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 ZENIA B. MOSTOLES, Ed.D., CESO V  
 Schools Division Superintendent  
 Schools Division of Bulacan

Republic of the Philippines  
 Department of Education  
 REGION III-CENTRAL LUZON

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**REGIONAL MEMORANDUM**  
 No. 098

**TO :** ALL SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS  
 FOCAL PERSONS, SCHOOL GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS  
 DIVISION (SGOD)

**ENDORSEMENT OF UNICEF'S STUDY ON THE ROLES OF TEACHERS AND  
 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS IN ENSURING THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN  
 AGAINST ONLINE EXPLOITATION**

1. This refers to the attached Inception Report from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) relative to the conduct of a study entitled "Study on Intervention Strategies on the Recovery and Rehabilitation of Victims of Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in the Philippines."
2. The said study, which is a part of UNICEF's Rolling Work Plan with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, is being commissioned by the UNICEF through the Child Frontiers and the Psychosocial Support and Children's Rights Resource Center (PSTCRRC).
3. In view of the foregoing, the Department has formally endorsed this study. **The concerned regions, divisions, and schools are hereby encouraged to participate in this study to understand the roles of teachers and school administrators in ensuring the protection of children against online exploitation.**
4. For queries, kindly contact Atty. Marie Michelle Munoz Quezon, UNICEF Child Protection Project Coordinator, through mobile at +639175518574 or email at [mquezon@unicef.org](mailto:mquezon@unicef.org).
5. For information and appropriate action.

[Signature]  
**MAY B. ECLAR, PhD, CESO III**  
 Regional Director

Encs.: As stated



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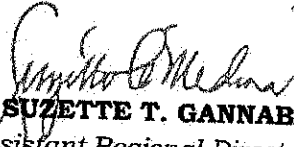


Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO :** REGIONAL DIRECTORS (NCR, III, VII, X)  
SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS (TAGUIG CITY,  
QUEZON CITY, CEBU CITY, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY,  
ILIGAN CITY)  
ALL SCHOOLS CONCERNED

**FROM :**   
**ATTY. REVSEE A. ESCOBEDO**  
Undersecretary  
Field Operations, Palarong Pambansa Secretariat, and DEACO

  
**ATTY. SUZETTE T. GANNABAN-MEDINA**  
OIC-Assistant Regional Director, MIMAROPA Region  
OIC-Head, Child Protection Unit

**SUBJECT :** ENDORSEMENT OF UNICEF'S STUDY ON THE ROLES OF  
TEACHERS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS IN ENSURING  
THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST ONLINE  
EXPLOITATION

**DATE :** January 25, 2022

This has reference to the herein attached Inception Report provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), relative to the conduct of a study titled "Study on Intervention Strategies on the Recovery and Rehabilitation of Victims of Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in the Philippines." This study, which is a part of UNICEF's Rolling Work Plan with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, is being commissioned by the UNICEF through the Child Frontiers and the Psychosocial Support and Children's Rights Resource Center (PSTCRRC).

Furthermore, the aforementioned study is designed to support the establishment of the critical evidence base by assessing the main intervention models and therapeutic and rehabilitative services provided by child protection and health authorities and accredited civil society organizations for child victims/survivors of Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) and their families.

In view of the foregoing, the **Department has formally endorsed this study. The concerned regions, divisions, and schools are hereby encouraged to participate**



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY

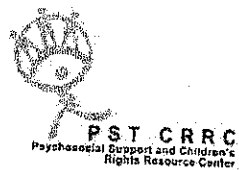
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in this study in order to understand the roles of teachers and school administrators in ensuring the protection of children against online exploitation. The interview shall be for information purposes only and will be kept confidential. It will also take a maximum of 1.5 hours and shall be conducted online on the platform of the respondents' choice and in the language they feel most comfortable speaking with the UNICEF team. Further, the UNICEF has confirmed that the study has been ethically cleared.

For questions and concerns, please contact **Atty. Marie Michelle Munoz Quezon, UNICEF Child Protection Project Coordinator**, through mobile at +63 917 5518574 or email at [mquezon@unicef.org](mailto:mquezon@unicef.org).

For your immediate compliance.

Thank you very much.



