



ANNEX A EXISTING PRACTICES

THE ROLE OF THE INFORMAL SECTOR AND SHARING ECONOMY IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM IN THE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

April 2025



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Working with Dulceras y Quiosqueras (Sweet sellers and kiosks vendors) in Bolivia¹

The Munasim Kullakita Foundation (FMK) has been implementing the La Paz Bus Terminal intervention since 2021. The sweet sellers and kiosk vendors operate within the terminal, with some having fixed stands selling sweets and small items, while others sell goods itinerantly throughout the terminal. The decision to work with them followed a community network mapping, which identified key formal and informal actors in the tourism and travel sector who could play a crucial role in preventing the sexual exploitation of children. The intervention aimed to develop knowledge and skills among the informal actors to protect children.

ACTIVITIES

Stage 1: Capacity building for sweet sellers and kiosk vendors

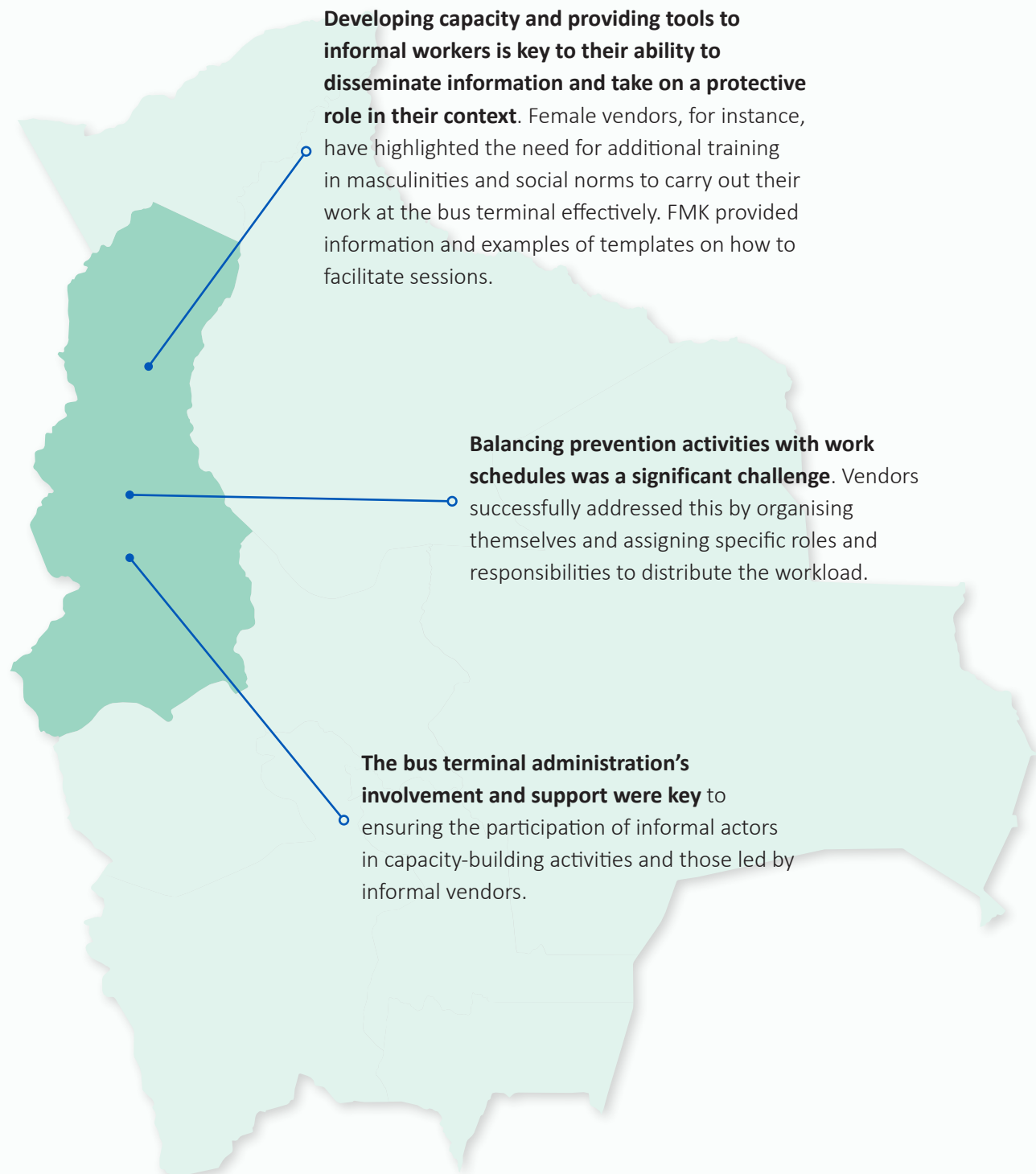
FMK facilitated workshops with the vendors to discuss information about risk situations within the terminal that could endanger children. The workshops began with a mapping of participants' needs and interests. In addition to protecting children, vendors were interested in improving service quality. To design the capacity-building activities, FMK combined the vendors' interests in service quality, sales techniques, and first aid with child protection matters. Discussions linked these improvements to making the terminal safer for children, which could enhance the terminal's reputation among tourists and travellers. Four workshops were conducted in small groups with sixty female vendors, aged 18 to 60, covering gender violence, protective and risk factors for sexual exploitation of children, reporting avenues, and more. These workshops engaged participants with playful and artistic methodologies, including mural designs.

