate photos of them used online, and 6% had unwanted photos taken of them and circulated online. In contrast, a quarter of respondents did not experience any of these online dangers. When compared to the Dasmariñas baseline, there was a substantial increase of respondents who saw sexual images or content online. There was also an upsurge of being bullied or harassed by friends or acquaintances and experiencing unwanted approaches in a chat room, social networking site or on email. There was also a decline of respondents who did not experience any of these online dangers, which means that the majority are exposed to various unsafe experiences online. On the other hand, there was a drop in experiencing pressure from friends to do things online that they did not want to do, someone using their photos in inappropriate way, and taking unwanted photos of them and circulating them online.

Table 50. Children's Unsafe Experiences Online Compared to Baseline Data

Have you experienced any of the following online?	Frequency	Endline (%)	Dasmariñas Baseline	Iligan Baseline
Saw sexual images or content	195	74%	24%	33%
None of these	65	25%	40%	59%
Bullied or harassed by friends or acquaintances	49	19%	15%	8%
Unwanted approaches in a chat room, social networking site, or on email	43	16%	12%	12%

Pressured by friends to do things online I did not want to do	34	13%	18%	3%
Someone used my photos in an inappropriate way	21	8%	10%	4%
Someone took unwanted photos of me and circulated them	16	6%	9%	2%

**OUTCOME INDICATOR 2: NUMBER OF CHILDREN RESCUED**

The number of children rescued through the project was 19 (25%) out of the 75 targets. This was underachieved primarily due to restrictions during the pandemic and fewer cases reported.

**OUTCOME INDICATOR 3: PROPORTION OF SURVIVORS REINTEGRATED IN THEIR FAMILIES OR PROVIDED ALTERNATIVE FAMILY CARE**

With fewer rescue operations, lesser OSEC survivors were reintegrated into their families or provided with alternative family care. In terms of the proportion of survivors reintegrated into their families or given alternative care services, 19% (76%) of the 25% target was achieved.

The project assisted 98 child survivors through partner shelters and centers; 17 of them were reintegrated with non-offending family members/relatives, and 2 children were placed in foster care. Accordingly, a total of 19 children were reintegrated with their families and given alternative care.

During the pandemic, project partners reported difficulties in processing documentation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the courts which contributed to delays in reintegrating the children.

**OUTCOME INDICATOR 4: JUSTICE OPERATORS' LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE WITH EXISTING OSEC LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

For this Outcome Indicator, almost all participants who were police officers rated the level of compliance with the existing OSEC legal framework as high to very high. Half of those polled rated their agency's compliance with the existing OSEC legal framework as 4 or high, while 44% gave a 5 rating or very high. Only 6% of respondents rated their compliance as 3 or mid-level. Among the reasons they cited for their high level of compliance with related to OSEC and child protection laws were the IJM trainings provided to them in combating OSEC, successful OSAEC entrapment and rescue operations, the arrest and conviction of perpetrators, and the PNP's TIER 1 ranking in the US State Department Trafficking in Person (TIP) Report which has been maintained for seven consecutive years, signifying that the country continues to meet the minimum standards in eliminating TIP.

Table 51. Level of Compliance with the Existing OSEC Legal Framework.

How would you rate your agency's level of compliance with the existing OSEC legal framework?	Frequency	%
3 - Medium	2	6%

4 - High	18	50%
5 - Very high	16	44%
Total	36	100%

When asked what additional support they need to continue the fight against OSEC, PNP personnel mentioned they need computers, gadgets, communication equipment, and link analysis tools, both hardware and software that can be used by OSEC investigators, continuous training for them to combat OSEC, particularly technology training for investigators, logistical support, and financial support in attending court hearings involving OSAEC cases and processing the needs of the rescued victims in transferring to the shelter.

According to them, other trainings that can help them increase their capacity in fighting OSEC include training in advanced technology for OSEC investigations such as digital forensic investigation, Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), intelligence training, link analysis training, training on detection, surveillance, investigation including online cyber investigation, victim interview, case management, and prosecution as well as training on the emerging tools used by perpetrators.

The following tables show outputs achieved by the project.

#### OUTPUT 1: PREVENTION

Table 52. Output 1 Achievements as of 30 June 2022

PROJECT INDICATORS	EOP TARGET	CURRENT ACHIEVEMENT	EVALUATION OBSERVATION
1. PREVENTION			
<b>Output 1.1: Systematized initiatives to prevent OSEC (for key actors including PIMAHT, DepEd, and LGUs)</b>			
Number of successful advocacy actions (on prevention, HB 4890, and OSEC-related policies) conducted	6 (4 local, 2 national)	More than 6 successful advocacy actions were conducted by the project to help advance the OSEC policy advocacy both nationally and locally in Iligan and Dasmariñas.	Achieved. The project organized a number of national and local advocacy actions. The exact number of successful advocacy actions is unknown. The project should have a clear indicator's definition to ensure that successful advocacy actions were counted correctly.
<b>Output 1.2: Disseminated information on OSEC nationally and in project sites (Dasmariñas City and Iligan City).</b>			
Number of people reached through OSEC awareness-raising activities	110,000 children	112,230	Overachieved. Target reached through partnership with DepEd. Nearly all were children who participated in

		the rollout of the worksheets and training on the Safety of Children Online Module.
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Targets under Prevention were achieved. For Output 1.1, the project implemented initiatives at the local and national levels aimed at improving child protection and development policies, including the submission of policy recommendations to address OSEC. Project efforts led to significant policy breakthroughs in both arenas. The policy recommendations submitted to the LGU by the PCMN-Technical Working Group (TWG) in Dasmariñas City resulted in the passage of the Local Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) Ordinance on October 25, 2021. The ordinance established guidelines for the protection of children from OSAEC as well as penalties. In addition, the Local Youth Development Council has allocated Php 30,000 to the Youth for Safety (Y4S) in Dasmariñas for three years as a result of the advocacy.

Similarly, in Iligan City, the results of the policy development workshops were used to amend the city's existing Children's Code of 2011. Proposed Resolution/City Ordinance No. 21 had been adopted, approved, and was awaiting a public hearing. However, due to the May 2022 elections, the hearing did not take place.

At the national level, the project had been successful in advancing the OSEC policy agenda. On June 23, 2022, President Duterte signed RA 11862, or the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons (ATIP) Act of 2022 to amend RA 9208 or the ATIP Act of 2003. The expanded law provides authorities more tools to pursue human traffickers, especially when the violations include the use of the internet and digital platforms.

Likewise, RA 11930 or the Anti-Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) bill lapsed into law on July 30, 2022. It modified the Anti-Pornography Act or RA 9775 to give it more teeth in protecting children from online sexual exploitation, disregarding any form of consent from the child. Some of its key provisions include expanding the responsibilities and accountability of social media platforms, electronic service providers, and internet and financial intermediaries; producing, willingly accessing, and knowingly sharing any form of child sexual abuse and exploitative material are punishable under this law; providing law enforcement with additional tools when surveilling and investigating OSEC cases; and providing protection and guarantees for child OSAEC victims; and creating the National Coordinating Center against OSAEC and Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Material under the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking. Both PCMN and IJM were staunch advocates of the newly amended and passed laws, engaging in a variety of advocacy activities to that end.

In March 2022, the project organized the End OSEC Summit, focusing on engaging multi-stakeholders on safety of children online, with keynote speaker Senator Risa Hontiveros, the author and principal sponsor of the Anti-OSAEC Law and Expanded Anti-Trafficking Act of 2022. The summit was well-attended with 469 participants, both virtually and in person at the project sites.

For Output 1.2, the End OSEC project had exceeded its target of 110,000 children by the end of the project. As of 30 June 2022, 112,230 people had been reached through various OSEC awareness activities throughout the project areas. 110, 220 of these were children and youth who participated in the rollout of worksheets and training for the Safety of Children Online Module. Most participants, or 109,000 children from Grades 3 to 12, were reached through worksheets distributed in 69 public schools in partnership with DepEd in both cities, and 205 through the

rollout of children's modules in barangays/churches. In addition, 970 children and youth participated in the training of trainers, and 1,326 were reached through awareness-raising activities and partnerships. Through different platforms, the project also conducted other awareness-raising initiatives aimed at various groups, including parents and the general public. The OSEC parents' module was rolled out to 178 parents, and the training of trainers reached 551 adults/public.

