

Building Back Better Midterm Progress report

May-November 2021
Down to Zero Alliance

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

terre des hommes 
stopt kinderuitbuiting


Girls first

**FREE
A
GIRL**

**DEFENCE for
CHILDREN** 


ecpat

 **Part of
Cordaid**



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Abbreviations and acronyms

BBB	Building Back Better
CPS	Child Protection Systems
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DtZ	Down to Zero
LEA	Law Enforcement Agencies
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OSEC	Online Sexual Exploitation of Children
SEC	Sexual Exploitation of Children
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
YVfC	Youth Voices for Change

Summary

We are proud to present the midterm report of the Down to Zero, Building Back Better programme covering the period 15 May - 30 November 2021. The Alliance has taken on an ambitious and very relevant programme. We do this important work together with all stakeholders involved and with children and youth especially. Their unfailing energy, courage, and hopes for a safer future drives us all. The report shows the added value of working as an Alliance by being able to address the various aspects of sexual exploitation and the unique contributions of different actors involved in making sure children and young people know their SRHR including the risks of sexual exploitation and are able to take action.

The report describes what role SRHR has in our interventions and how it is relevant to improve prevention and response to sexual exploitation of children and young people. The BBB programme already shows progress through joint efforts at the country, regional and international level. We also made headway by improving professional standards such as safeguarding children and young people and gender.

It makes us proud that children and youth are able to access specialised services despite continuing Covid-19 restrictions. Service providers found alternative ways to offer SEC victims and those at risk the knowledge and support they need. Significant numbers of children and young people attended online sessions discussing SRHR sensitive issues including sexual exploitation and child rights. Front line workers continued their outreach in a gender sensitive and child friendly way within communities, despite redirection of staff and budget towards Covid-19 response.

Online sessions offer great support now children and young people are distanced from peers, support networks and schools. We greatly respect their willingness and ability to participate and share experiences with their peers. Children and youth organized in clubs, groups and networks have learned about sexual exploitation, risk factors and their SRHR and how to discuss these sensitive topics with peers, parents, teachers and others in an open and respectful manner, creating safer communities for all. Children and youth are quick learners and their experiences underline the relevance of our work and inspire professionals working with them.

We support the growing committees at community levels with active diverse stakeholders aiming to respond to SEC. Digital safety training in schools and for parents, caregivers and various community members on SRHR, SEC, gender, and child protection enable them to take responsibility. This is necessary as not only have our partners adapted to online activities, so did perpetrators. For example traffickers use social media for question and demand, grooming potential victims and attracting customers and providing traffickers anonymity online. New is also to take trafficked victims to seemingly legal businesses as massage parlours or hotels merging online and offline aspects of sexual exploitation.

We have also built awareness of different actors in the justice system as well as local transporters and hotel staff in all countries. We engaged at national and international level, increasing attention for sexual exploitation of children and young people.

We express our gratitude to our country teams and EU- and international lobby and advocacy team for their hard work under challenging circumstances and all that contributed to this report.

About the programme

The Building Back Better (BBB) programme is a one-year programme funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), under the Fund to Combat Child Prostitution 2021 ('Fonds Bestrijding Kinderprostitutie 2021', Activity number 4000004776) and is implemented by the Down to Zero Alliance (DtZ) which includes Terre des Hommes Netherlands, ICCO (Part of Cordaid), Plan International Netherlands, Free a Girl and Defence for Children-ECPAT. The goal of the programme is that children and youth¹ are better protected when at risk or victim of sexual exploitation, during and in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is implemented in twelve countries in Asia and Latin America: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Peru and includes an international and regional lobby and advocacy component.

Our approach

The DtZ Alliance has been fighting against Sexual Exploitation of Children (SEC) as of 2016 and has a strong child-centred and holistic approach. The Alliance works with experienced civil society organisations including many local (grass roots) partners who are close to the communities and know the local context. The programme follows an integral and multi-stakeholder approach whereby different aspects and underlying root causes of SEC are addressed and where all actors are involved in the programme. As such, children and youth, communities, law enforcement agencies (LEA), governments and the private sector are all involved in protecting children and young people by increasing their knowledge and awareness of SEC, applying child friendly services and implementing policies to prevent SEC, and thus build stronger child protection systems (CPS). Moreover, the Alliance works closely with children and youth, providing them with the appropriate services if needed, and strengthening their agency so that they can play an active role in their protection and be agents of change, by raising their voices against SEC and standing up for their rights.

Link to the Covid-19 pandemic

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, the situation of SEC worldwide has worsened due to closing of schools, failing protection systems, rising poverty and children being increasingly (unsupervised) online². The BBB programme has been developed to address SEC particularly within this specific context. This means addressing forms of SEC that have increased due to the pandemic such as online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC)³, and SEC due to poverty and economic pressure of families who have lost their livelihoods. It also

¹ DtZ uses the following definition: the term children is used for persons up to the age of 18 years old, while the term youth is considered for persons up to 24 years old.

² For more information see the reports: 1. The press release by Save the Children on child trafficking in Covid-19 times: Save the Children, Covid-19 crisis has pushed child traffickers online and out of sight, 27 July 2021 (<https://bit.ly/3t2l23b>). 2. The report by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children in Covid-19 times: United Nations General Assembly, 'Impact of coronavirus disease on different manifestations of sale and sexual exploitation of children', 46th session of the Human Rights Council, New York, 22 February–19 March 2021 (<https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/46/31>).

³ According to the Luxembourg guidelines: The line between child sexual exploitation online and offline is often blurred and, with the rapid evolution of ICTs, child sexual exploitation with some online component is increasingly common. While the term "online child sexual exploitation" can be used as an umbrella-term to indicate such forms of sexual exploitation that have an online component or a relation to the Internet, it should be recalled that the Internet is a means, albeit very potent, to exploit children sexually; it is not, in and by itself, a distinct type of sexual exploitation.

means addressing the vulnerabilities of children and youth that are exacerbated by the pandemic and strengthening the knowledge and capacities of children and youth to recognise risks (online and offline), to stand up against SEC and raise their voice with peers, community members and authorities, and creating economic alternatives (through for example vocational training for job opportunities). The Alliance aims to contribute to the strengthening of disrupted child protection mechanisms and services. Also, the Alliance is active in lobbying and advocacy in-country, regionally and internationally to keep SEC and child protection on the agenda of governments, international organisations and private sector, and to continue supporting the private sector in their due diligence. This is necessary, as attention is, in many places, focused on the Covid response, at the detriment of other issues in society such as SEC. Moreover, it is expected that the Covid-19 pandemic will not disappear as soon as was originally thought - and even if the virus itself is more under control, the effects of the crisis are still expected to be long lasting. Therefore, it is foreseeable that countries worldwide may need to deploy measures again such as lockdowns, closing of schools and other facilities, imposing travel restrictions, etc. for years to come, which means that the protection of children and youth in this context remains of utmost importance. Also, when the tourism and travel industry will be restarting more structurally, it is crucial to keep SEC on the agendas here as well.