# **Study on Intervention Strategies on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Child Victims / Survivors of Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation**

UNICEF Philippines  
Child Frontiers  
PST-CRRC

Inception Report

Child Frontiers | September 2021

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## Introduction

A recent national study on OSAEC commissioned by UNICEF Philippines pursuant to a request of Government found that OSAEC is a complex phenomenon that needs to be tackled from a multi-disciplinary approach through the concerted effort of different government units at the national and local levels, non-government agencies, international organizations, and inter-agency councils.<sup>1</sup> The study highlighted how the rescue, investigation, and the trial process affect child victims / survivors and how the whole OSAEC experience has a profound impact on their psychological well-being, sense of safety and control, and view of the world. Of particular concern is finding that in some cases, the negative impact of the rescue and separation from their family is worse than the impact of the actual online exploitation and abuse, especially for children who did not feel harm from online exploitation. Recent research conducted by the International Justice Mission found that children in the Philippines are at risk of multiple forms of OSAEC, including sharing of abuse images, manipulating children online for abuse, sextortion, trafficking, etc.<sup>2</sup>

The present study has been initiated in response to the specific recommendation for UNICEF Philippines to conduct additional research on OSAEC and particularly, to map and assess key interventions models utilized to support the rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims / survivors. The purpose of this study is to identify and assess existing therapeutic and rehabilitative services available for child victims / survivors of OSAEC. The study will document the approach taken towards service provision and map the principal services available around the Philippines. However, the study will not focus on criminal investigation procedures. Civil society organizations will be included to complement the review of government services (with emphasis on Social Welfare and Development Offices and the hospital-based Women and Children Protection Units) and provide a globalized view of options for victims / survivors of OSAEC. The study will cover national, regional and local levels of service provision and data collection will be conducted at the sub-national level in four locations nationwide (NCR (Quezon City & Pasay City or Manila), Central Visayas (Cebu City), Northern Mindanao (Cagayan De Oro City), Central Luzon (Pampanga).

The study is especially timely given the exponential number of cases of online sexual exploitation and abuse of children that have been reported since the COVID-19 pandemic. It is hoped that the study will provide information and a strong evidence base for child protection stakeholders, including UNICEF Philippines, to advocate with and support the Government – especially the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) – to effectively strengthen and improve service for child victims / survivors of OSAEC. To this end, the study is specifically designed to generate evidence to design more effective service responses to ensure that children are physically safe, receive psychological counselling and therapeutic interventions, and have their cases managed appropriately and with a view to rehabilitation and family reintegration.

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<sup>1</sup> UNICEF Philippines. *National Study on Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in the Philippines*. Manila, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> International Justice Mission. *Online Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Philippines: Analysis and Recommendations for Governments, Industry, and Civil Society*. 2020.

## I. Study Objectives

To protect children effectively and efficiently from OSAEC and provide appropriate services to child victims / survivors, evidence is required about the types of interventions currently available in the Philippines for the rehabilitation, healing and reintegration of children affected by online exploitation. The present study is designed to support the establishment of this critical evidence base by mapping and documenting the main intervention models and therapeutic and rehabilitative services provided by child protection and health authorities and accredited civil society organizations for child victims / survivors of OSAEC and their families.

The study is especially timely given the exponential number of cases that have been reported since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to the many cases identified prior to the pandemic. The study will generate evidence for UNICEF Philippines to advocate with and support the Government and key stakeholders – especially the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and membership of the Philippine Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography (IACACP) – to design service response systems to ensure that children are kept physically safe, receive psychological counselling and therapeutic interventions, and have their cases managed appropriately and with a view to rehabilitation and family reintegration.

### Technical Advisory Group

The process will be overseen by a National Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The national TAG is co-chaired by the IACACP, DSWD, UNICEF Philippines and the Psychosocial Support and Children's Rights Resource Center (PSTCRRC) to provide oversight and expert technical guidance for the study. Leadership by the IACACP and DSWD will be critical to ensure the relevance and sustainability of the study findings and recommendations. Key responsibilities of the TAG include input to the study design, approach, methods, and tools; review of the study outputs, namely, the inception report, and the draft and final study reports; recommending and sharing information and resources; supporting engagement of key government agencies, organizations and key informants; and supporting dissemination and implementation of the study findings and recommendations. The TAG shall convene at least three times during the study period. The first TAG meeting was held on September 14, during which expert participants reviewed and provided valuable input to the study methodology. Due to the COVID19 situation, TAG meetings will be convened remotely via Zoom conferencing.

As experts on OSAEC in the Philippines, TAG members will also contribute critical technical input and information for the study. As indicated in the study scope matrix (Table 3), several of the members of the TAG will be interviewed as key informants for the study and it is anticipated that they will be able to provide valuable recommendations for additional sources of information. The initial study findings will be presented to the TAG for expert analysis, input and validation. The study team will also facilitate a discussion with the TAG members to develop recommendations for improving interventions in the Philippines for the rehabilitation, healing and reintegration of children affected by online exploitation.