## OUTPUT 2: RESCUE

Table 53. Output 2 Achievements as of 30 June 2022

PROJECT INDICATORS	EOP TARGET	CURRENT ACHIEVEMENT	EVALUATION OBSERVATION
<b>2. RESCUE</b>			
<b>Output 2.1: Ensured current and future OSEC survivors' access to immediate rescue services.</b>			
# of rescue operations financially augmented/ supported through the project	15	10	67% achieved. Supported the Covid-19 testing of law enforcement personnel involved in the rescue operations
<b>Output 2.2: Trained key justice operators representatives, including forensic interviewers, social workers, and prosecutors on Model OSEC Response (Advanced Investigative Workshop, Trauma-Informed Forensic Interview Training, Prosecuting OSEC).</b>			
Support the strengthening of the PNP-Mindanao Field Unit (MFU)'s presence in Iligan City through strategic collaboration with regional and local government agencies and stakeholders	PNP-Mindanao Field Office is trained and able to function	PNP-MFU staff have been invited to various capacity-building activities (i.e., ICAC and MDT trainings)	Achieved. The indicator was changed to focus on the capacity development of PNP-MFU staff.
Number of individuals trained	300	343	Overachieved. Various training sessions were conducted with key justice operators.

One of two target outputs for the Rescue component had been achieved by the end of the project. As shown in Table 53, only 10 (67%) of the 15 target OSEC rescue operations were supported/augmented by the end of the project for Output 2.1. As per project reports, interviews, and focus group discussions with project staff and the Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel, rescue operations were particularly difficult to carry out due to Covid-19 restrictions, resulting in the project's limited support during the period. Aside from maintaining peace and order in the community, the PNP has been at the forefront of the national Covid-19 response, focusing their efforts on preventing the spread of the virus. Consequently, some police officers had been infected with Covid-19, which hampered their work.

For Output 2.2, both indicators were met. The project was successful in strengthening the PNP-Mindanao Field Unit (PNP-MFU) by providing staff with technical assistance and OSEC training. Furthermore, 343 justice operators from Dasmariñas, Iligan cities and the National Capital Region, including law enforcement officers and Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) members, participated in various trainings such as Trauma-Informed Care (TIC), Video In-depth Interviews (VIDI), Basic Internet Crimes Against Children, and Training on the Protocol for Case Management of Child Victims of Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation.

## OUTPUT 3: RESTORATION

Table 54. Output 3 Achievements as of 30 June 2022

PROJECT INDICATORS	EOP TARGET	CURRENT ACHIEVEMENT	EVALUATION OBSERVATION
3. RESTORATION			
<b>Output 3.1: Adopted and implemented Foster Care Guidelines. A greater number of OSEC survivors have been provided safe long-term care in licensed foster families.</b>			
Number of foster care guidelines adopted and implemented.	1	15 licensed foster care parents were trained on foster care for OSEC survivors (FOCOS) in Region 10  75 participants attended the Foster Care Orientation in Region IVA	Achieved. The indicator was changed to focus on foster care training for OSEC to foster parents. The Foster Care Technical Working Group, of which IJM is a member, identified the need for foster care parents to be prepared to handle OSEC survivors. Output 3.1 statement and indicator is compound (i.e., involves both policy + implementation)
<b>Output 3.2: Formed and trained two inter-agency aftercare networks (composed of representatives from DSWD, hospitals, CSOs, and churches) in charge of functionality of shelter and residential care.</b>			
Number of inter-agency aftercare networks formed and trained.	2	2	Achieved. 2 MDTs (in Iligan and Dasmariñas) were invited and trained on the Protocol for Case Management of Children Victims of Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation to support the collaboration of inter-agency aftercare networks in handling OSEC cases
<b>Output 3.3: Provided quality recovery services through STAR empowerment or equivalent program.</b>			
Number of OSEC survivors provided with after care services	75	98	Overachieved. Children were supported through 9 partner shelters/ centers.
Number of OSEC survivors who have completed STAR empowerment or equivalent programme	25% (19 of 75) of survivors provided with aftercare services	42 (43% of 98)	Overachieved. 43% of OSEC survivors attended IJM's Local Survivors Network (LSN) program.

All three target outputs for the Restoration component were achieved by the end of the project as reflected in Table 54. For Output 3.1, since the Foster Care Technical Working Group, of which IJM is a member, had already developed foster care guidelines, the project participated in consultations to review and identify gaps in the current foster care system. As a result, a training manual for foster care for OSEC survivors (FOCOS) was created to assist foster care parents in dealing with OSEC survivors. Foster care for OSEC survivors training was conducted with 15

licensed foster care parents from Region X and a foster care orientation was held in Region IVA with 75 participants.

Output 3.2 was accomplished by training two multidisciplinary teams in Iligan and Dasmariñas on the Protocol for Case Management of Children Victims of Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation. As part of the MDT Training, the project brought together 31 professionals from various fields such as social workers, law enforcement officers, medical/mental health workers, lawyers, and service providers from the community shelters and centers to strengthen their collaboration and capacitate them in handling OSEC cases/rescues. The project focused on strengthening the existing network and increasing its capacity to handle OSEC cases, rather than establishing a new one.

Output 3.3 was overachieved with the provision of aftercare services to 98 children and the participation of 42 of these child survivors in the IJM's Local Survivors Network program. The project collaborated with 9 shelters and assessment centers such as AMG Bahay Silungan, Compassionate Hope Foundation, First Love International Ministries, Agape Impact Ministries, Kanlungan sa ErMa, Malisa Home, Philippine Island Kids International Foundation, Shechem Children's Home, and St. Mary Euphrasia Integrated Development Foundation, Inc., providing monthly subsidies to OSEC survivors (aged 17 and under) under their care. A monthly allowance was given to each child to cover basic services such as food, clothing, and trauma recovery activities for at least three months in assessment centers and up to eight months in shelters. These children were rescued and admitted to the shelter/center between 2020 and 2022, and they received support based on the length of their stay, regardless of whether they were rescued by the project or not.

The project also provided other forms of assistance to the partner shelters, such as capacity-building training for staff through IJM. Due to the high cost of medical, psychosocial, psychological, and legal assistance, the centers also received a technical/professional support fee.

Overall, except for Output 2.1, or the number of rescue operations supported, the project achieved all its outputs, with 89% or 8 of the 9 output indicators met by the end of the project. The Covid-19 pandemic notably slowed project implementation and had a significant effect on achieving the project's objectives. Although the project's strategies had been modified in response to the pandemic, meeting some targets had proven difficult, especially given the project's tight timeline and delays.

Furthermore, the project's effectiveness was also demonstrated by evidence from surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions. The justice operators' survey revealed that a significant proportion of respondents (47%) believed that the End OSEC project was very (47%) and extremely (42%) effective in meeting their needs in combating OSEC. Only 8% thought the project was effective, while 3% thought it was slightly effective.

Table 55. Justice Operators - Effectiveness of End OSEC Project

On a scale of 1-5, how effective was the End OSEC Project in responding to your needs in fighting OSEC?	Frequency	%
2 - Slightly effective	1	3%

3 - Effective	3	8%
4 - Very Effective	17	47%
5 - Extremely effective	15	42%
Total	36	100%

Survey respondents also found the training they participated in to be extremely (42%) and very effective (47%) in addressing OSEC for them and their organizations. Others (14%) thought the training was effective, while 3% thought it was only slightly effective.

Table 56. Justice Operators' Survey - Effectiveness of Training in Addressing OSEC

<b>On a scale of 1-5, how effective was the training provided by the project to you and your organization in addressing OSEC?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
2 - Slightly effective	1	3%
3 - Effective	5	14%
4 - Very Effective	15	42%
5 - Extremely effective	15	42%
Total	36	100%

The great majority of respondents (89%) indicated that they were able to apply the End OSEC project's training in their work. Only 11% were unable to put what they had learned in training into practice.

