



Convention Project

gtz Protection of Minors
against Sexual Exploitation

Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation

2004 - 2009



On behalf of
**Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development**



German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)

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- and some 12,000 staff worldwide
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Convention Project

Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Objectives:

- Assisting partner countries of German development cooperation in implementing the OPSC
- Promoting international cooperation related to the subject in order to strengthen the protection of children from sexual violence

National Legal Framework

1. Programme of Action 2015: the German Strategy paper for implementing the Millennium Declaration on poverty reduction mentions the fight against sexual exploitation of children
2. German Development Policy Action Plan on Human Rights

How do we operate?

- The Convention Project cooperates both with governmental and nongovernmental bodies along with national and international organisations
- Partner countries:
Cambodia, Thailand, Albania/Montenegro, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic

Approaches

- Prevention and awareness raising
- Training of staff in police, migration and justice departments
- Rehabilitation of victims of gender-based violence: Psycho-social approach in social work
- Sensitisation of the tourism industry, promoting CSR
- Networking and exchange of experience

Results

- Digital Broadcast Initiative Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Cambodia
Partner: Equal Access
- Training of Police, Migration and Judiciary officials
Partner: ECPAT Guatemala
- Information booklet on commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth in Nicaragua
Partner: Puntos de Encuentro

Access to information informs people about the risks and the severe long-term consequences and psychological harm that is inflicted on children and youth who are sexually exploited.



Fighting Ignorance

The mass media reflect our world and play a key role in reporting incidents of commercial sexual exploitation of children and in raising awareness on the conditions children and youth live in. It is important to keep in mind the need to work with the media through different modes of delivery and in ways which are ethically sound and do not compromise the well being and privacy of the victims.

IEC Materials

IEC materials such as posters, brochures and booklets combine strategies, approaches and methods that enable child victims, families, and organisations to play an active role in preventing commercial sexual exploitation of children. It is the process of learning that empowers people to make decisions, modify behaviours and change long-term social conditions.

Radio Broadcast

Local radio programmes feature voices of the young and have the power to action children's participatory rights. Rural accessible broadcasts in local languages respond to the needs of specific audiences such as children affected by commercial sexual exploitation and other vulnerable groups. The radio raises awareness among children, parents and community members on the risks and traps of trafficking in human beings and commercial sexual exploitation.