Stage 2: Protection strategies led by vendors

Vendors began replicating the workshops facilitated by FMK with informal transport workers and porters. Special occasions like Father's Day were used to conduct workshops on topics such as masculinity, gender and violence. Vendors also adopted a monitoring role, using their mobility to inform travellers about identity checks to prevent child sexual exploitation. Bolivian legislation requires checking passengers' identities to verify the relationship between children and accompanying adults. If a child travels without one of their parents or legal guardians, a travel permission issued by the Defensoría de la Niñez y Adolescencia or a competent authority is required. Vendors explain the importance of these measures to travellers and report any suspicious situations to terminal authorities and police.

¹ To document this practice, information was collected through discussion meetings with FMK facilitators

LESSONS LEARNED



Park Rangers involved in the protection of children in Bolivia¹

The Munasim Kullakita Foundation (FMK) with the support of the National Service of Protected Areas (SERNAP) has been implementing the initiative since 2022. The project aimed to involve formal and informal actors in the tourism sector in protecting children through the leadership of park rangers in Rurrenabaque in the Bolivian Amazon. Rurrenabaque relies heavily on tourism and agriculture. Despite its rich biodiversity, the area faces significant challenges, including operations of the extractive industries and illegal activities that threaten the rights and well-being of children and their families.

ACTIVITIES

Stage 1: Capacity building for park rangers

FMK conducted training workshops for park rangers, focusing on topics such as violence, sexual exploitation, and first aid. A total of six sessions were held, both virtually and in person, aiming to deconstruct harmful stereotypes and raise awareness about the sexual exploitation of children. FMK also supported SERNAP in implementing a code of conduct based on “The Code” for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in tourism. This included outlining a reporting procedure for suspected cases of exploitation, ensuring coordinated action among park rangers, local authorities, and SERNAP.

Stage 2: Leadership and community engagement

Park rangers, equipped with knowledge from FMK’s training, began conducting workshops for local indigenous communities in their native languages. These workshops were also extended to tourism companies, guides, and tourists, emphasising the code of conduct and the importance of vigilance against sexual exploitation. Given the low literacy levels, park rangers prioritised verbal communication and interactive activities over written materials, adapting FMK’s methods to suit the local context.

The National Service of Protected Areas continually supervises and monitors the park rangers’ activities, with regular check-ins to ensure adherence to the code of conduct and support from FMK facilitators via phone or virtual meetings.

¹ To document this practice, information was collected through discussion meetings with FMK facilitators

LESSONS LEARNED

Allowing participants to express their concerns facilitated the development of trust and engagement.

Creating spaces for participants to share their concerns—such as threats from criminal groups—was essential for building trust between FMK and the park rangers, and for identifying strategies to mitigate these challenges.

Park rangers reported difficulties distinguishing between genuine tourists and potential perpetrators.

They observed that some foreign perpetrators posed as tourists to access indigenous communities, highlighting the need for enhanced vigilance and training.