Table 57. Respondents' Apply the Training Provided at Work

<b>Were you able to apply the training provided by IJM-End OSEC Project in your work?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	32	89%
No	4	11%
Total	36	100%

For most participants who were able to put their knowledge into practice immediately, they were able to apply what they learned in training during rescue operations, OSEC referral, open-source investigation, TIP-OSEC case management, and VID I kit interviews with child victims. They also used it in other cases involving children and internet crimes. They also affirmed that their new knowledge was shared with their colleagues. This was validated by the PNP WCPC-MFU chief, who stated, "the knowledge that we learned from the training that the project provided was very useful, and we are actually applying it in our investigation and operation."

Interviews from key informants also confirmed the project's effectiveness. They gave the project a mean rating of 9 out of 10 (with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest) for effectiveness because they believed the project met its objectives, particularly in raising awareness about the OSEC issue in the project areas. They also commended the project's good partnerships with various stakeholders for effective implementation, noting that the project collaborated closely with local governments, government agencies, schools, CSOs/Faith-based organizations (FBOs), and the community to achieve its project goals, particularly since OSEC is not yet a priority issue for these entities. According to a CSWDO partner, "the project adopted a holistic approach, involving not only the LGU but also the church, because, as we know, one of the root causes of these problems is a lack of values and religious belief among families. Parents believed they had done nothing wrong because there was no physical contact and no harm was done to their children, but through the initiative of our faith-based organizations and partners, they espoused the fear of God and taught the parents that what they were doing was wrong in the eyes of God and the law."

A KII respondent in Iligan confirmed that, "the awareness campaign was a success, especially in areas where this problem is very prevalent. In Tambacan, Saray, Poblacion, Tubod, Suarez, and the rest of the PNP-identified vulnerable areas, you can ask any child in those areas, and they are all aware of the problem." Another respondent from Iligan remarked that OSEC cases have decreased in their community. An FBO partner in Iligan also highlighted the project's effective and direct approach of focusing on families and children in OSEC hotspots identified and recommended by barangays, noting that PCMN went to the barangay level to determine who would benefit the most from the project. Similarly, another FBO representative said that targeting parents, guardians, and the entire community was effective in raising awareness and preventing OSEC, particularly in knowing how to detect signs that OSEC is happening in the community.

In Dasmaringas, the DepEd respondent acknowledged the project's remarkable efforts and shared that the OSEC awareness activities received positive feedback from students, teachers, and guidance counselors and that the project made a difference in protecting children from OSEC. According to a CSO respondent, OSEC advocacy had expanded rapidly and reached many sectors of society. He related that other organizations, such as Kiwanis International, reached out to them to learn more about the project and to participate in the advocacy. Even ordinary individuals expressed their support for the project. He shared that his former teacher contacted him because she knew some people who would benefit from the project as she also wanted to help OSEC victims. Hence, the respondent believed that the project was extremely effective in terms of raising awareness, playing a critical role in getting the OSEC issue out in the open and reaching a larger audience.

However, while nearly all KII respondents gave the project a high rating, recognizing the project's contribution to addressing OSEC in their communities, some noted that there was still room for improvement. Respondents believed that there were still ways to improve the anti-OSEC campaign because the project was hindered since it was implemented during unusually difficult times. The PNP WCPC Iligan chief indicated that "the project has a lot of potential and the advocates were willing to give their 100%, but mobility had been restrained due to the pandemic. Nonetheless, the project was still able to accomplish its goals. The awareness campaigns were spread across all concerned sectors, in schools, in urban poor areas where children are vulnerable to OSEC, and many parents are now knowledgeable about the issue. But the awareness campaign should not end here; otherwise, if we stop spreading awareness, it will resurface as a bigger problem later."

Another participant stated that the policy must be enforced and that the technical working group (TWG) must continue to advocate even after the project is completed. Another respondent

emphasized the importance of conducting an evaluation to determine where the TWG can improve and perform better.

Similarly, the project received a 4-star rating (with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest) from youth advocates, indicating that the project was successful in meeting its objectives but that there is still room for growth. According to a youth respondent, "we still have a lot to learn and improve. However, the high potential for success and the lasting impact the project had on us cannot be underestimated." Another respondent stated, "Everyone involved in this project, from staff, volunteers, youth advocates, partner organizations, and other stakeholders, has done their part to implement the programs. The PCMN staff members were also very supportive of our efforts." However, some youth advocates mentioned that they never had community immersions or direct interactions with children since they were engaged in training other youth advocates. Another respondent shared that his experience as a youth advocate motivated him to become a change agent in his community, realizing that he can make a difference in the lives of other children. Overall, the different project partners greatly recognized how the project made a tremendous contribution to drawing public attention to the OSEC issue and its preventive measures. It easily gained the support of duty-bearers, who acknowledged their lack of capacity and resources to effectively tackle the problem. Respondents also lauded the project staff for being hands-on and active in the implementation despite the unusual circumstances of the pandemic. They observed how the staff engaged the community and encouraged more people to join in the advocacy.

Furthermore, in terms of project management, the evaluation team identified some critical issues with the project's logical framework. Some outcome and output indicator measures were unclear, complex, and difficult to quantify, making it challenging for the project to count the results and warranting the revision of some indicators. For example, for Output 1.1.1, the project had difficulty counting the accomplishments despite a wide range of activities implemented under this indicator. Given the project's diverse range of activities and strategies implemented to achieve its output and outcome indicators, it would have been beneficial to have disaggregated targets and monitoring data for major activities, or to add more output indicators to reflect the results of these key activities in order to better evaluate the effectiveness of the processes and strategies used. As it currently stands, output level indicators and monitoring data did not appear to accurately reflect the extent of the project's results. The project should have conducted regular data monitoring to determine if progress was made toward achieving expected results and to identify bottlenecks in implementation. Since the project was designed prior to the pandemic, its outcome and output indicators should have been revisited and updated to reflect the new context. While the project did its best to adapt its strategies to deal with the pandemic, some strategies are difficult to implement given the extraordinary circumstances.

### 3.2. EFFICIENCY

How efficient are the project implementation processes vis-a-vis the targeted or expected long-term goal of the End OSEC Project?

As of 30 June 2022, the project achieved eight (8) of its nine (9) output indicators, with four targets exceeding expectations. Based on reports and interviews with the project team and partners, the following factors were identified to facilitate the timely and cost-effective delivery of these results.

### Facilitating Factors

- **Partnerships and alliance-building.** PCMN has a vast network that supports its fight against OSEC. It is an active member of several extensive networks that promote child protection and well-being, including the National Child Protection Working Group (NCPWG), the National Steering Committee on Child Rights Advocacy of the Council for the Welfare of Children (NSC-CRA of the CWC), Child Rights Network (CRN), and the Philippine Interfaith Movement Against Human Trafficking (PIMAHT). Building valuable partnerships allowed PCMN to increase its capacity and value across its network of stakeholders. At the local level, the project built a community of advocates that included local CSOs/FBOs, teachers, church leaders, youth advocates, parents, and government officials who are committed to localizing the project's cause in their community. The project was successful in bringing together key stakeholders in the fight against OSEC at the prevention, rescue, and restoration stages.
- **Signing of partnership agreements/ Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with partners.** Forging MOUs/agreements with various entities helped in establishing formal collaborations with government agencies, CSOs, and FBOs as well as promoting sustainability of some project components and leveraging resources. A key example was the partnership with DepEd. Through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with DepEd Dasmariñas, students from Grades 3 to 8 in the city's public schools studied the project's Safety of Children Online Module worksheets, which were integrated into their modular classes. DepEd also provided funds and printed additional worksheets for Grades 9-12 for selected Dasmariñas public high schools and senior high schools. The module's videos were made available to students with internet access via DepEd Dasmariñas' Facebook page, and it was also aired on a local TV station to reach more children. The project also signed partnership agreements with CSOs/FBOs and youth organizations.
- **Use of online/blended platforms for implementation during the Covid-19 pandemic.** The project's strategies had been changed in response to the disruption caused by the pandemic. Many of its planned activities were shifted to online and blended activities. Modules and worksheets had been redesigned to adapt to students' online mode of learning, which resulted in reaching more students than intended. They also improved the module based on the preliminary results of the worksheets submitted. The parent module was also redesigned and delivered over the phone as part of PCMN's regular child and family phone mentoring program. Similarly, partner training modules were converted to digital formats. Training of Trainers and rollouts were carried out online and through modular classes.
- **PCMN's CSO Accreditation in Dasmariñas and Iligan Cities.** To maximize engagements and build valuable partnerships, PCMN applied for CSO accreditation in project areas. Getting accreditation from the local governments afforded PCMN a seat in the Local Councils for the Protection of Children where it can join consultations and dialogues and provide input to policies, programs and plans of the local government. PCMN was able to influence policies related to strengthening laws and measures to fight OSEC in the project areas. As a registered CSO in Iligan, PCMN joined the City Inter-

agency Council Against Trafficking or CIACAT and was instrumental in its activation and establishment. Moreover, the project was able to further advance its policy agenda through the presence of champions and supporting officials who advocated the cause on behalf of the project.