Link to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights

SEC is an obvious and flagrant violation of the rights of children and young people as enshrined in the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child and it undermines the realisation and enjoyment of their Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). SEC is a worldwide phenomenon, it affects both girls and boys though its form differs depending on time and place. Victims suffer sexual and reproductive health consequences, sexual violence, unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs)⁴. It also violates their bodily integrity, often leading to life-long physical and psychological problems. In addition, SEC inhibits girls and boys from making their own informed (sexual) relationship choices. Being a victim of SEC directly threatens the safe and positive development of children and young people's sexual health. Growing up free of SEC is a condition for being able to develop healthy sexual relationships, have control over one's own body and enjoy one's SRHR.

SRHR, including SEC, is a highly sensitive topic worldwide, surrounded by a lot of stigma and taboo and as such it is not easily discussed and acted upon. Many parents, community members and professionals have insufficient knowledge to recognise red flags, deal with SEC victims or those at risk. In many countries, violence against women and children is still condoned and sexual violence against children is often accepted within society. Furthermore, sexuality education is not part and parcel of (secondary) education and thus children grow up unaware/uninformed of their reproductive health and rights. This is why, in the programme, SRHR is integral to the different areas of implementation: both in the prevention of and in the response to SEC, children and youth are informed about their SRHR and supported to discuss this with peers, parents and others.

SEC awareness training includes age-appropriate knowledge for children and young people, including information about sex, consent, personal boundaries, what adults or others around children can or cannot do to them, risks and responsibilities when taking, sending and receiving sexual images, and how to say no to others. SEC awareness training also

⁴See the report by Plan International: Under Siege: impacts of Covid-19 on girls in Africa <https://bit.ly/3q12WVw>

includes attention for bodily integrity. A lot of children who have experienced forced sexual activity feel shame to discuss their body and expectations of future relationships. The information provided about sexual health is key in combatting SEC and the stigma SEC victims face. It helps children and young people to identify risky or inappropriate interactions both online and in-person.

In addition to talking about SRHR with children and young people, parents, community members and leaders, teachers and professionals working with them are informed about SRHR and (risks of) SEC as well. Also, where victims receive legal, medical and psychosocial care to recover, they are supported in accessing specific SRH facilities, for example if they are in need of STI checks. Young people are also informed about HIV, accessing contraceptives and family planning. Further, in countries / regions where child marriage is a common problem, the adverse effects and how it can negatively affect the SRHR of girls, are explained. In some countries, DtZ partners also work in red light areas where sex workers and their children are oriented on SRHR.

In addition to the health aspect, children and young people are mobilised and trained how to stand up for their sexual and reproductive rights. This includes acting as a peer to peer educator and talking about SEC to parents and other community members. It also involves implementing advocacy action plans so youth can speak out against SEC within communities and also towards local, regional and even national authorities. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child often provides the framework for such advocacy activities.

Achieving SRHR for all supports equality, contributes to the empowerment of women, men, girls and boys and others that are discriminated against, it enables them to live the lives they want, and helps build communities that are healthy, safe, just and thriving.

The BBB programme links to result areas 2 and 4⁵ of MoFA's SRHR results framework. The programme further contributes towards SDG 5.2: 'Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation' and SDG 16.2: 'End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children'.

Chapter 1: Changes in context in 2021

In General

Worldwide, the year 2021 was marked by the Covid-19 pandemic. In many places measures that were taken in response to Covid have at the moment been released somewhat for a period of time, but overall, the Covid crisis is still ongoing and having an impact on many aspects of societies. The loss of relatives and/or guardians has impacted many children worldwide, and the mental state of many people. In many countries, schools remain partially closed or with a limited face-to-face time, travel restrictions are in place in many places, the execution of many jobs has been restricted or altered (including jobs in the CPS), livelihoods have been lost. These measures strongly affect societies (and their wellbeing) as a whole and have resulted, in many places, in an economic crisis. Moreover, many governments have diverted funds and staff away from areas such as the CPS in favour of their Covid-response - as is the case in Bolivia where the state budget for the protection system has been reduced, and there has been a halving of personnel and prevention actions. As mentioned before, OSEC has been on the rise in all BBB countries, especially since the closing of schools resulting in an ever more online presence of children and youth.

⁵See the SRHR framework of MoFA here: <https://bit.ly/3KDVy5N>

In India and Nepal, for example, the pandemic is strongly affecting the economic situation of people, as finding decent jobs to make a living has become harder. This in turn impacts trafficking, as many people try to cross the (often closed) borders in search of better job opportunities and, while doing so, become highly vulnerable to trafficking and SEC. Moreover, the economic crisis caused by the pandemic is also severely affecting travel and tourism destinations, with travel restrictions and the lack of travel endangering the livelihoods of many families. As a result, the vulnerability of children in these communities (travel and tourism-linked income groups) has increased manifold: closed schools, isolation, physical distancing, failing safety nets, limited access to child protection response mechanisms, income insecurity, all increase the susceptibility to SEC.

Politically, some of the BBB countries experienced changes in national politics that have effects on the context in which the BBB programme operates. In the Dominican Republic for example the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONANI), the governing body of the protection system for children and youth in the country, has had two changes of presidency in less than two years. Fortunately, since the last change, the same technical staff has been maintained and the interventions already coordinated under the previous administration have not been altered. Both Peru and Nicaragua faced elections which were accompanied by political and societal unrest. In Nepal, the country endured political turmoil as the president dissolved the parliament for the second time in less than six months.

Contextual developments related to SEC

Within BBB, ECPAT International performed a legal analysis of countries worldwide in relation to SEC, which was completed in the first half year of the project. The analysis was based on nine indicators, including whether countries have an age of sexual consent, trained police staff and national commitments towards the combat of SEC. This analysis elucidated the legal and policy gaps in the different countries, inhibiting the prevention and combat of SEC. Most important observations from this study are mentioned below. For the Dominican Republic and Bangladesh, the analysis will shortly be finalised and published online too. In relation to SEC, there are still some gaps identified in the context of the twelve countries of implementation.

There is a lack of available and reliable data on SEC cases throughout the BBB countries. On the one hand, this has to do with the nature of SEC which means it is hidden, and remains unreported in many cases. On the other hand this also comes from the fact that public institutions, among others, have no uniform way of registering SEC cases and/or the registration of SEC is not always made accessible.

There is a need for national commitments to adhere to regional and international conventions relevant to addressing the sexual exploitation of children. In the context of travel and tourism, as of November 2021 only Indonesia has ratified the UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics that explicitly provides for child protection from the SEC perspective.

There is a lack of binding requirements for businesses operating in the travel and tourism industry encompassing child protection from sexual exploitation. Out of the analysed countries⁶ binding requirements for businesses, including travel and tourism, encompassing child protection from sexual exploitation exist in Colombia, Peru, Nicaragua. Non-binding requirements exist in Brazil, Indonesia, Philippines, India. Bolivia, Thailand and Nepal do not

⁶ Based on the country legal analysis on SEC, carried out by Ecpat globally (see here: <https://ecpat.org/countries/>)

have national legislation nor subsidiary legislation/policies nor codes regulating child protection from sexual exploitation by travel and tourism businesses.