The flexibility in scheduling and location of the training sessions to accommodate the rangers' long working hours and remote postings was essential.

Using existing community spaces and virtual platforms helped overcome logistical challenges, ensuring adequate training delivery.

The park rangers' familiarity with the local dialects facilitated smooth, direct communication with community members, fostering trust and cohesion. This approach was crucial for ensuring that communities did not feel intimidated and were more receptive to the training and protective measures.

Don't Travel on It – Say NO to Sexual Exploitation in the Tourism Sector in Brazil¹

The project was implemented between 2013 and 2014 by the Center for the Defense of Children and Adolescents of Bahia, in partnership with the Bahia State Secretariat of Tourism and with support from the Brazilian Association of the Hotel Industry of Bahia. Its primary objective was to train and raise awareness among informal and formal tourism sector actors in seven municipalities along Bahia's southern coast. The project prevents and responds to the sexual exploitation of children during major events, including cultural celebrations like Carnival and New Year's Eve, as well as sporting events.

ACTIVITIES

Training

The project organised training workshops by sector segment, providing a comprehensive understanding of sexual exploitation and children's rights and covering national and international legislation. The workshops targeted formal and informal sectors, including travel agents, taxi drivers, market traders, local tourist guides, and street food sellers. The covered the legal framework related to child protection in Brazil, manifestations and risks factors for sexual exploitation of children, identification and reporting mechanisms, and case studies to apply knowledge and strategies for protecting children.