Conversely, challenges were encountered by implementing partners that hindered them, to some extent, to achieve results. The following were the major challenges faced by the project in addressing the barriers to the delivery of effective prevention, rescue, and restoration services to children at risk or victims of OSEC.

### Limiting Factors

- **Covid-19 pandemic.** The Covid-19 pandemic caused major setbacks in meeting project objectives. The project was planned and designed pre-pandemic with all assumptions based on normal operations. Significant adjustments were made to continue with the implementation and achievement of goals. Field activities, such as coordination meetings and training, were put on hold for months to comply with the Covid-19 lockdown implemented in project areas. Rescue interventions were also stalled as a result of Covid-19 restrictions, resulting in fewer rescue operations. Some PNP personnel were also infected with Covid-19. Priorities shifted at the legislative level as well. Policy efforts were directed toward the Covid-19 response and the May 2022 elections, leaving other pressing issues, such as the Anti-OSEC bill, pending. This hampered the project's policy advocacy efforts.

To carry on with project activities, the project transitioned to online modalities. However, some activities such as policy advocacy meetings and workshops were difficult to conduct online and did not yield the desired results. Hence, the project conducted face-to-face meetings or blended activities.

The new ways of working during the pandemic had an impact on the project's operations and expenditures. The consortium had to make policy adjustments to accommodate work-from-home arrangements, health protocols, and digital payments. However, financial processes and requirements were slow to adapt to these changes. When most project activities shifted online, the project recorded significant underspending. As a result, the project proposed budget changes and realignment to the funder.

In addition, staff members became infected with Covid-19, leading to office closures and causing further delays in project implementation.

- **Lack of operational plan and management guidelines in place.** The project's work was hampered by the lack of an operational plan and management guidelines. Some difficulties had been experienced as a consortium due to differences in each organization's financial policies and procedures, particularly since reimbursements had been practiced. There had been some concerns about the reimbursements being delayed. While this was eventually resolved, having an operational plan and management guidelines in place early on to harmonize the processes can assist in addressing these issues in advance and ensuring the project runs smoothly.

### 3.3. RELEVANCE

To what extent were the activities and outputs of the project relevant to the target areas and final beneficiaries or the children and families vulnerable to OSEC?

Overall, evaluation findings show that the End OSEC Project was, to a great extent, highly relevant and responsive to the needs and priorities of project partners and beneficiaries. The project's comprehensive approach to OSEC was based on the consortium's exceptional track record and experience in implementing similar OSEC projects across the country. These interventions were founded on global and national programs aimed at combating OSEC and promoting child protection and development. The project's design and implementation strategies were largely guided by the local context as well as the needs of the beneficiaries and key partners. As the project design was comprised of two main clusters of interventions: those directed at the children to raise awareness and reduce their vulnerability to OSEC, and those directed at government institutions to increase their capacity to eliminate existing barriers to the delivery of effective prevention, rescue, and restoration services to children at risk or victims of OSEC, these key project interventions were found to be relevant to the context and needs of children and government institutions.

Assessments were conducted at various levels to ensure that the project interventions were appropriate and compelling solutions to the OSEC problem. Consultations with key stakeholders and baseline studies in project areas were conducted, and the results were used to inform and identify areas of implementation and beneficiaries and strengthen project strategies. The project was carried out in Iligan City and Dasmariñas City, identified as leading OSEC hotspots in the country, where intervention was deemed critical. While OSEC was prevalent in these areas, many people were unaware of it, and it was only through the project that they learned about it. Hence, the project was successful in bringing the OSEC agenda to the forefront, as many people believed that OSEC does not happen in real life, or that it occurs only in foreign countries or in the movies. The project served as a wake-up call to all stakeholders regarding this heinous crime.

Finding shows that the project was relevant to partner local governments, government agencies, faith-based organizations, and CSOs in project areas. Based on the key justice operators' survey results, most respondents found the training supported by the End OSEC Project to be extremely (56%) and very relevant (33%) in addressing OSEC. About 8% thought the training was relevant, while only 3% believed it was only slightly relevant.

Table 58. Relevance of the Training in Addressing OSEC

<b>On a scale of 1-5 (1-lowest, 5-highest), how relevant was the IJM training supported by the End OSEC Project in addressing OSEC?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
2 - Slightly relevant	1	3%
3 - Relevant	3	8%
4 - Very relevant	12	33%
5 - Extremely relevant	20	56%
Total	36	100%

They said the training was extremely (44%) and very relevant (44%) to them and their organization in dealing with OSEC. A small percentage (8%) thought the training was relevant, while 3% thought it was slightly relevant.

Table 59. Relevance of Training to Respondent and Organization in Addressing OSEC

On a scale of 1-5 (1-lowest, 5-highest), how relevant was the training provided by IJM – End OSEC Project to you and your organization in addressing OSEC?	Frequency	%
2 - Slightly relevant	1	3%
3 - Relevant	3	8%
4 - Very relevant	16	44%
5 - Extremely relevant	16	44%
Total	36	100%

Responses from key informants validate the project’s relevance as well. For a DepEd respondent who serves as a child protection focal person, the project made her job easier. According to her, the awareness-raising activities provided students with basic OSEC knowledge, empowering them and instilling confidence in them to report OSEC cases to authorities. Another DepEd partner emphasized that schools are the children's second home, so engaging the schools was critical. Apart from warning children about the dangers of the internet, the project also assisted teachers in becoming aware of the OSEC issue and being well-equipped with preventive measures.

Similarly, a Sangguniang Kabataan councilor stated that the project enabled them to participate in meaningful activities as part of the anti-OSEC campaign. They were able to engage youth in their community and establish new partnerships for this program. Another youth leader stressed the project's relevance, noting that, in addition to the step-by-step training they received from understanding OSEC and knowing the preventive mechanisms, they were challenged to respond to the problem as a youth organization and as individuals. “I used to think of myself as an ordinary youth with no concern for the well-being of my community. However, after learning about this issue through this project, I decided to make this advocacy personal. I will continue the advocacy even without the project.”

When approached by PCMN, a church partner said they didn't hesitate to participate in advancing the advocacy because it was aligned with their goals in terms of child and youth development. “We want to develop great leaders, but what will happen to the next generation if the youth are not aware of the issues around them and are not protected?” Another church partner stated that the project was holistic, covering many aspects, which influenced them to transform their own Children’s Ministry program. He remarked that, “It is also a process of awareness and continuous learning on our part in terms of dealing with children, how to properly handle, talk to, and care for them. We realized that we are not only here to guide them spiritually, but also to ensure their safety from abuse and overall well-being.”

PNP respondents also noted the project's relevance to their line of work. They confirmed that they need all the help and support they can get from NGOs, schools, and project partners in order to do their job effectively and protect the people. According to PNP-Iligan, the project, in collaboration with other partners and stakeholders, aided in addressing the OSEC problem and reducing OSEC cases in the city. "In 2019, there were 12 cases, which decreased to 8 by 2020 and increased to 14 cases in 2021. By 2022, no cases had been reported in the previous six months."