See **Annex I** for the Technical Advisory Group TOR and **Annex II** for the proposed TAG membership list.

## II. Ethical Principles

The Philippines OSAEC study will be conducted in line with several internationally recognized standards. The ethical principles for the process derive in part from a framework of requirements laid out by Emanuel, Wendler and Grady.<sup>3</sup> This framework sets high standards that will allow for trust to be established between the research team and participants, thus encouraging participants to answer questions openly and in a way that promotes the accuracy of the research findings while ensuring the well-being of research participants.<sup>4</sup> The rapid assessment will be based upon the following ethical principles and guidelines:

**The rapid assessment will be useful – it should have social and scientific value.** Findings, lessons learned, and recommendations will be presented in a constructive and user-friendly manner to ensure that they add value and help to improve the quality of future service provision. The findings will be presented to key stakeholders so that they can be shared as widely as possible. It is recommended that the final report be made publicly available to share learning with child protection actors and counterparts implementing similar programs, as well as relevant private sector stakeholders.

**Remain objective.** Researchers will strive to investigate the topic with as little bias and preconceptions as possible. At all times researchers will allow respondents to express their views and opinions and will not interrupt, make suggestions or engage in personal debates about the views expressed. Participants' responses will be recorded using the specific words that were used, regardless of whether the researcher agrees with the statements or sentiments expressed.

**The rapid assessment will be conducted independently.** The research team will make an independent judgement on the information collected and situations assessed and effort will be made to clearly explain and substantiate conclusions. Ultimately, in qualitative research of this kind, it can be impossible to find a single, standalone 'truth'. Rather, the role of the researcher is to investigate, analyze and understand the phenomena/subject as objectively as feasible and to present as reasoned an analysis as possible.

**Respect for potential and enrolled participants.** The research team will respect and adhere to local customs and behavior. The team will be culturally sensitive and questions asked will be culturally appropriate. They will respect each participant's point of view and will not criticize participants or act as a teacher or instructor. All opinions are considered valid and respected. Verbal informed consent will be obtained from all participants involved in the assessment and consent will be documented in the notes. Written consent will be received from respondents through acceptance of the interview request. See **Annex IV** for Child Frontiers' ethical protocol regarding disclosure of abuse during data collection.

<sup>3</sup> These principles are an adaptation of the OECD DAC evaluation criteria.

<sup>4</sup> The proposed assessment is not clinical in nature, but the strict ethical guidelines associated with clinical research are appropriate, given the sensitive nature of the research topic. These guiding principles will require additional adaptation and contextualization at the local level; guidance for doing so is available in Wessells (2009).



**Confidentiality and data protection.** At the outset of data collection, all participants will be informed that their answers will be kept confidential. Specific comments or views expressed by participants will not be attributed to individuals and will be dealt with confidentially. Individual participants will not be named or otherwise identified in the final report(s). Any recordings made of interviews will be erased and individual notes deleted upon completion of the assessment.

**Based on a careful assessment of and reference to Judith Ennew's work on conducting research for and by children,<sup>5</sup> the study team concluded that the potential added value of conducting research with children for this assessment does not outweigh the potential risks involved.** Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, data collection will be conducted remotely. While remote data collection methods are suitable for adults, this can be much more challenging when collecting information from children, especially on a sensitive topic such as OSAEC. There is a risk a child could react negatively or become upset during the session, which would be difficult to manage appropriately from distance. Given the specific nature of the topic (OSAEC), children may not have a great deal of knowledge about this issue or may feel uncomfortable talking about this subject. It is therefore more strategic to target respondents with specific knowledge and information about the study questions, rather than speaking to children simply to say that this has been done. It may be possible to speak with adult former OSAEC victims / survivors now working with NGOs participating in the study and if so, effort will be made to capture their perspectives in this way.

### Ethical Review

The OSAEC study proposal will be submitted to the Philippine Social Science Council for ethical review.<sup>6</sup> The SSERB reviews social science research proposals/protocols submitted by individuals or organizations requiring ethics clearance for their projects. Due to the study topic, it is recommended that a full ethical review is conducted, which will require a minimum 21 working days. If revisions are required, the revised proposal will be reviewed via email, which will require an additional 1-2 weeks.<sup>7</sup> Applications will be accepted from

September 7 and the study will be submitted for deliberation at the next upcoming Ethics Board meeting scheduled for September 21, 2021.

