

Down to Zero

Fighting commercial sexual exploitation of children

BEST PRACTICES OF COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY

terre des hommes stops child exploitation



DEFENCE for CHILDREN



iCCO COOPERATION

Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT) is one of the main pillars of the Down to Zero Alliance. The Alliance believes that a systemic approach is needed wherein all the key actors have a vital role to play. An effective and sustainable response to SECTT, requires a comprehensive approach consisting of measures to prevent sexual exploitation from happening, adequate services for victims, laws and law enforcement that can restore justice to victims. The Down to Zero

Alliance is therefore addressing private sector actors, government institutions and communities to take action and to do this in a coordinated manner. They also believe that empowerment of children, whether vulnerable or victims, should be a key element of the approach. This document presents some of its best practices of collaborations between civil society organizations with the travel and tourism industry. For more information, see:

www.downtozero.nl

Dominican Republic
Getting the entire travel and
tourism sector on board to
protect children

**ASOLESTE, MAIS-ECPAT and
Plan Dominican Republic**

ASOLESTE, the Regional Tourism Association for the East of the Dominican Republic, joined forces with MAIS and Plan DR to promote child protection in travel and tourism in the region, conducting multi-stakeholder meetings, discuss strategies, raise awareness and take collaborative action for example media campaigns to promote child protection; as well as The Code.¹ ASOLESTE became a member in 2016 and has taken on the promotion of The Code amongst their members, including hotels, taxis, tour operators and other tourist companies, both locally and internationally owned. Due to ASOLESTE's active involvement, joint awareness raising amongst the public and tourism sector more private sector actors in the Dominican Republic have become members of The Code. In 2017, three hotels even proactively contacted MAIS, ECPAT affiliate and Local Code Representative

in the Dominican Republic, to join and adhere to the standards of The Code. MAIS provides training to the staff members of different private sector actors, often jointly, also for them to learn from each other and create collaboration. Together with Plan DR all parties join hands to raise awareness amongst the public, communities and tourists and lobby towards the local and national government to take up their responsibility to protect children in tourism. ASOLESTE also supports their members in their development towards child-safe businesses, for instance through providing promotion materials. Following ASOLESTE, multiple Regional Tourism Associations in other regions of the Dominican Republic have joined like the Barahona tourism association.

Peru
Engaging informal sector actors
in travel and tourism

**CHS and informal
sector actors**

The civil society organization CHS works with the formal and informal actors of the private sector in travel and tourism. With the actors of

¹ Short for The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. See www.thecode.org.

the formal sector, CHS works on the implementation of The Code. CHS supports private sector actors, businesses and tourism associations in the creation and implementation of policies, including capacity building.

However, in travel and tourism, there are many informal private sector players active and the request by travelers and tourists on services of informal sector is increasing (ECPAT International Global Study SECTT 2016). As of 2017, CHS successfully interacts with informal tour operators and transport associations. Collaborating with them in the fight against SECTT requires a different strategy, due to their informal status, they are less controlled.

First, CHS initiated workshops aimed at informal actors, to share the difficulties they encounter in their day to day business. Together, they explored their approach to tourists, this served to introduce the issue of sexual exploitation from the legal framework to which these companies should be governed. The objective was to understand how this legal framework affects and relates to their business, roles and legal responsibilities. Thus, together they developed Routes of Attention, systems of attention that indicate where, how and through which actors to denounce the crime.

In 2017, 50 companies, both formal and informal, signed their commitment to combat sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and created systems of reference for the protection and reporting of crime.



One of the strategies of Renacer in combating sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, is by constructing protective environments, including government institutions, private sector, communities, families, educational sector, youth and media.

In 2009, a collaboration with ASOTELCA (Asociación Hotelera Colombiana), was initiated and allows collaboration with small hotel companies on the Colombian Atlantic coast. In 2010, collaboration was established with COTELCO (Asociación Hotelera y de Turismo de Colombia), an association that became the discussion partner with all the associated tourist companies. COTELCO opened the space for Fundación Renacer

to develop training processes in prevention and protection of CSEC. The collaboration with the associations have allowed to reach more private sector actors, because the associations brings together both large hotel chains and small hotels. Private sector actors have developed skills and knowledge to identify the risks and impacts of their operation and their value chain in the face of commercial sexual exploitation, as well as enabling the implementation of good practices for the defense, promotion and protection of children in these contexts.

Currently, through collaboration with both associations, 42 companies have been sensitized, of which 16 companies in the city of Bogotá have adopted The Code, and 13 companies in La Guajira are in the process of technical support for their adoption. 456 staff members of these organizations recognize that sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism is a serious violation and crime and they have committed to implement affirmative actions for their protection in their work and/or personal environments. In the city of Bogotá, specifically in the areas of Chapinero and La Candelaria, multi stakeholder roundtables were set up with public-private participation, made up of guilds, academia and representatives of the local mayors and entities of the district order, designing an action plan for prevention, protection and denunciation.

**Philippines
Setting Child Protection
Standards for Private Sector
with the municipality**

**ECPAT Philippines, Bohol
Association of Hotel Resorts
& Restaurants and Boracay
Foundation Inc.**

Bohol and Boracay are two of over 7000 Philippine islands and are considered as tourism destinations generating large number of tourists, including child sex tourists. Most of the small private sector actors coordinate their efforts through associations such as the Bohol Association of Hotel Resorts and Restaurants and Boracay Foundation Inc. Engaging private sector actors has been most effective through their associations. The associations can only make suggestions to their members and have no real mandate to impose the adoption of a child protection policy, although most actors recognised its importance, no formal commitment was established.

