



**COLLECTIVE
ACTION** End Child Sexual
Exploitation
and Abuse
The San José Dialogue

The
Americas

COLLECTIVE ACTION

End Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse facilitated by
Technologies



FUNDACIÓN •
paniamor

✓ **Down to Zero**
Fighting sexual exploitation of children

Digitally facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse - scale

- 1. Offered money or gifts in return for sexual images or videos
- 2. Offered money or gifts online to meet them in person for sexual activity
- 3. Shared sexual images without your consent
- 4. Threatened or blackmailed online to engage in sexual activities

1-20% of children experienced at least one form of OCSEA



Gender

- Boys and Girls but perceptions of risks are different
- Talking about sex online – 42% girls perceive as high-risk – 21% boys (Philippines)
- Online safety education – only 38% of boys and 52% of girls (Indonesia, Philippines)
- Boys – more online gaming platforms
- Legal frameworks and societal norms ---- risk of self-incrimination for boys

“Some male adolescents I have cared for have been pressured to make videos of themselves masturbating, bathing or having sex with other men, animals or objects. The way in which they have been forced has been under threats of kidnapping them or harming their families.” (Survey Respondent from Mexico)



Territorial disparities

- Disparities access – Urban / Rural
- In proportion same levels of risks of exposure
- Less digital skills in rural areas
- Less support services in rural areas



“At school, they don’t give us much information about how to use social media, [...] about who we should go [to] if we are victims of cyberbullying or [when] strangers write to us.” (Child from Bolivia)

Offenders

- Known from the victim
- Friends and peers, family members, romantic partners

Different motivations

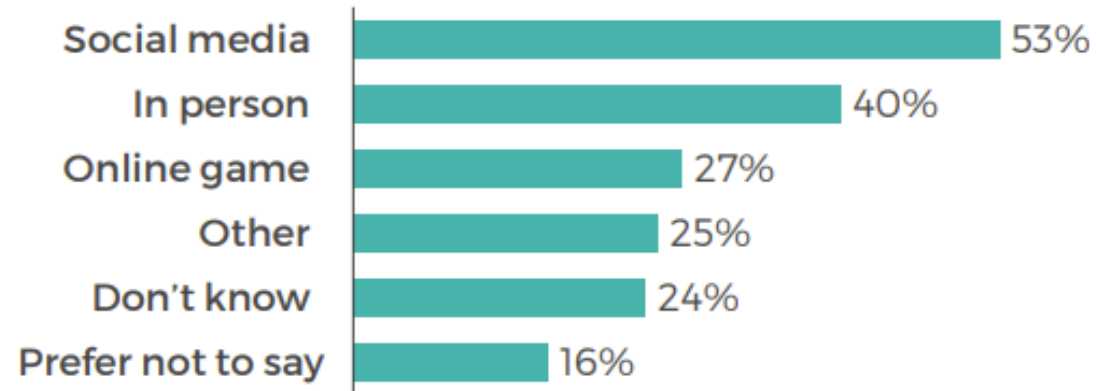
- Sexual abuse and exploitation
- Financial motivations

“Especially girls who have shared intimate photos with their boyfriends who are later published in social networks.” (Survey Respondent from Colombia)

In Bolivia, certain children expressed fear about sharing their information with unknown individuals due to their awareness of Bolivian networks being used for recruiting and kidnapping young people.



Platforms



- Facebook/
Messenger
- WhatsApp
- YouTube, Twitter (ie
X) and TikTok

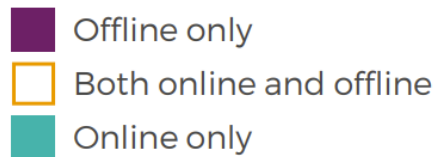
	Facebook	WhatsApp	YouTube	TikTok	Twitter	Instagram	Telegram	Snapchat
Ethiopia	75%				14%		26%	
Kenya	84%	64%	19%			19%		
Mozambique	95%	37%		9%				
Namibia	92%	46%				40%		
Uganda	91%	34%	13%					
Cambodia	96%		16%	29%				
Philippines	97%		8%	10%	10%			10%
Thailand	96%			74%	82%			

Base: Internet-using children aged 12-17 years who were subjected to sexual exploitation and abuse on social media.

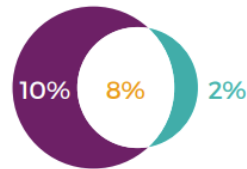
In-Person and Online - connected

- Online bullying continuation from home, school or neighbourhoods
- Sharing self-generated sexual images online, in-person or in both spaces
- Offenders use social media to meet in-person

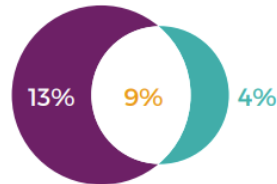
Figure 2: Overlaps between online and in-person sexual abuse