**Philippine Social Science Council  
Ethical Review Board Process**

**Day 1 – 4:**  
Logging and coding of complete protocol documents  
Redaction of identifying information of applicant  
Notification of SSERB Ethics Review Committee

**Day 5 – 12:**  
Individual Review

**Day 13:**  
Consolidation of individual comments

**Day 14:**  
ERC deliberation (every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month)

**Day 15 – 21:**  
Preparation and release of decision letter and/or certificate of ethics clearance

Source: Philippine Social Science Council's Ethics Review Board:  
<https://pssc.org.ph/sserb/>

<sup>5</sup>Ennew, Judith. 'The Right to be Properly Researched: Research with Children in a Messy, Real World', Special Issue of Children's Geographies, *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 20 Years On: The Right to be Properly Researched*, Vol 7, No. 4: 365–378.

<sup>6</sup>Philippine Social Science Council's Ethics Review Board: <https://pssc.org.ph/sserb/>

<sup>7</sup> Note: The external ethical review process may have implications for study timeframe.

### III. Study Methodology & Analytical Framework

The study on online sexual exploitation and abuse of children in the Philippines will utilize a qualitative approach guided by the Grounded Theory method.<sup>8</sup> This exploratory approach is well suited for situations where the research team strives to capture all facets of the verbal data collected, allowing theories and conclusions to emerge, rather than attempting to prove or disprove a preconceived theory. This involves an analytic process of establishing an analytical framework based on the agreed research questions (presented in Table 2 below), collecting data through a literature review, interviews, and survey and then making sense of the data generated by coding and iterative comparison to construct general propositions. These findings will be presented to the Technical Advisory Group for verification and collective analysis and input. The study conclusions and report will be developed on this basis.

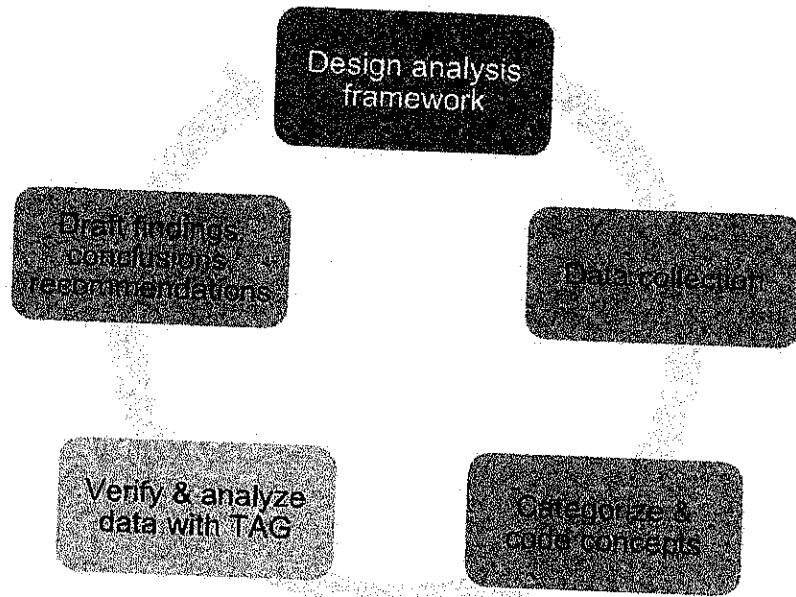


Figure 1: OSAEC Study Approach

Currently, there is no statutory definition of OSAEC. For this study, OSAEC will have the following working definition: the use of the Internet as a means to abuse and exploit children sexually, which includes cases in which contact child abuse and/or exploitation offline is combined with an online component. This can also include but not limited to the production, dissemination and possession of child sexual abuse and exploitation materials; online grooming of children for sexual purposes; sexual extortion of children, revenge pornography; commercial sexual exploitation of children; exploitation of children through online prostitution; and live streaming of sexual abuse.<sup>9</sup> The Technical Advisory Group established to support this study has emphasized the importance of ensuring that the range of forms of OSAEC as described in the definition are addressed, not focusing solely on what is often considered to be the most severe form, or live streaming of sexual abuse.

<sup>8</sup> Charmaz, K. (2008) Grounded Theory as an Emergent Method. In S.N. Hesse-Biber & P. Levy (Eds) *Handbook of Emergent Methods*. (pp. 155 – 172). New York: The Guilford Press.

<sup>9</sup> Interagency Working Group on Sexual Exploitation of Children. *Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse*. Geneva, 2016.