The associations and private sector actors therefore proposed that the municipalities would bring about a Municipal Ordinance on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism,

requiring all tourist businesses to address child protection and specifically the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. This to guarantee implementation of such standards by the private sector actors.

The first Municipal Ordinance on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism was enacted and signed in Panglao in January 2016, followed by other local Ordinances in Bohol and Boracay and one at the Bohol Provincial level. With this enactment, all 47 Municipalities and one city are obliged to implement the law.

ECPAT Philippines assists private sector actors in complying with the Ordinances and protecting children in their value chain through sensitization, training and the development of ethical company policies addressing the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. This has successfully resulted in that several actors rejected guests accompanied by minors in 2017. Hotel personnel reported and cooperated with the police investigations. The understanding of the role of tourism professionals improved, demonstrated by them approaching ECPAT and Terre des Hommes suggesting how more information can be secured by them to facilitate police investigations. In March and November 2017, staff members from the travel and tourism industry proactively reported incidences of sexual harassment and

child sexual exploitation in Bohol.

Philippines
**Combating Online Child Sexual
Exploitation linked to SECTT
with remittance companies**

**Getting the entire travel and
tourism sector on board to
protect children**

Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE) is of growing concern to the government, private sector and civil society organizations working in Down to Zero. Perpetrators groom the children online, transact and arrange their visit to Cebu as a tourist, to sexually exploit the children when there.

In several cities in Cebu Province where online child sexual exploitation is widespread, Children's Legal Bureau (CLB), Bidlisiw Foundation and Fellowship For Organizing Endeavors (FORGE), have successfully lobbied for the passage of ordinances that enjoins the Money Remittance Centers to combat this crime in close cooperation with law enforcement agencies, by reporting cases, supporting the investigation and submitting information for the legal process. The law requires money

remittance centers in the city to submit reports to the police or the city government if there are suspicious transactions of cyber pornography and online child sexual exploitation between a sender from abroad and a receiver in the city. A suspicion is raised when the customer claims multiple dollar remittances of small to medium amounts, several times a day. The regulation requires the customer to disclose more information such as a valid government identification card with a passport photo, indicating the claimant's home address, purpose of the remittance, relationship to the sender and mobile number. This was not required in the past. Four Money remittance companies, namely Western Union, Cebuana Lhuillier, M Lhuillier and Palawan Express have already successfully managed to deter potential perpetrators by blocking transactions.

In a country with more than 17,000 islands and over 300 ethnic groups, the collaboration at national and local level is crucial to combat sexual exploitation of children. Forging a fruitful collaboration between government, associations and private sector actors in travel, tourism, hospitality and media, has therefore become a very important strategy of the Down to Zero Alliance. Terre des Hommes Netherlands, Plan Netherlands and ECPAT partners Yayasan Embun Pelangi, Surabaya Children Crisis Center, ECPAT-Indonesia, Galang Anak Semesta and Bandungwangi included them in discussions and awareness raising training on SECTT and involved them in the National Campaign on Tourism Safety in the main tourist destinations conducted by the Ministry of Tourism. Training and workshops on SECTT prevention were conducted for employees of a number of Travel and Tourism private sector actors in Jakarta, Surabaya, Batam and Lombok. Amongst them were big hotel networks such as ACCOR, Hilton and the Golden Tulip Group, but also 17 local private sector actors consisting of guesthouses, homestays, massage parlours, karaoke and billiard cafés. Private sector actors committed to combating online child sexual exploitation in their business area, which lead to e.g. publicly displaying a plaque or banner demonstrating their policy to ban online child sexual exploitation from their premises. In

Indonesia

**Multi-stakeholder cooperation
to combat sexual exploitation
of children in tourism and
online**

**Yayasan Embun Pelangi,
Surabaya Children Crisis Center,
ECPAT-Indonesia, Galang Anak
Semesta and Bandungwangi**

Jakarta, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel together with Yayasan Bandungwangi and Plan International Indonesia took care of victims. They provided soft skill training for victims and their parents and conducted an internship programme in the hospitality sector for survivors. Moreover, homestay places and hotels in Central Lombok have offered their premises to hold regular monthly meetings for members of the Community-based Child Protection Mechanism and Yayasan Galang Anak Semesta. Cooperation was also established with the Indonesia Tourism Development Corporation in Lombok. They mainstreamed child protection in their blueprint. A recent collaboration between Association of Indonesian Tours and Travel Agencies, members of a Community-Based Child Protection Mechanism and children's groups in Central Lombok, led to a gala dinner where peer children were allowed to perform a play about commercial sexual exploitation of children and child marriage situation in tourism area. This is a child-led advocacy to raise awareness of private sector actors on the importance of a massive movement to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children, particularly in tourism area. The Alliance also worked with media companies, including KompasTV and KBR in Jakarta, SBO TV and RRI radio in Surabaya in broadcasting commercial sexual exploitation of children issues to reach a wider public range.

Cooperation with the ICT private sector was also established through ECPAT Indonesia and an agreement with Google Indonesia and Ministry of Women Empowerment & Child Protection to conduct Trust & Safety in Prevention of online commercial sexual exploitation training, for civil society organizations and Community Groups in 22 Provinces in Indonesia. The Alliance through ECPAT Indonesia was also been appointed by Youtube as the 'Trusted Flagger' on reporting child sexual abuse materials.

CONTACT

Down to Zero Desk - Chansuay van Son

E-mail: c.vanson@tdh.nl

+31 (0)70 310 50 00

www.downtozero.nl



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Picture: Ronald de Hommel

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