The definition of child sexual abuse material in none of the countries is fully in line with international standards; and grooming of children should be criminalised. The term ‘child sexual abuse material’ (CSAM) is increasingly being used to replace the older term ‘child pornography’ used in the main legal instruments. Out of the project focus countries only Colombia, Peru and the Philippines criminalise grooming of children for sexual purposes to facilitate either online or offline sexual exploitation. In case of offline exploitation, the act is criminalised regardless of whether the solicitation has been followed by material acts leading to an in-person meeting, without a requirement that the meeting takes place. Grooming is only partially criminalised in Brazil, while it is still not penalised in Bolivia, Nicaragua, Indonesia, Thailand, India or Nepal.

Some positive developments occurred in Dominican Republic where, also due to the continuous efforts of DtZ partners, a law has been adopted for the prohibition of child marriage (in January 2021) and a policy has been drafted on prevention and attention to early unions and adolescent pregnancy. This policy aims to establish mechanisms for the prevention, reduction and attention to violations of fundamental rights of children and adolescents linked to early unions and adolescent pregnancy, as well as harmful practises and crimes associated with these situations. Similarly, in the Philippines, a law against child marriage has been passed whereby prison terms up to 12 years are laid out for marrying or cohabiting with anyone under the age of 18. Moreover, a bill to raise the minimum age of sexual consent from 12 to 16 years old, the End Child Rape Bill is moving closer to becoming a new law, as the senators have approved its final reading.

Contextual changes in relation to civic space

For years and in several of the BBB countries we observe a shrinking space for civil society and push backs against women’s, LGBTQ+ rights and human rights in general. This is for example the case in the Philippines where human rights defenders have been labelled as ‘threats to the state’ and may be apprehended without a warrant and detained. As such, the National Coordinator of the Philippines Against Child Trafficking (PACT), a close partner of ECPAT Philippines, was arrested in November on dubious grounds. In Bangladesh and Indonesia, journalists, activists, human right defenders, and critics of the government have been facing repression through legal actions or other sanctions, such as (arbitrary) charges and arrests.

In Thailand, a draft law on Operation of Not-for-Profit Organisations is being criticised by civil society and human rights activists for negatively impacting civil space. As of yet it is unknown if and when the law will come into effect. This follows the critique outed against the Thai government for having used various existing laws and regulations more often to silence individuals and organisations with views opposing those of the government. The DtZ partners in Thailand have managed to build strong and fruitful relationships with authorities and government institutions over the years which means that as far as can be gauged, while this new draft law is concerning, it is not expected to directly affect the DtZ partners. Similarly, in India, Nepal and Nicaragua laws are in place which make the operation of NGOs and particularly International NGOs more difficult. In Nicaragua for example CSOs have been shut down suddenly. This followed the passing of laws for the prevention of money laundering and interference in the country’s domestic politics that have been used to increase the government’s control on funds NGOs receive from abroad. Despite this context, the DtZ partners have adapted to be compliant with these laws and are still able to do their work without major alterations, but with great caution.



Chapter 2: Programme progress 2021

Outcome 1: Children (in particular victims and those at risk of SEC) are able to access specialised services that protect them, help them rehabilitate, reintegrate and reduce their vulnerability to SEC in the context of Covid-19.

Most of the BBB countries provide specialised services that protect, help, rehabilitate victims to recover and return to their families, reduce the vulnerabilities of victims to revictimisation and inform those at risk of SEC. This means that specialised services such as counselling, medical aid, legal aid, psycho-social support, educational services (such as specialised education with special attention to the needs of the children and youth, or vocational training for job opportunities, etc.) and reintegration support are being provided to children and youth that have been victims of SEC or at risk of SEC. Here, to respond to the closing of shelters and the restrictions in physical meetings due to Covid-19 containment measures, DtZ partners have made (part of) their specialised services available online or via calls. Also, part of the activities are also aimed at raising awareness on what is SEC and related topics such as one's SRHR, sexual education, how to recognise (risks of) SEC, different forms of violence, gender norms, etc. Moreover, information is provided on how to reach the specialised SRH services and know what to do when facing risks of SEC. There has also been a great emphasis on the online context and risks while being online. In India for example, 2966 children (1524 boys and 1442 girls) were equipped with knowledge and information on SEC so that they are able to access specialised services and know how to protect themselves from SEC.

28 children and youth received specialised services in Thailand. However, due to strict Covid-19 measures, one of the shelters of the BBB programme in Thailand was closed, and therefore until late September 2021, it had not been possible to provide face to face counselling and other support services that were planned. Due to these challenging circumstances, the programme partners explored adaptive strategies to continue supporting vulnerable children and youth by offering counselling and support through telephone and online channels.

Within BBB, psychosocial support has become even more important as many of the partners have found that more and more children suffer from psychosocial issues that are both directly related to SEC, but also resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic (i.e. less social contacts, economic strain on the family and thus pressure on children and young people to supplement the family income, trauma due to family losses, failing CPS, etc.) and from cross-border movements (such as migration, but also cross-border trafficking). Especially in the India-Nepal border area, as well as in Bolivia and Colombia special attention is given to migration and the increased risk to SEC and cross-border trafficking. Psychosocial support is provided to children and youth victims of SEC as well as to children at risk of becoming victims. The aim is to help them overcome any psychological and emotional traumas or issues that they have experienced, and furthermore strengthen their protective behaviour, increase their self-defence and resilience, and build their capacity to address risk and/ or danger (incl. online).

In the Philippines, psycho social support sessions are provided to children of the following age groups: 6-8, 9-12, 13-18. Facilitated by young professionals who relate well to the children participating in these sessions, they talk about experiences children have online. The children benefit from listening to each other's experiences, both good and bad, sharing how they cope with negative ones and providing (moral) support to each other. The sessions have led to a high number of disclosures. Severe disclosures are acted upon through house visits and individual referral and therapy. Disclosures of a less severe nature are followed up through group or individual therapy sessions catered to the needs of the children concerned.

Outcome 2: Children and youth are able to advocate for continued SEC prevention and response in the context of Covid-19

In all BBB countries, partners train children and youth to advocate for their rights, whilst connecting them with other children and youth to enable exchange and peer-to-peer learning. This is important so that children and youth themselves play an active role as agents of change in their own and their peers' protection against SEC. The content of these activities is focusing on SEC, children's rights, social skills, leadership, trafficking in persons, SRHR and gender. This also includes training on recognising SEC and its risks, and what paths to follow to report it. In the Dominican Republic, for example, 2006 children and youth from 17 educational centres have been trained in recognising dangers of SEC, responsible use of technology and communication and human rights. Plans are in the making to also do

similar awareness raising activities at the community level to generate more impact on the target population.