The project rolled out highly beneficial seminars and trainings, especially for law enforcers, teachers, church workers, social workers, and youth advocates to increase their capacity to detect and fight OSEC. The PNP participated in and assisted in the facilitation of trainings that were greatly useful in OSEC prevention and protective measures. Similarly, WCPD personnel benefited from project trainings such as how to handle people involved in sensitive cases such as OSEC, including how to appropriately handle and care for children with trauma during the rescue and investigation processes. According to a KII respondent, participating in the technical working group for the anti-OSEC campaign helped him identify various measures that he can take as a citizen to protect the welfare of children as well as understand the trauma of the children who had been victimized.

KII respondents also mentioned that the project assisted them in expanding the awareness campaign to include parents, as parents play a critical role in achieving the project's goals. A parents' module on OSEC was rolled out. The project provided IEC materials that were broadcasted on the radio, and it distributed leaflets and posters on OSEC to churches and families. It educated parents on the warning signs and dangers associated with their children's internet use, as well as the penalties for such exploitative practices. With this knowledge, parents have become more aware and cautious, prompting them to devote time to guiding and monitoring their children's internet use.

With the growing incidence of OSEC in the areas, and findings from the project's baseline survey highlighting the risks and vulnerabilities of children online, the project's decision to include community awareness-raising as part of its prevention strategy, particularly among children, was entirely appropriate. FGD and KII findings show that through the project, partners and beneficiaries realized that the OSEC problem is a legitimate and serious issue in their communities that need urgent concerted actions.

### 3.4. COHERENCE

To what extent is the project intervention compatible with other interventions and responses by CSOs and government authorities?

Evaluation findings reveal that project interventions complemented and were consistent with other CSO and government initiatives and responses against OSEC. The End OSEC project demonstrated that collective actions are effective and sustainable in responding to a complex problem such as OSEC. Since the scale of the problem necessitates multi-stakeholder collaboration, the project took the lead on this issue, urging the government to take immediate action to resolve the worsening OSEC situation in the country, both at the national and local levels. The project joined forces with local governments, government agencies, and CSOs to address this situation and provided a platform for them to collaborate. For example, the project partnered with the Department of Education to integrate OSEC into the children's modules. The local governments adopted policy initiatives to strengthen child protection. The PNP, in addition to being active in rescue operations, has reported all cases of abuse and coordinated with CSWDO in terms of monitoring these cases. The creation of technical working groups proved to be vital in connecting all the stakeholders' initiatives and holding them accountable. These were among the initiatives spearheaded by the project to address the OSEC problem on multiple fronts and amplify existing interventions. By providing key actors with the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources, the project bridged a significant gap in the fight against OSEC.

According to the results of the justice operators survey, all respondents indicated that the training or project intervention in which they participated was consistent with the government's interventions and responses to OSEC as shown in Table 60.

Table 60. Project Interventions' Alignment with Government Response in Addressing OSEC

<b>Was the training or any project intervention you were part of, aligned with the government's interventions and responses in addressing OSEC?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	36	100%
No	0	0%
Total	36	100%

KII participants also affirmed that the End OSEC project was aligned with current interventions to combat OSEC. PNP Iligan respondent expressed gratitude to the project for its assistance in responding to the OSEC problem. "The Police and the CSWDO are the main players in the fight against OSEC. We can only effectively combat this problem by raising awareness, and the project did that for us and aided us in our prevention efforts." Likewise, a KII participant stated that the project was in line with government interventions. She noted that, "CSWDO has limited manpower in the Women and Children's Desk, so we are grateful for this project because it allowed us to effectively maximize our interventions with the help of volunteers and other non-government partners. The project was very systematic; first, we conducted an intensive awareness campaign, and then we established contacts with the DepEd, Philippine Army, PNP, and local governments, including local officials to rescue, rehabilitate, and restore OSEC survivors."

In addition, PCMN and IJM were recognized by government agencies and local governments in Iligan and Dasmariñas for their work in tackling OSEC in their communities. As the WCPC Mindanao Field Unit chief expressed, "the End OSEC Project is a form of intervention through the initiative of PCMN and IJM, which we have wholeheartedly welcomed and partnered with in their project implementation because we share the same goal of ending the sexual exploitation of children on the internet." The project also complemented the actions of other CSOs involved in the fight against OSEC, such as Save the Children's Safer Kids PH Project in Lanao del Norte.

### 3.5. SUSTAINABILITY

What aspects/elements of the project contribute/not contribute to the sustainability of the End OSEC initiative?

The End OSEC Project had built-in strategies in the project design and implementation to sustain efforts and approaches beyond the project. Clear strategies had been directed at the structural level by building capacity and strengthening systems for addressing OSEC. The multiple project interventions had sustainability pathways to respond to the interconnected barriers to providing effective prevention, rescue, and restoration services to OSEC victims. More specifically, the actions were designed to foster institutional and policy-level sustainability. Technical assistance was given to key preventive actors such as DepEd, schools, CSWDO, and local governments; key justice operators such as the Philippine National Police Women and Children Protection Center (PNP WCPC), Department of Justice, National Bureau of Investigation, Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking; and aftercare service providers such as private shelters and residential care institutions.

With regard to capacity building of partners, according to the justice operators survey results, when asked if respondents would be able to apply what they learned from the training without project resources, the majority (86%) agreed, while 14% disagreed as shown in Table 61.

Table 61. Will Respondents Apply What They Learned from the Training without the End OSEC Project's resources?

Will you be able to continue to apply what you learned from the training without the resources of the IJM- End OSEC Project?	Frequency	%
Yes	31	86%
No	5	14%
Total	36	100%

Data show that project activities and outcomes can potentially be sustained in the absence of project funding and support. There is a strong commitment from community partners such as CSOs/FBOs to continue Anti-OSEC advocacy in their communities after the project ends. Their awareness-raising and prevention initiatives are likely to continue.

Key informants also believed that there were indications of project sustainability because groups were formed and capacitated to continue advocacy and ensure long-term impact beyond the

project life. They affirmed the potential of the technical working groups as well as other organizations such as Youth for Safety Iligan and the Iligan Children's Ministry Network (ICMN) to carry on the advocacy initiatives. According to them, "the Youth for Safety Iligan and ICMN are outcomes of PCMN's efforts. We are a part of PCMN's umbrella organization, which demonstrates that the project produced a long-term result through us because the organization is here to stay even without PCMN." Overall, the strong partnerships with local FBOs appeared to be critical in maintaining the project's gains in the communities. FBOs in Iligan and Dasmariñas have a good foundation for continuing beyond the project since they are well-equipped and dedicated to fighting OSEC.

Government partners also recognized the project's contribution to their communities and vowed to sustain it. CSWDO affirmed that, "they will be there to continue the fight so that the outcomes do not go to waste, and we do not go back to square one. Responding to OSEC is within our scope of work; prior to learning about this problem, we did not have an existing focal person for it, but now we do. As the focal person, I am here to continue the advocacy and I will use the trainings and knowledge that I gained from the project."

While participants agreed that the project's resources were valuable, project stakeholders had already developed plans and ideas for what to do next even without the project. In Iligan, for example, the PNP will continue to be in charge of tracking and rescue, while youth advocates and other partners will organize fund-raising activities to generate income to support the OSEC awareness campaigns. Furthermore, even in the absence of PCMN, DepEd will integrate OSEC into the curriculum and raise continuous awareness about this issue.

The PNP WCPC Iligan chief asserted that their OSEC program would continue to be implemented. "The project equipped us through trainings and seminars, and their assistance is greatly appreciated. We, at the PNP, are grateful because they assisted us in our roles as law enforcers, and even though they are no longer with us, they have left us with valuable support that will motivate us to continue our efforts to combat OSEC." Similarly, PNP Dasmariñas believed that project results would likely be sustained because of active participation and collaboration of the local government, PNP, other agencies, and the community.