The research will include a focus on the following key areas, as outlined in the TOR:

- i. Case management and alternative care options (with emphasis on trauma-informed case planning; placement and application of temporary and durable alternative care solutions);
- ii. Treatment, protection, recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts at the individual/child level received through specialized day care or residential programs; self-help services for abusive adults; family-oriented interventions (counselling; parenting; family-system treatments); home- and community-based services and family preservation services;
- iii. Treatment, recovery, rehabilitation, reintegration services and management of cases of child victims / survivors at health facilities and Women and Children Protection Units; and
- iv. As several offenders are adolescents, the research will also attempt to map and analyze treatment programs for adolescent sex offenders.<sup>10</sup> Where possible, effort will be made to interview adults formerly involved in OSAEC as facilitators / offenders.

The study will include a specific focus on gender analysis, presenting disaggregated data where possible, as well as a focus on disability inclusion to understand the availability of and access to OSAEC services for children and youth with disabilities, as well as any differences in the provision or accessibility of services based on gender. Based on discussion with the TWG, a decision will be made whether to include a resource person or organization working specifically in issues related to children with disabilities in the study.

Given the nature and specificity of the study topic, interview respondents and locations have been purposely selected to ensure that data is collected from respondents with in-depth knowledge of OSAEC and service provision for child victims / survivors in the Philippines. Where possible, the team will include additional interviews recommended by the study respondents based on a snowball or referral nonprobability sampling technique.<sup>11</sup>

#### A. Analytical Framework

The analytical framework has been developed for the study based on the research questions outlined in the terms of reference, which have been further elaborated by Child Frontiers and PSTCRRRC. The framework is guided by the fundamental principles enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.<sup>12</sup> These questions and related indicators, data sources and methods of data collection will be reviewed and refined during the inception phase with input from the Technical Advisory Group and UNICEF Philippines.

<sup>10</sup> International Justice Mission. *Online Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Philippines*. 2020. Page 54.

<sup>11</sup> Atkinson, Rowland and John Flint. *Accessing Hidden and Hard-to-Reach Populations: Snowball Research Strategies*. Social Research UPDATE. Department of Sociology, University of Surrey, Summer 2001 edition.

<sup>12</sup> UN Convention on the Rights of the Child can be accessed at: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/crc.pdf>

**Table 2: OSAEC Study Analytical Framework**

Question	Respondents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is OSAEC currently understood &amp; defined among service providers?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What manifestations or forms of OSAEC are typically focused on?</li> <li>○ Which forms of OSEAC are services available for? Are some forms prioritized over others? Why is this the case?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	NGOs, FBOs, Government officials, service providers, private practitioners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What social, medical and psychological interventions are currently available for the protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims / survivors of OSAEC?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What holistic programs and services are available to OSAEC victims / survivors?</li> <li>○ Who is providing these services at the central and LGU level (academic institutes, CSOs, private sector organizations, etc.)?</li> <li>○ In what settings are these services being provided (home; shelter; hospital; communities; foster care)?</li> <li>○ What types of interventions have been developed and implemented to address this issue, including technology-based interventions?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What is Government doing to stop / prevent proliferation of cases?</li> </ul>	NGOs, FBOs, Government officials, service providers, private practitioners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How were these interventions determined to be appropriate / relevant for child victims / survivors in the Philippines?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Were these determined by the process of needs identification as part of the case management of cases reported to authorities?</li> <li>○ What is the approach for working with children / youth involved in facilitating OSAEC?                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Who is responsible for designating whether a child / youth is identified as a victim / survivor or facilitator / offender?</li> <li>▪ Is there any guidance / criteria for making this decision?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	NGOs, FBOs, Government officials, service providers, private practitioners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What main alternative options to shelter / institution-based care are available for and commonly offered to child victims / survivors of OSAEC?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What is the availability and perceived quality of these alternative care options in different locations across the country?</li> <li>○ What other strategies are applied (removal of offender/s from the home) and what is their perceived efficacy?</li> <li>○ How do these interventions address the needs and rights of children affected by OSAE?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	NGOs, Government officials, service providers, private practitioners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What bottlenecks and facilitative factors affect the services and interventions currently available for child victims / survivors of OSAEC in all settings?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How do these differ by location, service provider or the age, gender and background of the child victims / survivors involved?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	NGOs, Government officials, service providers, private practitioners