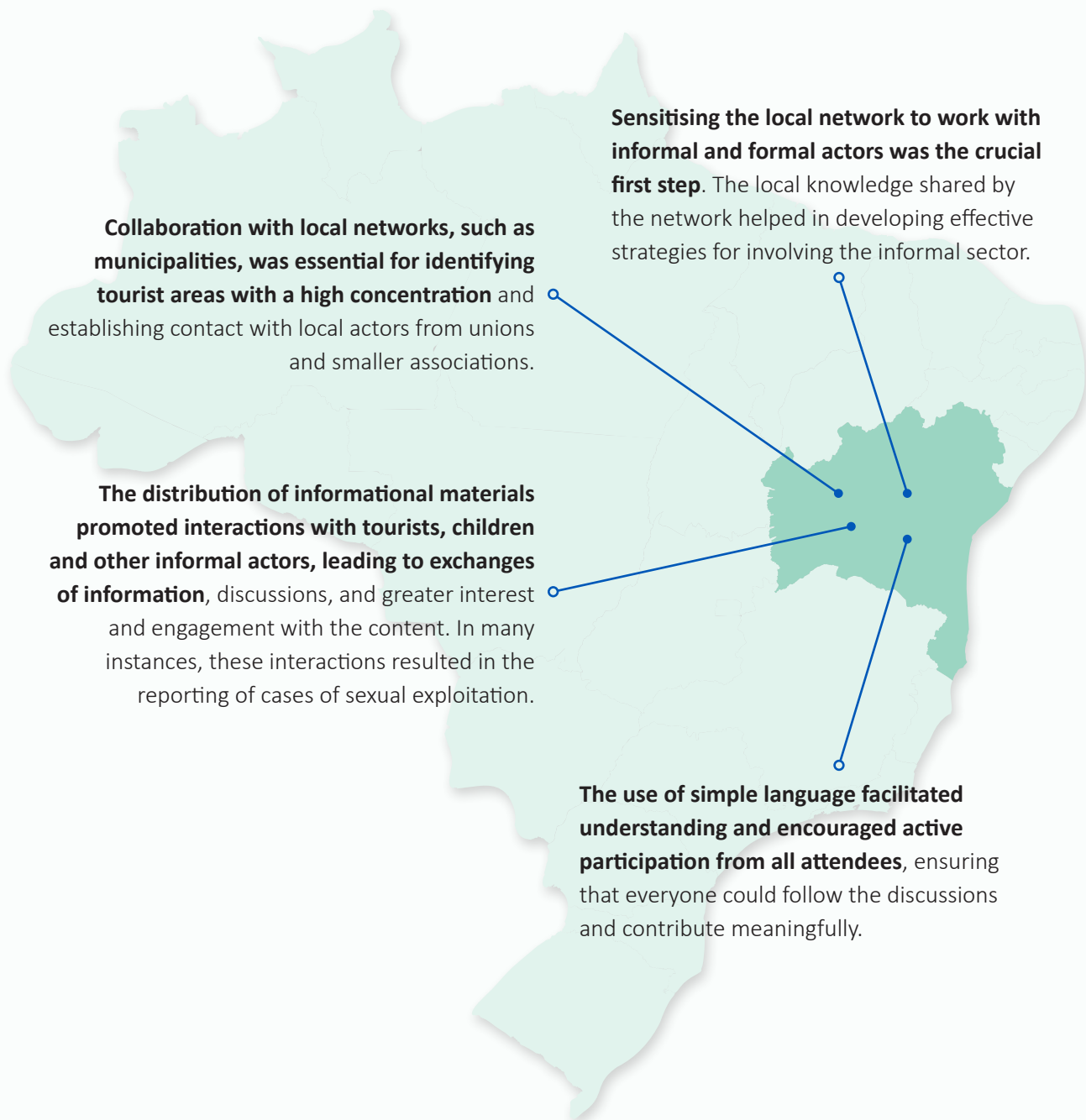
Awareness-raising activities

Participants were encouraged to engage in awareness-raising activities after training, which involved distributing informational materials and fostering interactions among local actors, including tourists, children, and their families.

10 awareness-raising actions and 10 training workshops. The project exceeded its initial goal of training 300 individuals, ultimately training 600 people, with a particular focus on Carnival guides and monitors.

¹ To document this practice, information was collected through interviews with the implementing organisations and by reviewing relevant documents.

LESSONS LEARNED



The Tourism and Child Protection project, Brasil¹

The project was implemented between 2011 and 2014 by Childhood Brasil in partnership with Plan Brasil and Plan Netherlands, targeted seven municipalities on the south coast of Pernambuco. The project aimed to integrate the tourism industry with the Rights Guarantee System, involving both formal and informal sector actors in preventing the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Activities focused on strengthening the social protection network and training actors across the tourism value chain to adopt protective measures against sexual exploitation. Additionally, the project promoted the adoption of the Brazil Code of Ethical Conduct for the Protection of Children and Adolescents in Tourism in Pernambuco and empowered youth to lead community mobilisation efforts against sexual exploitation, recognising their potential as agents of change.

ACTIVITIES

Training for young people

Youth participated in educational activities that covered topics such as gender, sexuality, sexual and reproductive rights, ethics, safe internet use, rights, violence, family, leadership, and life projects. This comprehensive training spanned 152 hours over a year and a half, with monthly meetings and seminars.