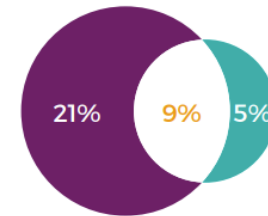
Ethiopia



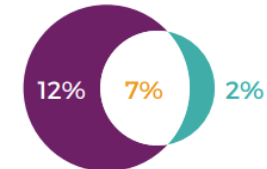
Kenya



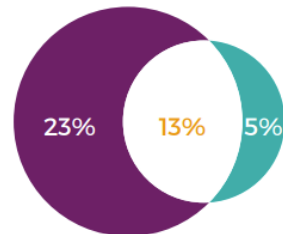
Mozambique



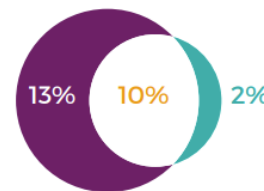
Namibia



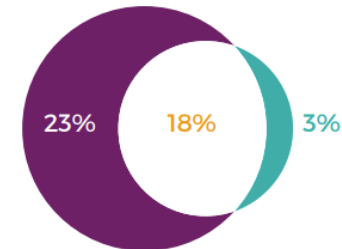
Uganda



Cambodia



Philippines



Disclosure

- 1/3 did not tell anyone
- 40% - their friends
- 24% - siblings
- 2.5% - a social worker
- 3% helpline
- 2.9% police.



Role of caregivers

- 86 % - 100 % use the internet from home
- 40% expect caregivers to keep them safe online
- 31% - 61% caregivers knew less about the internet than their children
- Caregivers' information on online safety: family or friends and school
- Between 9% and 43% said that they could not help 'much' or 'at all'

“In their time, there were no such technologies and they [the caregivers] think everything is bad.” (Child from Bolivia)



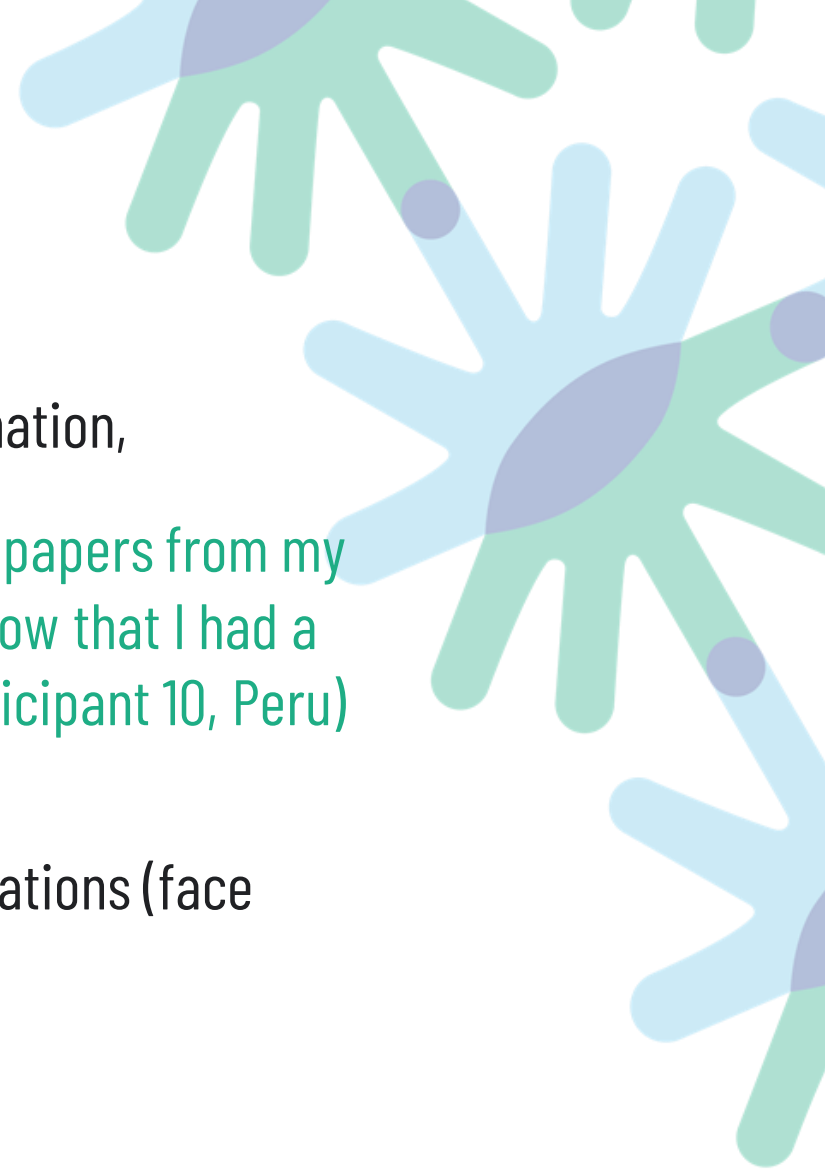
Access to Justice

- Barriers to access justice: not reported to police, financial, discrimination, feeling blamed
- Crimes not taken seriously

“I don’t remember, I only get papers from my lawyer, and I didn’t even know that I had a lawyer.” (Conversations’ Participant 10, Peru)

- Complex, unfamiliar processes, technical language, intimidating situations (face offenders)
- Compensation rights are not known and accessible

“There is no information on how to report. The girls and boys don’t report, it scares them, because of the process they are going to face because it involves ‘destroying the castle that you had built’” (Conversations’, Colombia)



Voices of Survivors - Do not judge me when I make a mistake

"It made me feel really bad because I knew I contributed to it in some way ."

~ young survivor, Namibia



Voices of Survivors – Help me understand myself

“I tried talking to my mum about sex, but she told me she is not having this conversation with me.”

~ young survivor, Namibia



Questions