Some KII participants noted that awareness campaigns would continue even without the project. "As long as children use the internet, parents and teachers will continue to warn them about the internet's potential dangers. They have sown the seed of awareness, which will not be easily forgotten."

Regarding the long-term policy sustainability, the project was successful in pushing the OSEC legislative agenda at both the local and national levels. Dasmariñas City's Anti-OSAEC ordinance was signed, and the Iligan Children's Code is being amended. The consortium's efforts, along with those of other champions, led to the passage of the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2022 (RA 11862) and the Anti-OSAEC Law (RA 11930) in Congress. Policy implementation, on the other hand, would be another uphill battle for advocates.

Nonetheless, challenges to the sustainability of the project's results would be likely and inevitable. The May 2022 elections resulted in a change in local government leadership as well as a reshuffling of trained government personnel, including project champions. New leaders may have different priorities and decide not to support the project's gains. Addressing this would be an impending task for the Technical Working Groups, CSOs/FBOs, youth advocates, and other community groups who have committed to continuing the advocacy.

### 3.6. IMPACT

How far did the project contribute to enabling the Philippine child protection system to protect children from OSEC and improve access to justice for OSEC victims?

The project, to a great extent, contributed toward enabling the Philippine child protection system to protect children from OSEC and improve access to justice for OSEC victims. Project efforts led to the enactment of Anti- Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) Law (RA 11930) and the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2022 (RA 11862) in 2022, which are significant in addressing the specific nuances of the OSEC and TIP issues. These policy developments are excellent ways to ensure the sustainability of programs, projects, or activities despite changes in leadership both at the national and local levels. Moreover, findings from the surveys, KIIs, and focus groups indicated that the End OSEC project positively contributed to building the capacities of its stakeholders across all levels and sectors, including children, towards knowledge, skills, and practices in OSEC prevention, rescue, and restoration.

#### **Passage of Anti- Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children Law (RA 11930) and the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2022 (RA 11862)**

The passage of Anti-OSAEC Law (RA 11930) and the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2022 (RA 11862) were major policy breakthroughs in the fight against OSEC. While this achievement would entail new ways of engaging with local governments and partners, these legislations would largely strengthen child protection against OSEC throughout the country, institutionalizing initiatives to prevent and respond to OSEC. Following these policy developments, prioritizing and awareness about the OSEC issue is expected to gain traction among various stakeholders, including the private sector.

With the legal framework established, initial efforts need to focus on increasing LGUs' buy-in on adopting and localizing these laws. Local governments should recognize the importance of addressing OSEC in the context of child protection and development to mainstream it in their investment and development plans for children. These legislations are key components in sustaining project results. To truly sustain this remarkable policy victory over OSEC, these new policies must be enforced, and partners must remain committed to ensuring that laws are effectively implemented.

#### **Increased OSEC awareness among children**

Data showed that the project's Prevention intervention significantly raised children's awareness of OSEC and online safety in project areas, which is an integral part of preventing OSEC. The awareness and advocacy activities led to the improvement of children's knowledge, attitude, and practices towards OSEC.

The results of the children's survey confirmed the increased awareness of OSEC among children. The majority of child respondents or 69% were aware that children/teenagers are being abused online, while 27% were only somewhat aware. Only 4% of those polled were not aware of the issue, at least in their communities. This is a significant result when compared to the baseline survey in Dasmariñas City in 2019, where only 62% of respondents were aware that children are being sexually abused online, and the baseline survey in Iligan City in 2021, where only 32% of child respondents were aware of the OSEC phenomenon.

Table 62. Awareness of OSEC

<b>Are you aware that there are children or teenagers being sexually abused online?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes, I know that children/ teenagers are being abused online	182	69%
Yes, I am somewhat aware of it	70	27%
No, at least not in my community	10	4%
No, it is not happening	1	0%
Total	263	100%

In terms of response against OSEC, the vast majority of children (85%) said they knew what to do if they or someone they knew experienced any forms of OSEC. However, 8% said they were unsure what to do, and 6% said they had no idea what to do if confronted with such an incident.

Table 63. What to do when you or another child experiences any form of OSEC

<b>Do you know what to do if you or someone you know experienced any form of online child sexual exploitation?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	224	85%
Not sure	22	8%
No	17	6%
Total	263	100%

More than half (58%) of those who said they knew what to do said they would notify their parents, 16% would report to authorities/police, and 9% would inform their teachers. On the other hand, 8% were unsure what they would do, and 7% said they would do nothing. About 1% said they will tell their friends about the OSEC incident. Only one respondent (0.4%) said he would call a human trafficking hotline to report the incident.

Table 64. What to do if there is an OSEC incident

If yes, what would you do?	Frequency	%
Inform my parents	153	58%
I will report to the authorities/police	41	16%
Report to my teacher	24	9%
Not sure	22	8%
None	20	7%
I will talk about it with my friends	2	1%
Call trafficking hotline	1	0.4%
Total	263	100%

More than three-quarters of child respondents (42%) learned how to respond in case of an OSEC incident from the internet, while others learned from their barangay (21%), school (16%), television (12%), and at home or from their parents (6%). PCMN was cited as a source of information about how to respond to an OSEC incident by 2% of those polled. Similarly, a few (2%) learned about it from the radio.

Table 65. Source of Information on Reporting OSEC Cases

Where did you know or learn about these?	Frequency	%
Internet	111	42%
Barangay	55	21%
School	41	16%
TV	31	12%
Home/ Parents	15	6%
PCMN	5	2%
Radio	4	2%
Wattpad	1	0.4%
Total	263	100%

With regard to reporting OSEC incidents, 85% said they would while 13% were unsure and 2% would not report. When compared to the baseline survey result in Iligan on children's willingness

to report cases of OSEC to authorities, which was 75%, the current figure had a 10% lead. This means that children now have become more willing to report OSEC incidents to authorities.

Table 66. Willingness to Report OSEC to Authorities

<b>Will you report cases of online child sexual exploitation to authorities?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	224	85%
Not sure	34	13%
No	5	2%
Total	263	100%

Those who intend to report stated that they will primarily report to their teacher/principal (57%), Barangay Captain (51%), and the PNP (36%). Others would notify the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (35%), VAWC (21%), and DSWD (16%). However, those who said they would not report will not do so because they are afraid.

Table 67. Who to Report OSEC Cases

<b>If yes, who or where will you report to?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Teacher/ Principal	151	57%
Brgy. Captain	134	51%
Police/PNP	95	36%
Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC)	91	35%
VAWC Desk Officer	56	21%
DSWD	42	16%

Table 68. Why Not Report OSEC

<b>If no, why not?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Afraid	3	1.1%
I just inform my parent because I think they know what to do in that situation	1	0.4%
I don't like	1	0.4%
Total	5	

All respondents indicated that the project had a positive impact in that many children were saved and protected because of their increased awareness of OSEC. Apart from children, OSEC is now also known to parents, teachers, and authorities. Since children spend more time online without supervision, they are becoming more vulnerable to online sexual predators. Parents have stepped up to protect their children from OSEC. They are becoming more concerned about their children's screen time and have imposed internet rules, as a result of increased OSEC awareness and prevention. This was corroborated by the endline data signifying that more parents are setting internet rules at home. In school, a DepEd respondent also confirmed this significant result, observing that their students are aware of OSEC, and parents are also better informed about how to protect their children from this horrible crime.

### **Increased capacity of government agencies to prevent and respond to OSEC**

The project addressed critical gaps in knowledge and skills of government partners in effectively tackling OSEC. The findings of the justice operators' survey confirmed that the project significantly contributed to enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officers so that they can deliver better rescue and restoration support to OSEC survivors and their families. Table 69 shows that more than half (56%) of respondents gave the project a 4 or high rating (with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest) for increasing government agencies' capacity to prevent and respond to OSEC. Some gave a 5 or a very high rating, while 6% gave a 3 or a medium rating.