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What referral mechanisms are currently in place for child victims / survivors of OSAEC?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Are these functioning effectively?</li> <li>○ Are these mechanisms able to ensure timely, holistic, trauma-informed care and rehabilitation for child victims / survivors?</li> <li>○ Why or why not?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>NGOs, Government officials, service providers, private practitioners</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are child victims / survivors involved in the case management process?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Are children's views considered in the decision-making process?</li> <li>○ Is genuine effort made to understand children's experiences and perspectives?</li> <li>○ In what ways are children demonstrating increased agency, such as through greater self-efficacy, ability to access justice, empowerment and the ability to provide peer support?</li> <li>○ To what extent are processes adapted to be appropriate for the child's age, stage of development, poly-victimization, gender and other social and disability inclusive factors?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>NGOs, Government officials, service providers, private practitioners, child-led organizations</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there any emerging and/or documented good practices on the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims / survivors of OSAEC?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Are there any good practices specifically related to case management and experience and participation of children?</li> <li>○ What are good practices regarding rehabilitation and reintegration of OSAEC victims / survivors?</li> <li>○ How does the quality of governance affect the rehabilitation and reintegration of victim/survivors of OSAEC?</li> <li>○ Can these current interventions be replicated and sustained? If so, under what conditions?</li> <li>○ How can interventions that have been found to have a positive impact be sustained?</li> <li>○ What policies, capacities, programs and resources are required at the national and sub-national levels?</li> <li>○ How would the delivery of services by local governments be impacted by the application of Mandanas Ruling? What preparation is being undertaken to ensure the full and optimal implementation of this ruling to deliver better quality child protection services?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>NGOs, Government officials, service providers, private practitioners</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what degree do existing interventions effectively address issues of gender sensitivity, cultural / ethnic diversity and social and disability inclusion?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How are these issues reflected in the implementation of the Case Management Protocol on Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation?</li> <li>○ How are mental health and psychosocial support issues addressed by existing interventions?</li> <li>○ How are other rights of children safeguarded in the course of their rehabilitation and reintegration?</li> <li>○ What challenges were encountered, both pre-pandemic and during the pandemic?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>NGOs, Government officials, service providers, private practitioners</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How have interventions for the protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims / survivors of OSAEC been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How have services adapted due to changes in mobility?</li> <li>○ How have services adapted due to reduction in capacity for direct service provision?</li> <li>○ How have services adapted to potential increases in demand during the pandemic?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>NGOs, Government officials, service providers, private practitioners</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there any international or regional (ASEAN) best practices, global case management guidance or standards related to OSAEC that would be useful and relevant to be adapted for the Philippines?</li> </ul>	<p>NGOs, Government officials, service providers, private practitioners</p>

## B. Study Scope

A detailed study scope matrix outlining the proposed research locations and respondents at the national and sub-national levels is presented in Table 3 below for review and input by the Technical Advisory Group. TAG members will be asked to propose the names of agencies offering local level interventions to be included in the study.

### Sub-national location selection criteria:

- Presence of organizations providing direct services, policy development and advocacy for OSAEC victims / survivors and their families
- Locations with reported cases of OSAEC

### Sub-national locations selected on the basis of the selection criteria:

- Central Visayas (Cebu City)
- Northern Mindanao (CDO)
- Central Luzon (Pampanga)
- NCR (Quezon City & Pasay City or Manila)

### Total Interviews:

- National – 9
- NCR – 26
- Central Visayas – 15
- Northern Mindanao – 15
- Central Luzon – 13
- **Note:** additional interviews will be included as possible based on referrals from interview subjects.

### C. Data Collection Tools

Based on the approach agreed with UNICEF Philippines, Child Frontiers and PSTCRRC have developed a methodology and set of tools for addressing the core study questions outlined in the analytical framework (Table 2). The study tools are designed to collect both qualitative and quantitative data from groups of respondents at different levels which can be triangulated to ensure evidence-based conclusions.

Data collection tools will include:

- Literature review
- Semi-structured interviews (SSI), at national, regional and local levels
- Service mapping and scoping
- Online survey to collect quantitative and qualitative data from key respondents and service providers – to be administered electronically and in hard copy.

**Note:** Due to current restrictions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings and interviews will be conducted by the study team via online platforms such as Zoom.

#### Literature review

- **Data collection:** Documents will be collected by the research team by conducting an online search as well as asking key informants to share any relevant documents or materials. The literature review will include both published and unpublished research, as well as grey literature and other information.
- **Data management:** Documents will be saved and organized on Child Frontiers online secure Box database.
- **Data analysis:** Interview notes and literature review documents will be collectively reviewed and analyzed by the research team. Discussions will be held to jointly review the information and identify key findings, questions, identify contradictions and discuss recommendations. The report will be drafted based on this analysis.