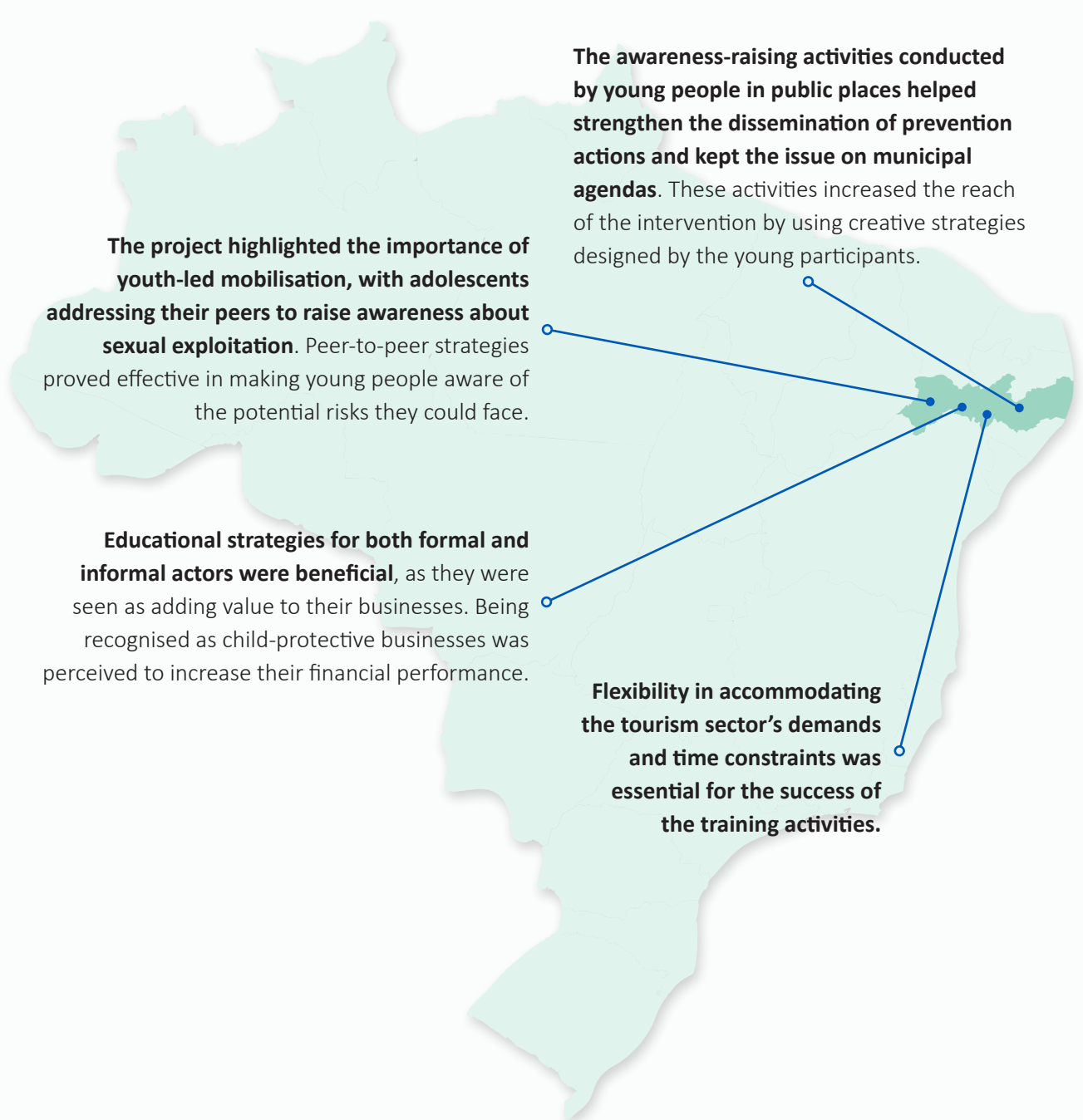
Awareness-raising activities led by youth involved crafting informative posters and engaging street vendors in dialogues during mobilisation campaigns.

Training activities for the formal and informal actors of the tourism industry

Workshops were tailored to suit the needs of each municipality, maintaining themes similar to those of the adolescent workshops but adjusting the workload based on group availability.

¹ To document this practice, information was collected through interviews with a representative of Childhood Brasil, and the review of documents such as: the Final Technical Report, Plan's Tourism and Child Protection Project, and the Report of the Pernambuco Program to Combat Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents, 2007/2014.

LESSONS LEARNED



The project highlighted the importance of youth-led mobilisation, with adolescents addressing their peers to raise awareness about sexual exploitation. Peer-to-peer strategies proved effective in making young people aware of the potential risks they could face.

Educational strategies for both formal and informal actors were beneficial, as they were seen as adding value to their businesses. Being recognised as child-protective businesses was perceived to increase their financial performance.

The awareness-raising activities conducted by young people in public places helped strengthen the dissemination of prevention actions and kept the issue on municipal agendas. These activities increased the reach of the intervention by using creative strategies designed by the young participants.

Flexibility in accommodating the tourism sector's demands and time constraints was essential for the success of the training activities.

Working with PisoNet and PisoWifi owners in The Philippines¹

Intervention implemented by Plan International Philippines under the SUFASEC project.

Plan International Philippines collaborated with the City of Manila government by providing technical support for co-creating a Child Protection Policy for the private sector in 2024. The policy aims to safeguard children from abuse, exploitation, and violence in public and online spaces. It also encourages actors to proactively report child protection concerns and adhere to a code of conduct outlining responsibilities for the private sector.