Table 69. Justice Operators' Rating - How the Project has Increased Capacity of Government Agencies to Prevent and Respond to OSEC

<b>On a scale of 1-5, please rate how the project has increased the capacity of government agencies to prevent and respond to OSEC</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
3 - Medium	2	6%
4 - High	20	56%
5 - Very high	14	39%
Total	36	100%

All respondents who were law enforcement personnel also confirmed and highlighted their enhanced knowledge and capabilities to carry out their functions through the project. While they admit that rescue operations were reduced during the pandemic, they guaranteed that the knowledge they gained from the training will be put to good use and applied in their work. They confirmed that the project's technical assistance helped increase their effectiveness and efficiency in handling OSEC and other child protection cases from detection, investigation, case management to prosecution.

Moreover, informants validated that strengthening the capacity of these child protection actors has long-term effects on tackling OSEC. They indicated that focal persons in government agencies have now been assigned to address OSEC, whereas previously there were none. A DepEd representative also confirmed this. She noted that she became the focal person for child protection and anti-OSEC initiatives in school.

Overall, the project enabled and increased the community's capacity to prevent OSEC. PNP WCPC Iligan declared that OSEC cases in the city decreased in 2022, attributing this to the project's End OSEC campaigns. This was cited as another reason for fewer rescue operations in the city.

### 3.7. LESSONS LEARNED

What are the significant lessons learned from the activities being implemented by the project?

This section discusses the key lessons learned during project implementation and how they were used to adapt or adjust the project design and strategies throughout the process. These were primarily based on reports and information shared by project staff during focus group discussions as well as on the observation of the evaluator. These lessons should also be considered for future programs and projects.

- **Create emergency or business continuity plans.** To be able to adapt and respond quickly during emergencies, development projects should consider developing an emergency plan and/or a business continuity plan. The project team noted that it is critical for projects and organizations to be prepared for emergencies and disasters such as pandemics. There should be mitigation guidelines in place covering work-from-home arrangements and other policies for working in the new normal, etc., that can be easily activated when an emergency arises.
- **Prepare a staffing requirement and plan at the onset of the project.** The IJM project team recognized that a full-time project staff was necessary for the End OSEC project because their current structure did not match to their project implementation requirements, considering the multiple roles and functions of current team members. The team noted that a dedicated project staff should have been hired to ensure efficient and smooth operations. Hence, during the project proposal phase, IJM should require and allocate a full-time project staff member as needed to be able to hire sufficient and qualified

personnel.

- **Importance of Monitoring and Evaluation System.** The project realized that setting up a monitoring and evaluation system is needed to regularly assess the project's performance and provide implementers and other stakeholders with continuous feedback on implementation. A robust M&E system can help identify problems and bottlenecks in project implementation, improve project design and strategies, and promote learning.
- **Longer Project Duration.** The scale of the End OSEC Project, with its multifaceted interventions, may require a longer duration, especially when an impact evaluation is planned. The consortium may need to examine and assess the design and scope of similar future projects vis-à-vis its timeframe.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

This section presents a summary of findings and key conclusions reached per evaluation criteria and key questions.

### EFFECTIVENESS

**Question 1: To what extent did the project effectively achieve the outcomes, outputs, and targets as defined in the indicators in the results framework?**

Based on project monitoring data, 25% or 1 of the 4 outcome indicators and 89% or 8 of the 9 output indicators had been achieved by the end of the project. The Covid-19 pandemic hampered project implementation and had a massive effect on meeting project goals. While the project's strategies had been adapted in response to the pandemic, meeting some of the project's objectives had proven difficult.

Nonetheless, the project had been especially successful in forging partnerships with a diverse range of stakeholders to reduce existing barriers to the delivery of effective prevention, rescue, and restoration services to children at risk or victims of OSEC. Government agencies, both preventive actors and justice operators, as well as civil society organizations (CSOs)/faith-based organizations (FBOs) were highly engaged in the project. Hence, partners gave the project a high

rating in terms of effectiveness. They commended the End OSEC project's outstanding partnerships with various stakeholders for effective implementation, noting that the project collaborated closely with local governments, government agencies, schools, CSOs/ FBOs, youth, and the community to achieve its project goals, particularly since OSEC is not yet a priority issue for these entities.

In terms of capacity building, justice operators' survey respondents found the training they participated in to be extremely (42%) and very effective (42%) in addressing OSEC for them and their organizations. They also indicated that they were able to apply the End OSEC project's training in their work. As law enforcers, they immediately put their knowledge to use, especially during rescue operations, OSEC referral, open-source investigation, Trafficking in Persons (TIP) -OSEC case management, and Video In-Depth Interviews (VIDI) kit interviews with child victims.

Furthermore, the evaluation team observed some key issues in the monitoring and reporting of project results. Some outcome and output indicator measures were unclear, complex, and difficult to quantify, making it challenging for the project to count the results and warranting the revision of some indicators. As it currently stands, outcome and output level indicators and monitoring data did not appear to accurately reflect the extent of the project's results.

## **EFFICIENCY**

### **Question 2: How efficient are the project implementation processes vis-a-vis the targeted or expected long-term goal of the End OSEC Project?**

The project reached most of its output and outcome indicators amidst the challenges of project implementation brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. Strong partnerships and alliance building, formal partnerships with government agencies and CSOs, PCMN's CSO accreditation in project areas, and the use of online/blended modalities for implementation during the pandemic had all been observed to enable the achievement of outputs and outcomes.

However, some project objectives were not met such as the number of children rescued and the number of rescue operations supported, which were understandable given the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. Implementation setbacks such as mobility restrictions were imposed and the project's partner, the Philippine National Police (PNP) became one of the frontliners in the national Covid-19 response, directing their efforts on helping curb the spread of the virus. In addition, a lack of an operational plan at the start of the project was identified as a contributing factor impeding the timely achievement of project results.

Nonetheless, even with the delays and challenges of Covid-19, the project, which was designed with pre-pandemic framework, was able to adapt to the changing context by modifying project strategies, such as shifting to online/remote as well as blended implementation modalities and realigning project activities and budgets.

## **RELEVANCE**

### **Question 3: To what extent were the outcomes, outputs, activities, and strategies of the project relevant to the target LGUs, partners, and beneficiaries?**

Evaluation findings showed that the End OSEC Project was, to a great extent, highly relevant and responsive to the needs and priorities of project partners and beneficiaries. The project's comprehensive approach to OSEC was based on the consortium's exceptional track record and experience in implementing similar OSEC projects across the country. These interventions were founded on global and national programs aimed at combating OSEC and promoting child protection and development. The project's design and implementation strategies were largely guided by the local context as well as the needs of the beneficiaries and key partners. As the project design was comprised of two main clusters of interventions: those directed at the children to raise awareness and reduce their vulnerability to OSEC, and those directed at government institutions to increase their capacity to eliminate existing barriers to the delivery of effective prevention, rescue, and restoration services to children at risk or victims of OSEC, these key project interventions were found to be relevant to the context and needs of children and government institutions, in addressing critical gaps in knowledge, skills, and practices to effectively tackle OSEC. Further, the project's actions continue to be highly relevant and much needed, especially in view of the current Covid-19 pandemic, which puts children at an increased risk of OSEC.

## COHERENCE

### **Question 4: To what extent is the project intervention compatible with other interventions and responses by CSOs and government authorities?**

Evaluation findings revealed that project interventions complemented and were consistent with other CSO and government initiatives and responses against OSEC. The End OSEC project demonstrated that collective actions are effective and sustainable in responding to a complex problem such as OSEC. Since the scale of the problem necessitated multi-stakeholder collaboration, the project took the lead on highlighting this issue, urging the government to take immediate action to resolve the worsening OSEC situation in the country, both at the national and local levels. The project joined forces with local governments, government agencies, CSOs/FBOs and volunteers to address this alarming situation and provided a platform for them to collaborate.