In Nepal, the creation of groups and networks for children and youth to exchange and be connected to their peers has been very successful. Children and youth that have been trained on topics related to SEC have now joined different existing networks such as the National Adolescent Girls / Boys Networks, and the Municipal Level Girls / Boys Networks. They also have been creating new ones such as SafetyNet - a loose network of community leaders youths (who actively support the reporting of SEC cases) - and the 16 children and youth clubs created with with the ward chairperson and the municipality (i.e. women, children and senior citizen units) to address SEC and trafficking issues at the local level.

Furthermore, children and youth are trained on how to raise awareness amongst their peers. For example, in Bangladesh, an online campaign has been developed together with youth and children from the Child Rights Defenders Forum (CRDF) which has reached 4000 people on social media. Similarly, in Thailand, children and youth developed various communication materials which included posters and video clips as part of an awareness raising campaign. Moreover, training is also heavily focusing on online risks and how to safely navigate the web and different online platforms as a child or young person.

In the Philippines, 489 children and youth were trained on digital safety. This training was organised together with Facebook Philippines and covered topics such as privacy, safety, security, digital discourse, digital footprint, digital engagement and digital empowerment.

In addition to training, activities are aimed at getting the message across, most importantly to decision-makers and important stakeholders. As such, the programme has managed to involve children and youth in lobbying and advocacy, locally, regionally and nationally to make their voices heard by decision-makers and stakeholders. The focus has also been on relaying the voice of children and youth to other stakeholders such as the private sector. For example in India, youth-led campaigns were organised in seven states which focused on prevention of SEC in tourism locations, especially in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic that has hit the tourism sector badly. This campaign resulted in the strengthening of the multi-stakeholder approach in addressing SEC, as sessions were held with tourism service providers, government, local administration, local police officers and youth and children themselves.

In Bolivia, 334 children and young people were trained to advocate on SEC prevention and response. Of these, 46 have been participating in the Municipal Committees for Children and Adolescents in El Alto, La Paz, Santa Cruz, Desaguadero and Yacuiba, institutions that monitor and modify public protection policies, as well as enforce their implementation. The 46 young people held peer-to-peer meetings and engaged with municipal authorities to present

proposals to the municipal plans for children and adolescents in order to promote the prevention of SEC in their regions. In addition, one of the youth leaders from a rural area was elected as the representative of La Paz, representing the largest advocacy space at the departmental level.



Outcome 3: Parents, caregivers, and community leaders are strengthened to provide a protective shield around children against SEC, in the context of Covid-19

In order to strengthen community-based protection for children and youth, the BBB programme actively targets parents, community members, leaders and others to include multiple actors to make sure children are better protected, especially in the context of Covid-19. A protective shield is important to enable children and youth to develop within a safe environment. Also, this takes away the burden of the fight against SEC on children and youth themselves, and addresses the responsibility of duty bearers. For parents, caregivers and communities, activities are aimed at training and awareness raising to increase the knowledge on SEC and related issues including SRHR, for different actors to recognise risks and to create strategies to prevent and protect against SEC. This also includes knowledge about referral systems, know-how on addressing mental health issues of children and youth, and on SEC reporting mechanisms (and legal actions to be taken). In the Dominican Republic, through collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and representatives of the Teacher's Association, the DtZ partner was able to interact directly with 24 communities and worked with them on different topics related to SEC, including (sexual) harrasment and abuse at home, violence against children and youth, gender equality and gender norms, and the importance of returning to school.

In Nepal, multiple awareness raising activities about SEC were implemented amongst communities, parents, and caregivers. This included four radio programmes and facebook live programmes, and social media posts - reaching an estimated 12,800 people. Messages were about how children and youth are increasingly exposed to online sexual abuse and exploitation during the Covid-19 pandemic and the online challenges they face using social media platforms. Also, an interactive campaign was organised in seven schools with students spreading awareness on SEC. Here, special attention was given to OSEC as schools have had to move part of their teachings online during the Covid-19 pandemic, and children have been more exposed to OSEC risks. Lastly, information sessions on SEC were organised with parents, local religious leaders and community leaders and their role in reducing and mitigating issues related to SEC. This was followed up by four Child Rights Committees (composed of community and religious leaders amongst others) drafting strategies to address SEC in four municipalities.

In many countries, intersectoral protection committees have been set up, where community members organise themselves together with other stakeholders, such as representatives of the local travel and tourism sector, local civil servants and law enforcement agents, caregivers and teachers. These committees play a role in raising awareness of SEC in their communities, amongst others by opening the dialogue about SEC and related SRHR issues and making reporting mechanisms more accessible and known. In Thailand for example, training sessions were held with two Community Child Protection Committees to increase their knowledge and awareness on sexual violence against children, harm and manifestations of SEC and their roles in the protection of children. These committees receive continued and ongoing support from the DtZ partner for their role in protecting children from harm of SEC. In Nicaragua, the protection committee has followed up on 10 cases of children at high risk and victim of SEC and has strengthened the links with state institutions and civil society organisations regarding the identification of cases, procedures to follow and how to best do visits to victims to support them and refer them to SRH services if needed. In many cases the role of the committees starts by finding ways to open the conversation on SEC, and carefully attempting to break taboos.

Worldwide, SEC is a sensitive subject to address. DtZ partners approach the subject carefully by starting with getting acquainted and establishing a relationship of trust. Then, they move to discuss child protection issues in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. The discussions are then slowly extended so that eventually all different actors taking care of children as well as community members are involved in these discussions and awareness raising activities about SRHR and SEC. These discussions are with any community member in the position to have an eye out for children and young people in their community, including but not restricted to parents and caregivers.

Finally, as SEC prevalence is often related to economic insecurity and poverty, the strengthening of a protective shield for children and youth is also aimed at providing

economic and job opportunities to families. In Bolivia and in the Philippines, families of child victims or those at high risk of SEC, received technical and financial assistance for their business ventures. Similarly, in Brazil the DtZ partners are developing a training in Youth Entrepreneurship and Financial Education for 300 young women in order to strengthen the participant's economic network. The 300 participants will be mobilised within the most vulnerable communities in three municipalities.

Outcome 4: Actors in the Child Protection System are strengthened in multi-stakeholder settings to prevent and advocate for protection from SEC, in the context of Covid-19

Strengthening the capacities of the CPS actors such as government and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), the private sector and civil society is an important part of the BBB programme as CPS in all their forms have been hit hard by the pandemic and yet they are crucial in the prevention of and response to SEC. Capacity building of CPS professionals is focused on increasing (expert) knowledge and skills on SRHR in general and SEC specifically and how to address SEC cases, whilst having a child-centred and gender sensitive approach. This child-centred approach has been developed with research and input from children and youth and is crucial in ensuring that the needs of children and youth are central. As such, capacity building has been developed and provided to different actors in the form of training, workshops, coaching, tools, manuals and guidelines and other kinds of support. This capacity building has been carried out together with government officials such as in Peru where 1000 public officials attended a congress and were trained on OSEC and communication for the prevention of online and/or sexual violence. Collaboration with the police happens in many countries where DtZ partners focus on keeping different forms of SEC high on the police's agenda while introducing and strengthening a child-centred approach in their way of working. In Bolivia, efforts are focused on implementing cyber patrol areas by the Trafficking Divisions of the Police whereby investigators monitor social networks, cyber patrolling for OSEC cases, and tracking of missing children on social networks. In doing so, the police are trained in ways to identify perpetrators and required actions, recognise victims and how to rescue them.