The initiative included owners of PisoNet (peso internet) and PisoWiFi (peso Wi-Fi) businesses, low-cost solutions providing internet access in the Philippines. PisoNet consists of coin-operated computer stations where users insert coins, typically in small denominations, to access the internet for a set period. PisoWiFi builds on this concept by offering coin-operated Wi-Fi services, allowing users to connect their personal devices to the internet. These small-scale internet services operate by the owners purchasing or subscribing to a telecommunications service and redistributing the connection to the public. This type of business often operates without formal regulation by village or city governments.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Workshops to enhance the skills of Piso Net and PisoWifi owners to protect children: Plan International facilitated sessions aimed at educating owners about the risks of child sexual exploitation and the potential misuse of their businesses to harm children. During these workshops, PisoNet and PisoWifi owners and operators in Manila identified the following potential risks for children:

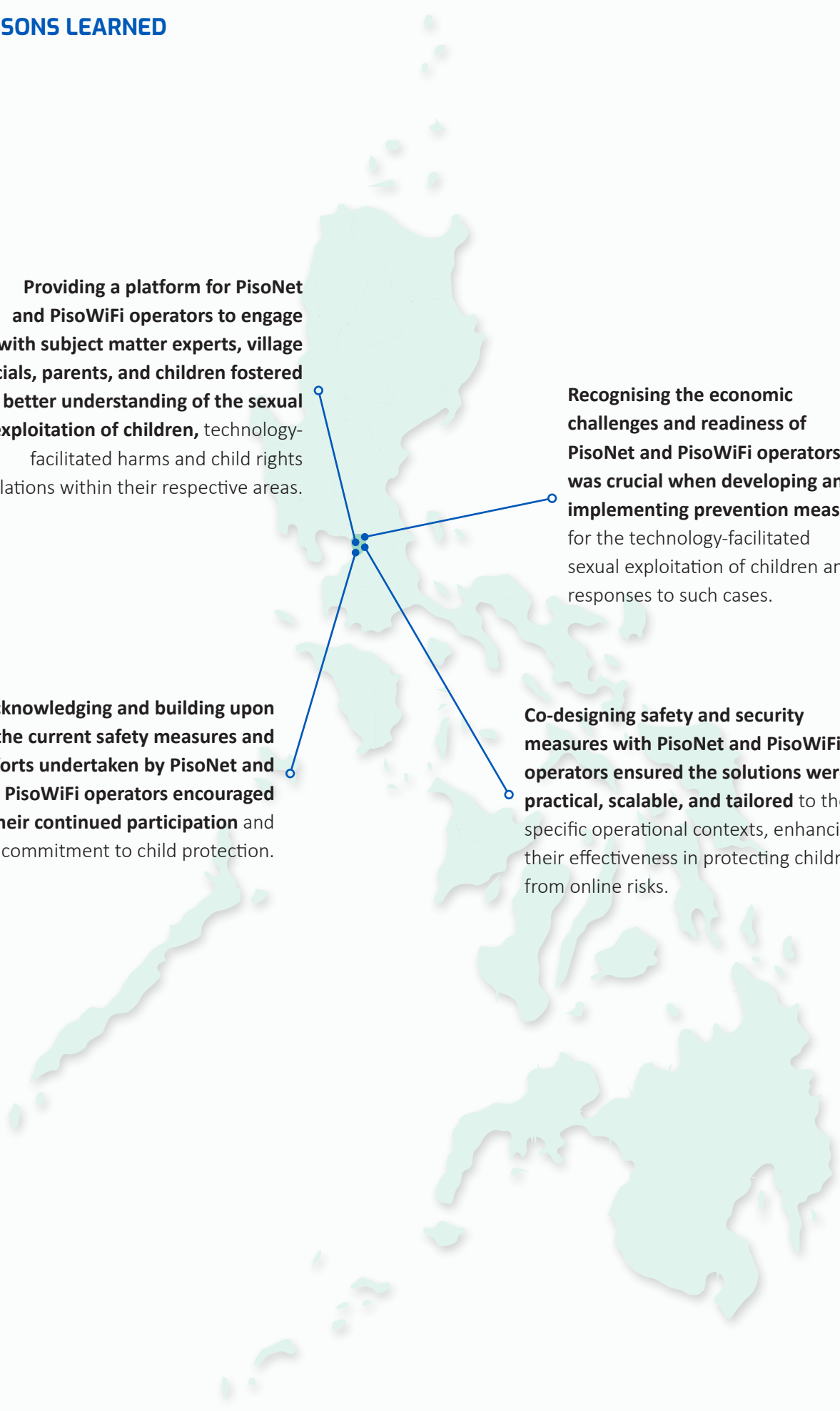
- o Teasing and bullying among child customers, particularly during online gaming or competitions.
- o Individuals are accessing adult content through PisoNet, which can lead to children being exposed to such material, including child sexual abuse material.
- o The absence of dedicated staff to monitor children's online and offline activities using PisoNet facilities and the lack of internal controls for children, such as "parental controls in the online services".

