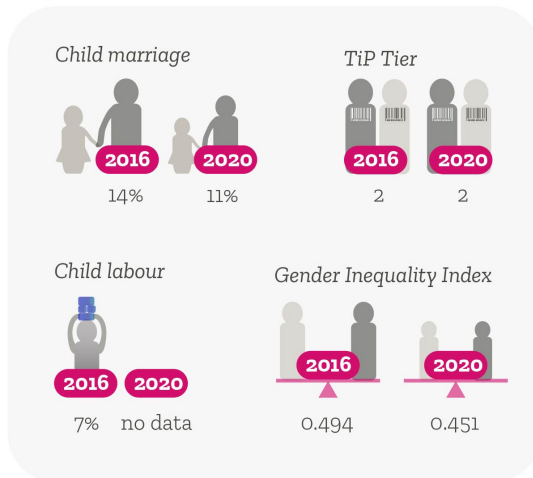


Indonesia

KEY NATIONAL INDICATORS IN 2016-2020



Indonesia, now a middle income country, is expected to positively influence – among others – the fight against sexual exploitation of children. Indonesia is a pathfinder country for the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and it has developed a National Strategy on the Elimination of Violence Against Children (2016–2020). The Government is becoming more open to working with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) including on sexual exploitation of children (SEC), particularly in relation to travel and tourism and online sexual exploitation of children. In February 2019, the Indonesian government renewed its commitment to continue to halt all forms of violence against children during an international conference in Stockholm, Sweden.

Following this, massive reforms to deal with violence against children were instructed to take place.

According to the international Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates, in 2011 195,000 children were exploited in the sex industry in Indonesia, reflecting 30% of all engaged in sexual exploitation in Indonesia. Despite the efforts from the government, this picture has not changed much since then. According to the 2019 report by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), 30% of persons sexually exploited in Indonesia are under the age of 18, with some as young as 10 years old. Due to Covid-19 an increase in different forms of sexual exploitation of children has been noted.

Although the minimum standards are still not met, Indonesia is kept at a Tier 2 ranking of the Trafficking in Persons Reports from 2012 to 2019 due to the government’s significant efforts.¹

Indonesia’s civic space is currently rated as ‘obstructed’ by Civicus, a global alliance of CSOs dedicated to strengthening civil society. Civil liberties in Indonesia vary between provinces, with Sumatra and Java receiving lower scores than others. A special concern is Indonesia’s online civic space. Digital rights and freedom watchdog SAFEnet reports that increasingly more people have been charged under the 2008 Electronic Information and Transactions Law, reaching a peak in 2019 with 3,100 cases. The figure is expected to have increased in 2020 since the national police is patrolling the internet to identify those accused of spreading “hoaxes” and “hate speech” about Covid-19.

FOCUS OF OUR WORK

The programme has been adjusting its Theory of Change (ToC) to specify targeted groups and expand to combatting online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) as this form of exploitation has increased.

Budget 2016-2020

€ 2,166,992

MAIN RESULTS ON CHILDREN/YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

The programme has been working on raising the awareness on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including the sexual exploitation of children. This led to the formation of different children forums in various implementation areas. The programme has directly contributed to children’s access to services including education, health and protection services. They have also been supported in the reporting of SEC cases through the DtZ community organisers. The programme has supported them to organise themselves, becoming peer educators. Some children became active role models, reaching out to SEC survivors and reporting cases through the DtZ Alliance. Some role models also shared their experiences with local governments. In Jakarta, children had the opportunity to learn about child rights, sexual and reproductive health including risks of sexual exploitation and the relevant agencies that could support them. Community organisers provided guidance, helped them to report SEC cases and seek council and/or legal

Indonesia

assistance at child-friendly spaces. Training and support helped children and young people to share their experiences. At present, many vulnerable children and victims of sexual exploitation living in tourism areas join children centres where they receive encouragement and support to inform the police. In addition to being peer educators and reporting SEC cases to local child protection mechanisms or the police, children and young people are also active in advocating against sexual exploitation, including designing campaigns and proposing activities to local village governments.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION

With the provision of specialised services to get children out of sexual exploitation situations and (re) enter education, the awareness of children and family members increased. This was followed by dissemination of information about SEC by different community structures. This enabled community members to adopt the best practices of SEC prevention and child protection, which led to the detection of cases of sexual exploitation. Active community members started to conduct home visits and some community structures used their knowledge of SEC to advocate for financial support from the government and private sector. SEC reporting is mostly done by parents, the reported number of cases

however remain low because it is often the parents themselves that put their children at risk or actively engage them in sexual exploitation. Of the 450 children accompanied by the DtZ programme, 70% have sex worker parents. Next to direct family members, extended family members and friends are potential perpetrators of SEC.

Families are still hesitant to report SEC cases to the authorities, as reporting to the police takes time and a positive outcome cannot be guaranteed. More reporting takes place through NGOs although immediate family members of SEC survivors tend to hide information related to cases. In Lombok, three Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms (CBCPM) were set up since the start of the programme. They have been facilitating children's and young people's access to services and supported children to reintegrate in their families and schools. Some CBCPMs have been successful in advocating towards the village government to allocate funds to better prevent and respond to SEC. The DtZ activities have encouraged community leaders to be involved in CBCPMs and to prevent and handle SEC cases in their villages. This also includes imams who talk in public about the vulnerability of children to SEC. Communities now have women counsellors, night patrols, and village committees in place. SEC is more known due to media reports on cases of violence against children and awareness-raising work done by the programme.

Community members and children centres are less hesitant to report cases than they were at the start of the programme and feel more supported with structures such as the CBCPM in place.

GOVERNMENTS

At the national level NGOs are active to voice the problems on SEC. For example, to date, the government doesn't recognise SEC legally yet, which leaves CSOs without a formal foothold to follow up cases and act at scale. National- and district-level child protection plans are in place but do not specifically address SEC. The DtZ Alliance has worked towards supporting the implementation of existing policies and has successfully advocated against online sexual exploitation resulting in budget allocated to more training on prevention of online sexual exploitation. The city of Jakarta has seen a growing network of SEC-specific prevention and protection government services over the last few years.

¹The trafficking in Persons report, is an annual report issued by the US State Department. The report ranks governments on their perceived efforts to acknowledge and combat human trafficking, from tier 1 (full compliance with the minimum standards) to tier 3 (no compliance and no significant efforts to do so).