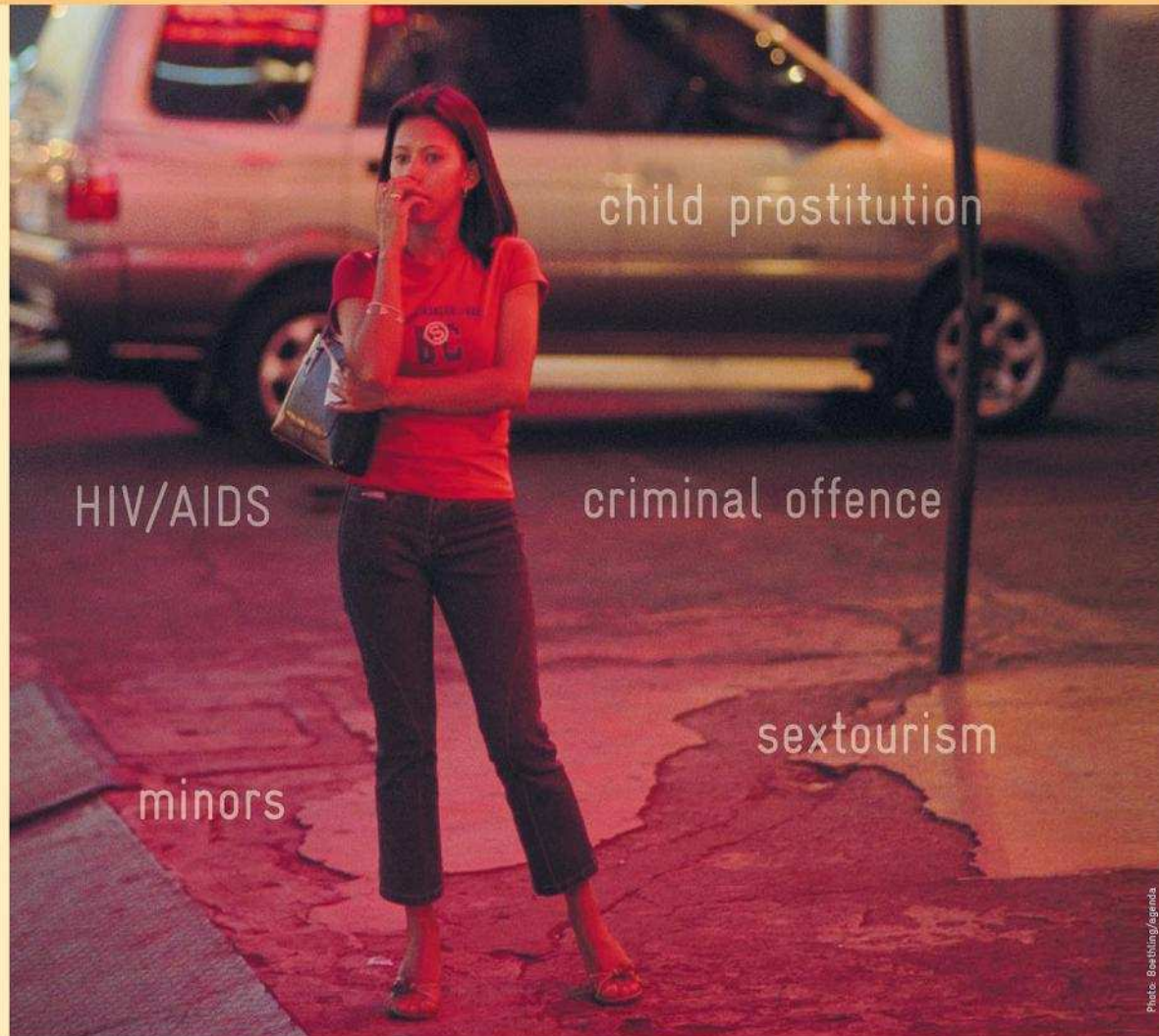
World Wide Web

The internet enables organisations, governments and civil society to prevent internet-facilitated commercial sexual exploitation of children and to raise awareness among internet users on this issue. It can strengthen communication mechanisms for vulnerable groups and inform them on how to protect themselves.

Results in the Tourism Industry

- Introduction of the Code of Conduct in the tourism industry in Albania and Montenegro
Partner: OSCE
- Destination training for the tourism industry in the Dominican Republic and Thailand
Partner: ECPAT Germany, German Travel Association
- Train-the-Trainer manual for the tourism industry
Partner: ECPAT Germany

Tourism is a double-edged sword. Its expansion has, alongside other factors, contributed to the increase in child prostitution and trafficking in human beings.



Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Commercial sexual exploitation of children comprises prostitution, sex tourism, sexual violence, trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation as well as pornography with minors under 18 years of age. UNICEF estimates that 30 to 35% of all sex workers in the Mekong sub-region of Southeast Asia are between 12 and 17 years of age.

Risks of Infection

Sex tourism has the potential to contribute to the transmission of HIV/AIDS and to the spread of other sexually transmitted diseases. Myths about HIV/AIDS increase the demand for younger children in the sex tourism business, especially girls, assuming that these have not been infected yet. But children trapped in prostitution are more likely to be infected.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Tourism itself is not responsible for commercial sexual exploitation of children but provides increased opportunities for this issue to occur and easy access to vulnerable children. The tourism industry can play a crucial role in the prevention by promoting ethically responsible business practices and by introducing e.g. social standards as part of corporate social responsibility.

What needs to be done?

Among the most essential tasks to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children is to create public awareness. Also legislation needs to be enacted instituting stiffer penalties for those who sexually exploit children. Finally, governments and NGOs must implement prevention, rescue, and reintegration programs for children who have suffered from these exploitations.

Photo: Berthling/Agenda

Good practice example

Capacity Development in Cambodia

- GTZ supports an advanced training for social workers and trainers on sexual exploitation of children and young people as part of a gender-based violence training for social workers.
- At the same time we support the institutional capacity development of the training centre
- Partner: Social Services of Cambodia (SSC)

Social Services of Cambodia

- SSC provides both specialized culturally sensitive social work training to many of the staff of ECPAT-affiliated NGOs working with survivors of gender based violence, many of whom are minors/children
- Social Services of Cambodia offers the only high-quality course of its kind in Cambodia
- It sets quality standards for other training courses and serves as a model for the Ministry of Social Affairs

Capacity Development is key to providing access to services and changing policies regarding commercial sexual exploitation of children.



Law Enforcement Training on Child Protection

Child victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children come into contact with the police or juvenile justice system at times when a vulnerable child is most in need of support and protection. It is essential to train police, judicial and immigration officers on child rights, prosecution, attitudes and practice in relation to child protection to ensure that children, especially girls, are treated fairly and are perceived as victims not as criminals.

Training of Social Workers

Human resources for caregiving are limited. Professionals working with traumatised victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children have in general limited clinical training and experience in operating psychosocial services. Minimum quality of care standards are often not in place. Special training on rehabilitation including psychosocial care, gender-based violence and health education provide social workers with practical advice on how to improve their professional skills and services for child victims, and on how to prepare girls and boys for reintegration.

Sensitising the Private Sector

The tourism business condemned commercial sexual exploitation of children and adopted codes of conduct and resolutions to prevent it. There is, however, still a shortage of awareness raising and accessible, locally produced training materials for workers in the tourism industry. To overcome these shortfalls the tourism industry needs to be encouraged to learn more about this human rights violation and become proactive in promoting child protection.

More info: www.gtz.de/nochildabuse

Cambodia: Results, Impact and Lessons Learned

- 260 social workers from 67 NGOs have been trained through Social Services of Cambodia as of 2008
- The final beneficiaries of the course are girls and women that have received qualitatively improved services due to the increased technical capacities of the NGOs

Challenges

- Build sustainable interventions to ensure long-term effects after project end
- Improve inter-sectoral and cross-border cooperation
- Improve networking and coordination among donors and international actors
- Strengthen capacities of NGOs for scaling-up

www.gtz.de/nochildabuse



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Sexual exploitation of children

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Sexual exploitation of children

Sexual exploitation of children is a global phenomenon:

Girls are sold to dealers or clients and are sexually exploited.

Pornographic images are produced and sold on the Internet worldwide.

In many countries, children are openly offered to tourists. UNICEF estimates the number of children and young people affected worldwide at two million. Poverty, the weak social position of women and children and a high level of demand are just some of the factors behind this flourishing industry.

The global scale of the problem requires international cooperation between the victims' countries of origin and destination. Prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims, and criminal law reforms are important stages in combating this serious violation of human rights. The Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography is an important human rights basis for protecting and promoting



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[Manual: Monitoring and Evaluation](#)

[Study: Quality standards for protecting child victims of commercial sexual exploitation](#)

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