## SUSTAINABILITY

### **Question 5: What aspects/elements of the project contribute/not contribute to the sustainability of the End OSEC initiative?**

The End OSEC Project had built-in strategies in the project design and implementation to sustain efforts and approaches beyond the project. Project strategies had been directed at the structural level by building capacity and strengthening systems for addressing OSEC. The multiple project interventions had sustainability pathways to respond to the interconnected barriers to providing effective prevention, rescue, and restoration services to OSEC victims. More specifically, the actions were designed to foster institutional and policy-level sustainability. Technical assistance was given to key preventive actors such as the Department of Education (DepEd), schools, City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO), and local governments; key justice operators such as the Philippine National Police Women and Children Protection Center (PNP WCPC), Department of Justice (DOJ), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Inter-agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT); and aftercare service providers such as private shelters and residential care institutions. With capacity-building support, preventive actors, justice operators, and aftercare providers were able to improve their services in response to OSEC. These initiatives appear to have a good foundation for continuing beyond the project, as these agencies continue

to apply the new knowledge and skills they learned from training at work. In terms of policy, the project made significant strides in advancing the OSEC legislative agenda at the local and national levels. The passage of Anti-OSAEC and Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons laws are a highly sustainable achievement, increasing the gains of project results. Moreover, partners are also committed to continue Anti-OSEC advocacy initiatives in their communities after the project ends. The OSEC awareness-raising and prevention initiatives by community partners are likely to continue.

## IMPACT

### **Question 6: How far did the project contribute to enabling the Philippine child protection system to protect children from OSEC and improve access to justice for OSEC victims?**

The project, to a great extent, contributed toward enabling the Philippine child protection system to protect children from OSEC and improve access to justice for OSEC victims. Project efforts led to the enactment of Anti- Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) Law (RA 11930) and the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2022 (RA 11862) in 2022, which are significant in addressing the specific nuances of the OSEC and TIP issues. These policy developments are excellent ways to ensure the sustainability of programs, projects, or activities despite changes in leadership both at the national and local levels. Moreover, findings from the surveys, KIIs, and focus groups indicated that the End OSEC project positively contributed to building the capacities of its stakeholders across all levels and sectors, including children, towards knowledge, skills, and practices in OSEC prevention, rescue, and restoration.

## LESSONS LEARNED

### **Question 7: What are the significant lessons learned and emerging good practices from the activities being implemented by the project?**

While working under unusual circumstances brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, the project learned many valuable lessons that affected project implementation. Some of the identified lessons include the importance of having an emergency or business continuity plans in place to adapt and respond quickly during emergencies and disasters, planning the project's staffing requirements to ensure smooth project implementation, and establishing the project's monitoring and evaluation system to regularly assess the project's progress and provide implementers and other stakeholders with continuous feedback on implementation. Project of this scale with multifaceted interventions may require a longer duration. The consortium may need to examine and assess the design and scope of similar future projects vis-à-vis timeframe. These were some of the lessons to be learned for future programs and projects.

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are presented to the project for consideration in future programming that aims to address OSEC and other similar child protection issues.

- Prevention

- Focus initiatives on strengthening the family to prevent OSEC. Future projects should be designed to promote family and children's well-being as well as economic stability in the home. Actions should aim to help low-income families find gainful employment or start small businesses in order to foster economic security at home and to prevent and respond to OSEC. Interventions would include family strengthening sessions and livelihood support to parents.
  - In addition to school and online campaigns against OSEC, conduct targeted barangay-level house-to-house campaigns, particularly in high-risk areas, to ensure no one is left behind. Since children spend most of their time online, there is a need to intensify the campaign. Direct interaction with families and children in vulnerable areas will make a difference. Targeting parents would be effective because they play a vital role in protecting their children from all types of harm, including OSEC.
  - Integrate awareness activities and strategies in existing community activities (i.e., ERPAT, Mother's Class, 4Ps training, PTA meetings) instead of organizing separate activities and leveraging engagement with organized groups (i.e., women's groups, 4Ps, PYAP, SK, churches) in the community as avenues for awareness-raising activities, especially for parents.
  - Intensify the use of social media platforms to raise OSEC awareness and prevention and reach out to more children, as almost all children are active on social media. Involve youth advocates and children in the design, creation, and dissemination of social media content that will attract and engage their peers. Social media posts should be appealing to the target audience and contain only key messages.
  - Continually engage and build the capacity of children and youth groups to take lead in awareness raising campaigns among their peers in the school and community, as well as to do lobby and advocacy work at the community level.
  - Engage young leaders, celebrities, influencers, and known athletes to serve as anti-OSEC champions to be able to penetrate a wider audience through the traditional and social media.
  - Improve collaboration with DepEd by training more teachers and increasing their capacity in handling disclosures, psychological first aid, identifying red flags, and reporting and referral of cases, as they are the ones to whom children would report OSEC incidents based on the study findings. These trainings can be incorporated into offline or virtual in-service trainings (INSET).
  - With the passage of the Anti-OSAEC Law, similar OSEC projects should enjoin private sector stakeholders such as internet service providers, social media companies, telecommunications providers, and the media in OSEC awareness and prevention efforts.
- **Rescue**
    - Continue to strengthen law enforcement agencies' capacity and equip them with advanced technology training for investigators to combat OSEC, such as link analysis tools, digital forensic investigation, and emerging tools used by perpetrators.
    - Provide trained OSEC investigators with computers, communication equipment, hardware, and software tools.
  - **Restoration**
    - Enhance the intervention for aftercare support. OSEC survivors have been through

trauma, and they must rebuild their lives from the ground up in order to bounce back and avoid becoming future victims or, worse, perpetrators of violence themselves. Hence, aftercare is highly crucial and should be strengthened.

- Project Management

- To address the M&E issues identified, the project should ensure that future programming includes a well-constructed results framework with SMART indicators, strategies, and activities. These indicators should be regularly monitored and reported. A Monitoring and Evaluation officer should be hired to develop and manage the M&E system of the project/organization.
- At the start of the project, the consortium should create a project operation manual (POM) to guide implementing partners in effectively managing the project. The POM should define institutional roles and responsibilities, as well as establish a clear system for managing and implementing the project in both normal and emergency situations.
- Staffing should be planned and documented so that staffing requirements including capacity and specialization, capacity building support, and performance management are all clearly defined and met.



## ANNEX I

### ENABLRS' Ethical and Child Safeguarding Protocols

Ethical and child safeguarding protocols were put in place to protect the privacy and confidentiality of respondents during the conduct of this evaluation. Consent and assent procedures were set up and strictly implemented. This system includes informed consent tools for field researchers that were translated into the language of the respondents. Audio, paper-based, and digital signatures for informed consent and assent were collected before interviews, whichever is applicable.

The following safeguards were put in place to protect the privacy and confidentiality of respondents during the conduct of this evaluation:

- All members of the ENABLRS Team who worked in every stage of the evaluation were oriented on ENABLRS' Child Protection Policy and asked to sign it.
- A confidentiality clause was included as part of the contract of service signed by the team members.
- All team members who worked in every stage of the evaluation signed an agreement on confidentiality and privacy of respondents and data security.
- All team members were trained on the ethical protocols to follow at all times in every stage of the evaluation. These include:
  - Gathering informed consent/assent for all respondents during data collection.
  - Never disclosing any information revealed by respondents at any point during the course of the study to outside actors beyond PCMN staff directly involved in this evaluation. Outside actors may include partner's staff who are not directly involved in this study. This rule applies even after the end of their contract; and
  - Never using any information revealed by respondents at any point during the course of the study for personal or others' gain, including commercial, political or religious purposes. This rule applies even after the end of their contract.
- All data collection tools, including informed consent and assent, were back-translated to ensure the consistency of the message remains when translated to Cebuano.
- During data collection, ENABLRS Core Team conducted random monitoring calls to field researchers (research assistants and enumerators) and data quality checks of submitted survey forms to ensure the accuracy of gathered data and observance of ethical protocols.
- Contact details of focal persons from ENABLRS were provided to respondents to report any complaints or ask for further information about the project or study.
- All raw data (accomplished tools, interview transcripts, and databases) were submitted by ENABLRS to PCMN as part of the deliverables.
- Aggregated and/or anonymized information was used in all reports and dissemination activities to external parties, both local and abroad. Alphanumeric codes were used as identifiers of respondents.

## **ANNEX 2**

**End OSEC Project Logframe**

[End OSEC Project Logframe](#)