On the level of LEAs, steps have been made in training and the development of tools for reporting mechanisms and legal action. This is for example the case in the Dominican Republic where the DtZ partners work closely with the judicial system, the Prosecution Agency, and the Tourist Police alongside the Ministry of Education and schools. Moreover, a tool for the referral of cases to the local protection system has been developed to help in improving the reporting mechanisms and the access to legal action.

Another important actor in the CPS is the private sector. Awareness and knowledge is attained through (social) media campaigns and information disseminated through flyers and posters. For example in India, a training for hoteliers and local transporters (e.g. toto/rickshaw drivers) was conducted with the objective to better protect children and young people in tourism and travel. This was followed up by the dissemination of flyers and other communication materials to help spread the message and raise even more awareness on SEC amongst this group. Moreover, close collaboration is also sought with the private sector in the tourism and travel sector to raise awareness on SEC, train staff and increase the

adoption of The Code⁷. For example, in Brazil a virtual training on SEC has been organised for hotel staff, while at the same time collaborating with the private sector on prevention and awareness raising campaigns.

In Colombia the working group for the prevention of SEC in travel and tourism was created which involves public and private sector members and the community. Also, 30 tourism companies have adopted and were trained in the Code. The tourist destination of La Candelaria has continued their efforts to address SEC and their certification as a sustainable tourist area will be renewed (which includes special recognition of SEC as an important factor).

Apart from strengthening the capacities of CPS actors, different CPS actors are also brought together to narrow gaps between actors and their approaches and to improve ways of addressing SEC. This multi-stakeholder perspective contributes strongly to the integral approach of fighting SEC by involving all stakeholders and addressing the different aspects and elements that are tied to SEC. In Indonesia, special attention has been given to diminish the gap between Government and CSOs as they have different understandings of what is needed for victims of SEC. Therefore the focus was on creating a joint action plan, and facilitating opportunities for multi-stakeholder cooperation. Similarly, in Bangladesh, dialogues are organised between government agencies and NGOs to exchange and create a national plan of action on SEC to protect children and youth from SEC while facing the challenges of the Covid-19 crisis.

Outcome 5: Intergovernmental bodies at regional and international level, governments and the private sector prioritise SEC within the wider child protection agenda in building back better during and in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic

The Alliance advocates at regional and international level towards intergovernmental, international and regional bodies, governments and private sector (i.e. in travel and tourism) to ensure SEC is or remains a priority on their agenda, especially during and in the aftermath of the pandemic. These efforts are complementary to actions at the national level, where BBB partners advocate their respective governments. One of these actions is happening in Thailand, where DtZ partners are actively involved in the process of the adoption of the Draft Child Online Protection Act, which has been approved by a Committee of the Senate. This law is necessary as online grooming or other OSEC related activities were not criminalised. The partners will further engage closely with key officials from the Ministry of Justice to give input in the review of the draft Law before its submission to the Council of State.

In Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and Nicaragua an investigative research is being conducted on online behaviour and social media usage of children and youth, and online vulnerability factors in relation to their impact on SRHR including SEC. This research is important so as to have evidence-based data to support the national and regional lobby activities. In parallel, these countries are also implementing

⁷ The Code refers to *The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism*, a multi-stakeholder initiative with the mission to provide awareness, tools and support to the travel and tourism industry to prevent the sexual exploitation of children. See www.thecode.org. The Code is a programme of ECPAT International.

lobby activities at different levels such as in Peru where the DtZ partner is working on a campaign towards the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) to keep the fight against trafficking in persons and SEC high on the agenda. In Bolivia, recommendations by the Alliance, civil society and the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) have been submitted to the Ministry of Justice to create the New Plurinational Policy against 'Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants'.

On the occasion of World Tourism Day in September, the Alliance approached the UNWTO to cooperate and prioritise child protection among other topics of the sustainability agenda. Furthermore, partners in multiple BBB countries raised awareness on this day asking for prioritisation of child protection during and in the aftermath of the pandemic. An important element of the extensive asks to the UNWTO is the prioritisation of prevention of SEC in the context of travel and tourism with its online elements in the UNWTO guidelines for tourist destinations and through the supply chains of tourism services. Moreover, the UNWTO is asked to play a role in influencing states and urging member and non-member states to close legal and policy gaps to stop children from falling victim to sexual exploitation in the context of travel and tourism.

At the EU level, lobby and advocacy is focusing on online child safety by design. In order to have more evidence-based data to back the lobby and advocacy messages and activities, extensive research was prepared, with input from the BBB countries, which will be finalised during the first months of 2022. This research consists of an in-depth literature review, input from experts in the field of online child safety by design and focus groups with children in more than ten countries (six of them being BBB countries). The research will be accompanied by an experts' workshop to validate recommendations, followed by publication and dissemination of the findings, a policy brief with advocacy messages towards the EU and an online event with EU officials.

In the first half of the BBB programme, the Alliance succeeded in sensitising an increasing number of companies operating both at international and country levels, that have a key role in preventing the sexual exploitation of children. Additionally, on the 20th of October 2021, through a Virtual Side Event on Child Rights approach to the Legally Binding Draft Treaty on Business and Human Rights, the Alliance contributed to the negotiations process ensuring that a child rights-based approach is prioritised as part of the Treaty. This resulted in concrete amendments being proposed by a number of countries to the Draft Treaty that bring a child rights approach a lot closer. Further advocacy will be undertaken to ensure that provisions in the draft legally binding instrument are improved to ensure that the activities and operations of business enterprises do not adversely impact on children's rights. Other work with the private sector has taken place with social media platforms whereby collaboration is sought with for example TikTok in Indonesia and Thailand to work towards making their environment safer for children and youth, and to find ways to better address risks and cases of SEC.

In conclusion

In the first half of the programme considerable progress has been achieved for the different outcomes.