#### Key Informant Interviews (See Annex III)

- **Data collection:** Data will be collected through online interviews via Zoom in English and Filipino with key informants (see below). Interviews will last approximately 1 – 1.5 hours.
- **Data management:** Notes will be taken by the interviewer. Permission will be asked to record the call if possible and the recording will be destroyed after the notes have been documented. Notes will be saved and organized on Child Frontiers online secure Box database.

- **Data analysis:** Interview notes and literature review documents will be collectively reviewed and analyzed by the research team. Several discussions will be held to jointly review the information and identify key findings, questions, identify contradictions and discuss recommendations.

#### **Service mapping and scoping**

- Through the literature review and interviews, the research team will map and document the main intervention models and treatment options available for OSAEC victims / survivors and their families by child protection authorities and accredited CSOs.
- The service mapping will cover services including individual and family counselling, case management and alternative care options, day-care and residential treatment options, self-help and peer support services, family-oriented interventions, home-based services, treatment provided by health facilities and women & children protection units, response services to remove children or offenders from the home and other temporary and durable child protection solutions.

#### **Online Survey (See Annex III)**

- A survey link will be disseminated via the national team contacts and TAG membership. The study will be developed in English and Filipino and will take approximately 10 minutes to complete, unless respondents volunteer to provide detailed responses.
- The online survey will access a wider number of respondents across the country in order to collect their views, opinions and recommendations. There will be an option for the survey to be submitted anonymously, if requested.
- Data will be disaggregated by agency, level, position, sector, geographical location and gender. The online survey will collect both quantitative and qualitative data, providing opportunities for respondents who would like to share their views in more detail or offer longer explanations to do so.

### **D. Study Implementation Process**

#### **Step 1: Inception Meetings (remote)**

Upon signing of the contract, an initial planning call was held with UNICEF Philippines to confirm the study objectives and outcomes, discuss timing and logistics implications, as well as determine the feasibility of the proposed approach. At this time UNICEF and key stakeholders will begin sharing key documents with the team in preparation for the desk literature review. A secure online Box folder will be set up to collect the documents to be analyzed, which stakeholders will have access to upload and review reference materials throughout the study process.

As noted above, a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will be established during the inception phase



to advise and support the study design process. Please see **Annex I** for the TOR for the Technical Advisory Group and proposed membership.

**Step 2: Literature Review (ongoing)**

The study team is conducting a review of existing reports, studies, evaluations, protocols and other information and documents pertaining to the rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims / survivors of online sexual abuse and exploitation in the Philippines. The team will work closely with UNICEF Philippines, TAG members and key stakeholders to collect information for review and address questions or further requests for information. The review will include a mapping of current intervention models and services for child victims / survivors of OSAEC and their families by child protection and health authorities, as well as by accredited civil society organizations.

**Step 3: Inception Report & Methodology Development**

The current inception report has been developed to provide a framework, methodology, tools and scope for the study for review and input by the TAG and PSSC Social Science Ethics Review Board.

**Step 4: Ethical clearance process**

The study inception report has been submitted for ethical clearance through the Social Science Ethics Review Board (SSERB) established by the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) for review at the Ethical Review Board meeting on September 21.

**Step 5: Presentation of Inception Report to UNICEF & Technical Advisory Group**

The inception report, including the study methodology and tools, was presented to UNICEF Philippines and the TAG members at the first TAG meeting held on September 14 by the study team for review and input. The presentation was followed by an in-depth discussion to address any questions or comments and collect input on the methodology from the expert TAG members. Valuable input was provided and the list of interview respondents and the study scope was agreed upon in consultation with UNICEF and the TAG members during the first TAG meeting.

**Step 6: Training of Data Collectors & Tools Piloting**

The study research team has significant experience conducting data collection and conducting interviews and surveys. The focus of the researcher training sessions will be to review the research methodology and tools developed for the study in detail, along with the ethical protocol and standards. This will also be an opportunity to discuss the data collection logistics, note taking, as well as secure data storage and collaborative analysis process with the team.

The research team will coordinate with UNICEF Philippines to identify a select group of respondents to pre-test the study tools prior to launching the official data collection process. This workshop will provide an opportunity to conduct a final review of the methodology, as well as fine-

tune the study tools. Any recommended changes or revisions will be taken into consideration and the tools and methodology adapted accordingly.