Mitigation strategies: Plan International collaborated with owners to implement the following strategies:

- o Installation of CCTV cameras to monitor children's activities within the premises.
- o Blocking access to sites containing adult content.
- o Assigning dedicated personnel to supervise children and adult customers using PisoNet facilities.
- o Plan International recommended cost-free actions to address budget constraints faced by some PisoNet and PisoWiFi owners.
 - o Posting information about child helplines and social media links for child protection services.
 - o Displaying local helpline numbers and instructions on where and when to report concerns as part of local child protection mechanisms.
 - o Posting "do's and don'ts" reminders for customers, complying with city regulations, such as discipline hours, which restrict children from being in public places without a parent or guardian.

¹ To document this practice, information was provided by Plan International Philippines.

LESSONS LEARNED



Providing a platform for PisoNet and PisoWiFi operators to engage with subject matter experts, village officials, parents, and children fostered a better understanding of the sexual exploitation of children, technology-facilitated harms and child rights violations within their respective areas.

Recognising the economic challenges and readiness of PisoNet and PisoWiFi operators was crucial when developing and implementing prevention measures for the technology-facilitated sexual exploitation of children and responses to such cases.

Acknowledging and building upon the current safety measures and efforts undertaken by PisoNet and PisoWiFi operators encouraged their continued participation and commitment to child protection.

Co-designing safety and security measures with PisoNet and PisoWiFi operators ensured the solutions were practical, scalable, and tailored to their specific operational contexts, enhancing their effectiveness in protecting children from online risks.

To prevent the sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism in the city of Cartagena¹

Project implemented by the RENACER Foundation-ECPAT Colombia and the Cartagena de Indias Tourism Corporation with support from UNICEF:

The project aims to create safe environments for children, protecting their rights by engaging various informal actors responsible for their well-being. The strategy targets informal tourism workers, such as masseurs, taxi drivers and street vendors, alongside formal tourism sector actors, schoolteachers, and children. Key actions implemented in the informal travel and tourism sector are focused on building capacity and promoting corporate social responsibility within the industry.

MAIN APPROACHES AND ACTIVITIES

- **Building alliances:** Collaboration with local governments, private sector associations, unions, and informal worker groups.
- **Fieldwork approach:** Renacer Foundation's educators visited sites to identify areas where children may face risks of sexual exploitation and to understand protection factors within informal and formal tourism sectors.
- **Discussion groups:** Meetings with informal tourism workers to discuss their perceptions of sexual exploitation of children, their protective roles, needs and interest in engaging in this initiative.
- **Training programme:** The training for informal tourism actors included a diploma that integrated the development of tourism skills (e.g., customer service) with child protection (e.g., laws, risks, prevention, and response). The training was conducted in partnership with academic institutions and focused on group discussions.
- **Protective network:** Participants in the training programme formed a "Protective Network" to enhance coordination and joint actions with police, the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare, and the Foundation Renacer.
- **Communication strategy:** The Campaign "La Muralla soy yo" ["The Wall is Me"] was implemented to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation and influence behavioural change.
- **Collaboration with Universities:** The cooperation was established to ensure the integration of child protection topics into curricula and to influence future professionals and decision-makers.

¹ The information to document this practice was obtained from the following documents: Renacer (2011) Sistematización del proyecto Para prevenir la explotación sexual comercial de niñas, niños y adolescentes en el contexto de viajes y turismo en la ciudad de Cartagena. Renacer (2019). Construyendo entornos protectores de la niñez como estrategia de prevención de la explotación sexual comercial

LESSONS LEARNED