First of all, a substantial number of children and youth are reached through training and awareness raising activities, increasing their knowledge on recognising (risks of) SEC offline and online and improving their ability to act when confronted with (the risk of) SEC. They also know how to access specialised services, including SRH services. The main

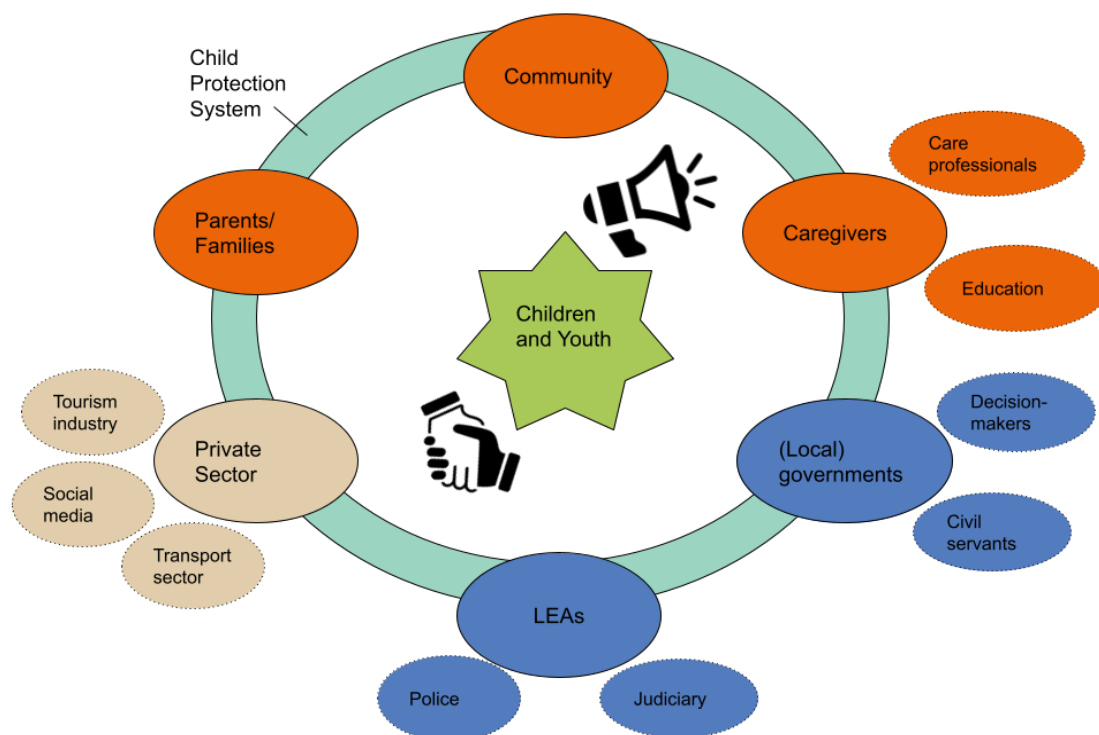
challenge has been the closure of specialised services in some countries due to Covid-19 measures. Alternative ways for reaching out to participants took place (i.e. online tools or via telephone) so as to ensure continued provision of services to children and youth.

Children and youth enhanced their knowledge and skills on how to advocate and stand up for their (SRHR) rights and raise their voice against SEC. Their actions are both aimed at raising awareness amongst their peers as well as advocating for SEC responses by decision-makers, government officials, the private sector, caregivers and other stakeholders.

Parents, communities and caregivers have built their capacity and play an active role in a strengthened community-based protection of children and youth. These committees have increased awareness about SRHR including SEC risks and know about prevention and response. They know how to take action using their own strategies and plans within intersectoral protection committees to address SEC and better protect children and young people.

As CPS actors such as LEAs, government officials, CSOs and the private sector have been hit hard in different ways by the Covid-19 pandemic, efforts to strengthen the CPS have been instrumental to the programme in the prevention of and response to SEC. Bringing together different actors and applying an integrated approach has been crucial, enabling capacity building within different sectors and finding ways to jointly respond to SEC.

Figure 1. Strengthening the Child Protection Systems



Lobby and advocacy activities have been carried out at different levels: international, regional bodies, governments and the private sector, in order to keep SEC high on the agenda and ask for better laws and policies to protect children and young people. Lobby and advocacy takes time - a lot of preparation and continued effort - more concrete results are expected in the first half of 2022.

Chapter 3: Cross-cutting issues

Learning agenda and learning facilitators

Building on the previous programmes implemented by the DtZ Alliance, the BBB programme was envisioned to have a learning component which would be practical and country-owned. Country teams were asked to develop initial learning plans in July-August. These plans were structured around chosen learning topics/questions, motivation and interest to address them as well as ways country teams would approach learning and use learning outcomes. An overview of these learning needs was compiled revealing that many of the local partners have an interest in learning about youth engagement and advocacy; SEC prevention and support in times of crisis; and prevention and support in the online environment.

To provide adequate support to country teams, the Alliance has recruited two learning facilitators – based in and focusing on Latin America and Asia. These learning facilitators have engaged with country teams to further develop their learning plans and distil common learning interests to be addressed through regional or international learning opportunities. Chosen country specific learning initiatives (i.e. learning exchanges, workshops, training sessions, reflections, etc.) will be implemented by motivated local partners with support from learning facilitators. Some common interests (i.e. prevention and response in the online environment) will be tackled through regional learning exchange in Asia. Ways to bring together and enable learning between Asian and Latin American partners are being explored, so as to overcome language and time difference barriers.

Youth engagement and Youth Voices for Change

All of the DtZ countries implement activities on the level of youth engagement, while always ensuring safeguarding measures are applied. Youth engagement has been done in various ways throughout the different activities of the programme described above, and also through the Youth Voices for Change (YVfC) initiative. YVfC was piloted under the Voice for Change programme in 2020-2021 and aims to amplify the voices of young leaders. Through a process of reflection, capacity building, empowerment and the creation of communication materials, the young leaders spread their messages and advocacy power in social media, as agents of change to prevent SEC. This pilot project was positively assessed, leading to the aim of scaling up and integrating into the BBB programme. This follow-up follows two paths: one of scaling-up, which means starting in new countries, and one where the already participating countries bring their activities with the youth leaders to the next level, i.e. directing their messages to decision-makers and important stakeholders. Concretely this means six countries are currently participating⁸: Colombia, India (with two partners participating), Indonesia, Bangladesh, Bolivia and Nicaragua⁹. In total 72 young leaders are participating.

⁸ Due to limitations in capacity, some of the YVfC countries under Vfc have decided to not further pursue the implementation of the YVfC project as a whole, although their youth leaders still remain active in youth networks independently of the YVfC project.

⁹ In the case of Nicaragua, a simplified version of YVfC is implemented as all the activities are carried out in person rather than online to accommodate the lack of internet access of participants. Here, the 12 youth leaders meet regularly with a technical expert who runs the project with them.



By the end of November 2021, all the country teams appointed focal points to coordinate and identified in-country volunteers to work with the youth leaders. To guide and support countries in this project, a manual for implementation and a monitoring tool have been created, in addition, there is direct support through regular contact with the coordinator of the programme. Between December and March, various training sessions for the youth leaders focussing on advocacy skills, addressing SEC issues, and technical skills to produce communication materials will all have taken place. In March and April 2022 meetings will take place with stakeholders and decision-makers to enable the youth leaders to put forward their messages and be heard. In May, youth meetings will take place where youth leaders will get in touch with each other across different countries and get a chance to exchange and inspire one another.

Gender and Inclusion

Gender and inclusion is an important principle to the Alliance and is therefore a cross-sectional theme that is addressed in the different parts of the programme. In the previous programmes of DtZ, partners have received training in the gender transformative approach, to be able to apply gender transformative principles within the BBB programme. In doing so, the programme actively addresses gender norms, and (unequal) power dynamics within the implementation of its activities. This is for example the case in the Dominican Republic where training of CPS actors has included the issue of gender norms, and reporting cases with a gender focus. Similarly, adolescents have received training on gender-transformative advocacy and gender focus. In Brazil, local campaigns have been aimed at supporting children and youth in their journey towards gender equality. Here, spaces for dialogue have also been opened up with decision-makers and service providers to promote policies and services that are sensitive to gender, but also to race and religion.