#### **Step 7: Scheduling of Interviews**

The national coordinator, with the support of the research team, will begin scheduling the interviews and discussions based on the agreed methodology outlined in the inception report. This has been added as a specific step based on recent experience of Child Frontiers conducting remote data collection during COVID-19 in neighboring countries including Malaysia and Thailand, as well as PST CRRC's experience during 2020-2021 in the Philippines. Scheduling interviews can be extremely time consuming as respondents frequently cancel or reschedule appointments, therefore sufficient time and consideration is required for this process.

#### **Step 8: Data Collection**

Data will be collected from key respondents and stakeholders at the national, regional and local levels based on the agreed research methodology and scope (see **Table 3** above). The geographical area of the study coverage will be finalized with UNICEF Philippines and the Technical Advisory Group during the inception phase. Information will be gathered from key informants and other stakeholders through semi-structured interviews and an online survey for frontline service providers.

TAG members will be a valuable source of guidance for the identification of study respondents, as well as providing information as key respondents themselves based on their individual expertise and knowledge. Additional stakeholders, agencies or organizations may be highlighted and recommended to be involved in the study during fieldwork interviews using snowball or referral sampling techniques. The research team will make every effort to accommodate these additional interviews as time permits.

It is envisioned that the data collection process will take place over eight weeks, with the research team members collecting data in parallel. Following each interview or discussion, researchers will draft and upload the notes to a secure online folder for review by the team. The national coordinator will schedule periodic discussions with the team to reflect on the data collection, identify key findings, gaps and any specific questions that may be emerging that require further analysis. This will facilitate a process of ongoing data analysis and collective review by the team.

In addition to interviews and discussions, an online survey of frontline service providers will be developed and disseminated to collect data on the rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims / survivors of online sexual abuse and exploitation in the Philippines.

Due to COVID-19 precautionary requirements, all primary data collection will be conducted remotely either online or phone calls. Depending on the situation, it may be possible for the national research team to conduct limited live data collection or face-to-face interviews but only if

this is agreed by all parties based on a careful assessment of the potential risks and safety procedures to be followed.

**Step 9: Data processing and analysis**

Following the data collection, all qualitative and quantitative data collected during the fieldwork process and through the online survey will be transcribed, translated (if required) and collectively analyzed by the team. All data collected will be stored in Child Frontiers' secure online server and will be reviewed and consolidated by the team. Once this process of consolidation is finalized, a final analytical review process will be conducted to identify and cross-check the study findings and conclusions.

The analysis will consider the questions presented in the analytical framework, including consideration of whether existing interventions effectively address issues of gender sensitivity, cultural / ethnic diversity and social and disability inclusion. The survey data will be first analyzed using the Survey Monkey analysis tools and then triangulated with the findings from the literature review and interviews. A series of initial recommendations will be developed by the team and included in the zero draft, to be elaborated and expanded in consultation with the Technical Advisory Group.

**Step 10: Presentation and Validation of Preliminary Findings**

Following completion of the baseline assessment data collection, the initial findings will be presented to the Technical Advisory Group and UNICEF Philippines for review and validation during an online workshop. Findings will be presented for discussion, further analysis and feedback from the expert group. This facilitated discussion will be carefully documented so that the outcomes generated can be integrated into the study analysis. This undertaking will not only represent an important opportunity for review and input by key stakeholders; its intention is also to encourage broad-based engagement with and ownership of the findings and provide key stakeholders an opportunity to input to the recommendations to be taken forward.

**Step 11: Final Draft Report and Executive Summary**

Based on the findings and conclusions identified through the data analysis process, as well as the outcomes of the TAG Validation Workshop, a draft report will be developed. The report will be shared with the TAG and UNICEF Philippines for final review and input.

**Step 12: Submission of Final Report and Study Brief**

The final report, reflecting input from UNICEF Philippines and key stakeholders, will be submitted by the research team within two weeks of the receipt of consolidated feedback from

stakeholders. A short study brief highlighting the key findings and recommendations will also be developed.

### **Step 13: Presentation of Final Report**

The final report will be presented to the Technical Advisory Group and UNICEF Philippines during an online meeting based on a PowerPoint presentation to facilitate the session.

## **IV. Study Outputs**

Key outputs of the Philippines OSAEC study will include:

- Inception report: including methodology, analytical framework, study scope, data collection tools and schedule
- Preliminary study findings presentation: to be reviewed with TAG for input and validation
- TAG Validation workshop documentation
- Final study report: including executive summary and study brief, incorporating TAG inputs and recommendations
- Draft abstract for submission to peer-reviewed journal: Child Frontiers will prepare a draft abstract based on the study findings for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.