Moreover, the programme's activities are also fundamentally inclusive, which means that they go beyond including 'everyone', but also make sure that 'everyone' is actually able to participate and that different perspectives are heard, seen and addressed. As such, the Alliance ensures that the services provided to children and youth are well tailored to their specific needs - both in terms of gender, age, abilities, education, etc. For example in

Colombia, when working with public servants, the issue of sexual orientation and diverse gender identities is put on the table as a socially hidden issue that is often related to generating violence and discrimination, which act as predisposing factors for SEC. To bring the tailored approach further, the Alliance also developed, in Voice for Change, a special toolkit, The Bridging the Gap toolkit, to specifically address the needs of boys, as their needs are often overlooked when it comes to SEC response and prevention. Many partners have already been trained on this toolkit and lessons learned from the training are started to be implemented within BBB. In February and March 2022, a follow-up is planned to stimulate exchange between partners on this subject and strengthen the approach where necessary. In Thailand, special attention to how SEC affects boys has also been supported by research done by an Alliance member¹⁰ on the experience of boys and LGBTQ+ youth facing SEC. The findings of this research have been shared through meetings with different networks of the DtZ partners. Recommendations will be developed for policymakers, social service providers and community-based initiatives to address this issue.

Safeguarding

To underline the fact that the DtZ Alliance complies with the professional standards related to doing no harm and ensuring that no child or youth is negatively impacted by involvement in our programme, the Alliance members included safeguarding principles in the Memorandum of Understanding. This enables all partners to uphold a common standard and practical protocol for reporting and responding to safeguarding incidents within the Alliance. We work with a vulnerable target group on a highly sensitive issue and as such the safeguarding risks related to our programming are even higher and require diligent assessment and mitigation. We have organised a safeguarding refresher training, outlining the basic concepts of safeguarding, during the kick-off of the programme. More in-depth training has been given to all partners within the Alliance - with one training focusing on the essentials of safeguarding and another one specifically focusing on safeguarding in respect to (online)communication (including materials for social media and other communication channels). These training sessions have a practical approach, discussing concrete examples or scenarios that are encountered in this field, and put forward practical ways of dealing with safeguarding risks and issues. The training included a useful tool to follow up safeguarding measures during the project, and also a discussion on how children can safely use the internet to engage in programme activities.

Chapter 4: Risks and implementation

When submitting the BBB proposal we identified risks¹¹ at different levels. The contextual and implementation risks are updated in this chapter.

Risks related to context

A key risk is the evolution and continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic, affecting many aspects of society worldwide. The DtZ partner organisations are as responsive as possible to these changes from a content as well as a practical point of view. The DtZ partners continue to mitigate the adverse impact on children, young people and staff by making sure they know

¹⁰ The Global initiative to explore the sexual exploitation of Boys, Thailand Report: <https://bit.ly/3AunJzr>

¹¹ For the Risks Table as presented in the BBB proposal, please see Annex 2.

and follow the country / region specific measures. They also make context specific contingency plans and adapt regular work plans to adjust to the situation.

In many countries there have been recurrent school closures. Despite online education, this hinders continuity of learning and child empowerment. With schools closed children and young people are also deprived of a crucial safety net¹² as school friends and teachers are no longer available for support and advice. It also has a high negative impact on school drop out (particularly for girls), increasing the vulnerability to sexual exploitation. In addition, we see that youth and children who were previously trained are not available anymore for follow-up activities because they are busy keeping up their livelihood.

Covid-19 measures have in some countries also increased the number of early marriages and in all countries children accessing the internet. Those looking for opportunities to sexually exploit children and young people are also using the internet. For example, trafficked minors are no longer taken to brothels but are now in seemingly legal businesses such as hotels or massage parlours from where their sexual services are offered online. This provides anonymity to traffickers. Social media are used to recruit new victims and attract customers indicating the connection between sexual exploitation on- and off line. To mitigate this, DtZ partners enhance their expertise to detect SEC offers and demand online. At the same time, they provide children, youth, parents, caregivers, schools, community members and essential other actors in the child protection system with information about what constitutes risky online behaviour, digital safety, parental monitoring while encouraging a culture of trust and openness to discuss and report negative experiences online. In addition, we have also stepped up child safeguarding training both for staff and participants, specifically to pay attention to OSEC (see also chapter 3, page 15). In the travel and tourism industry companies are mainly focused on recovering their business, badly affected since the pandemic started two years ago. Their attention on child protection has therefore decreased as is the case in Indonesia and other tourist destinations. To mitigate this situation, DtZ partners are cooperating with different actors to encourage the travel and tourism actors to stay involved in the prevention of SEC. To keep travel and tourism organisations engaged further training is also being implemented.

In addition to Covid-19 containment measures, political unrest also impacted the programme in a number of countries, for instance in Nepal, Bolivia and Nicaragua. Political unrest due to regional and national elections was mitigated by informing and assuring the authorities that DtZ partners are non-partisan and will not be campaigning for any particular party. Delays in programme activities due to political unrest are also mitigated by monitoring the local situation and doing groundwork as much as possible before elections take place and continue when the situation is stable again. Also when community leaders or others are not available as they are politically active, partners take initiative themselves to organise and mobilise community members for example. High turnover of officials after elections is problematic as time is needed to inform and involve newly elected/appointed staff in programme activities.

Risks related to implementation

Programme participants and staff adhere to lockdowns, social distancing, hygiene measures, travel restrictions while staff work from home. The recurring measures include programmatic adjustments such as online training, virtual awareness raising and advocacy activities as well as staying in touch with programme participants using social media

¹² For source see for example: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-54186709>.

platforms and in more remote areas by using radio or when possible face to face gatherings in small groups. Some partners have successful online information sessions on SEC using social media, popular among young people. Working online provides the opportunity to invite more people for training and offer virtual training materials to participants. It was possible to reach greater audiences and connect different regions and countries in meetings and use social media for advocacy and awareness raising activities. This allowed partners to stay in touch and be available for children and young people in an accessible manner, making it easier to report and/or ask questions related to sexual exploitation. Partner organisations adjust the original intervention strategies to online situations as much as possible. However, this also has drawbacks and can affect effectiveness and wellbeing of participants. For instance, online communication, training, and awareness raising can make it harder for young participants to understand the message and be meaningfully engaged. Creating online safe spaces to discuss, learn and reflect about highly sensitive issues can be more challenging thus participants are supported and guided to make sure they do so in a safe manner.

Having a one year programme is a risk in itself, it limits accommodating a full project cycle and as contracting, Alliance procedures and onboarding partners take time, delays in programming at the start occurred. As the DtZ 1.0 programme ended 31/12/2020 and not all countries participated in the Voice for Change programme, some countries also experienced discontinuity for Alliance members and participants. In addition, the programme is implemented under continuous changing circumstances due to the pandemic. It also leads to a limited ability to achieve the desired impact as time is restricted making planning difficult and at times stressful for partners to make up for under-expenditures. This is mitigated by strict monitoring at all levels. The partners apply adaptive programming and adjust their activities and budgets accordingly, aiming for full budget depletion by mid May 2022. Dutch Alliance members participate on a regular basis in country alliance meetings to stay updated and discuss any bottlenecks and think about solutions. At the steering committee level the financial interim report will be discussed to see if any adjustments are needed.

Chapter 5: Communication

Communication remains a crucial part of the programme as the Alliance aims to keep the fight against SEC high on the political agenda, the agenda of the private sector, and to inform the general public. To do so the Alliance is not only using their own social media channels and websites to publish articles and posts about the issues of SEC and OSEC and the programme, but the Alliance also works with different news outlets to share its core message. As such, in November, [an article](#) about youth engagement and the YVfC project was published in the AD Magazine (in both the physical and the online versions). In February, March and April 2022, three articles will be published in the De Volkskrant Magazine.

Chapter 6: Aggregated Financial Overview

As stated in the MoFA grant agreement we present an aggregated financial overview of the period of 15 May 2021 to the 30 November 2021 in the table on page 29. The overview includes: the total budget, the transfer received from the Ministry, the amounts committed by the alliance members, the amounts transferred to the implementing partners by alliance members, and the actual expenditures for the reporting period. A detailed audited financial report will be submitted at the end of the project.

The total budget for the BBB programme is **euro 5 million** for the period of **15 May 2021 to 14 May 2022**. The total amount received from the Ministry is **euro 2.500,000** as of 30 November 2021. The total amount committed by alliance members for the overall programme is **euro 5 million**. The alliance members have already committed the total budget of the grant. The alliance members have already transferred the total amount **euro 2.547,671** to the implementing partners and other project activities, such activities under the shared Alliance budget including learning, PME, Alliance coordination, programme staff and consultancy fees. The alliance has transferred more funds than the initial payment of **euro 2.5 million** received from the Ministry. We have used our own resources to advance the difference. As we have already transferred more than the initial instalment from the Ministry, we request the second payment so that the implementing partners receive their funding on time and will be able to implement their activities according to their activity plans.

The actual expenditures come to **euro 1,748,867**, this is on average between 30 - 40%, of an ideal expenditure rate of 50% at half way through the programme. This under expenditure was expected in the first half of the programme as it takes time to fully start the implementation because of the time needed for completing contractual procedures, at the level of the Alliance and then also at the country level. In addition to these initial start-up delays, partners were also faced with additional Covid-19 measures, restricting movement, physical meetings, training sessions, workshops, etc. After the later than expected start, all partners are now fully implementing and catching up. They are aware of the short time span to implement the programme and have been requested to strictly monitor their (adjusted) activities and related expenditures. Adapting to the Covid-19 measures and other challenges will continue in 2022, as will strict monitoring of implementation plans and budgets, while we aim for complete budget expenditure by mid May 2022.

Annexes

Annex 1: Results framework

Building Back Better in times of Covid-19: COUNTRY RESULTS FRAMEWORK					
Contributes to Result Area 1 and 4 of the SRHR Policy of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Young People and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights					
Impact:	Children and youth are better protected when at risk or victim of sexual exploitation, during and in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic				
Outcomes by 2022	Outputs Indicators	May 2021 to November 2021		Percentage reported	
		Target (plan)	Realised (report)	Report	Comments
Children (in particular victims and those at risk of SEC) are able to access specialised (SRHR) services that protect them, help them rehabilitate, reintegrate and reduce their vulnerability to SEC in the context of Covid-19	# of boy/girl victims rescued from SEC	284	174	61%	
	# of boy/girl SEC victims or at risk accessing specialised services (e.g. shelter, health services, counselling, educational services, legal aid, nutrition, mediation)	4,605	4037	88%	
	# of and descriptions of type of training provided (options of course types: lobby, Child Rights, SEC etc)	62	82	132%	Because of training carried out mostly online, more training sessions were held, and more participants have been able to attend.
	# of boy/girl enrolled for training	1,370	2004	146%	idem
	# of boy/girl who completed the training	1,725	2725	158%	idem
Children and youth are able to advocate for continued SEC prevention and response in the context of Covid-19	# of boys trained on SEC and how to report cases	3,725	1489	40%	
	# girls trained on SEC and how to report cases	4,646	1785	38%	

	# youth trained on SEC and how to report cases	2,754	907	33%	
	# of boys/girls/youth trained to advocate for child rights and protect against SEC	1,793	1520	85%	
	# of boys/girls that have taken action against SEC (e.g. reporting SEC, advocating for SEC prevention, motivating and supporting other children to organise themselves etc)	2,532	490	19%	Training of youth and children to advocate on SEC have been started in the first half of the programme, and the results (i.e. advocacy, and peer support) are expected in 2022. Reporting SEC cases becomes more accessible but remains with strong barriers.
Parents, caregivers, and community leaders are strengthened to provide a protective shield around children against SEC, in the context of Covid-19	# of male/female community members that participated in awareness raising activities	44,833	49161	110%	
	# of child protection committees supported	81	70	86%	
	# of child protection system personnel (e.g government officials, police officers, social workers) trained on SEC including gender	1,535	899	59%	
	# of schools participating in CP strengthening	37	67	181%	The relationship with the Education sector has been very strong in many countries, and therefore the amount of schools participating in CP strengthening has been more than anticipated.
	# of action plans & protocols / advocacy strategies developed by CPS with support from the Alliance	31	9	29%	Action plans & protocols, and advocacy strategies are under development and will be finalised at the start in 2022.
	# of action plans & protocols/ advocacy strategies implemented by CPS with support from the Alliance	26	2	8%	Action plans & protocols, and advocacy strategies are under development and will be implemented in 2022.
	# of male/female family members of child victims/vulnerable children participating in economic support trainings (e.g. micro-enterprises workshops, training on business administration, seed capital)	605	173	29%	
	# of families members of child victims/vulnerable children receiving	277	72	26%	

	financial support from the programme				
Actors in the Child Protection System are strengthened in multi-stakeholder settings to prevent and advocate for SEC, in the context of Covid-19	# of Covid-19 adjusted action plans / protocols at local and national government level	29	1	3%	In 2021 the preparations (incl. research, relationship building, lobbying) for the adjusted actions plans/protocols at local and national level have taken place, the results of which are expected in 2022.
	# of meetings with government and LEA officials	196	109	56%	
	# of government officials and LEA trained	1,234	1218	99%	
	# of policy brief prepared and shared with the government policy makers and relevant stakeholders	33	29	88%	
	# of and frequency of multi-stakeholder meetings on SEC/CP	141	88	62%	
	# of and frequency of instances where decision makers approach other sectors involved in SEC [specify] to request meeting / inputs / information	27	6	22%	After lobby activities, and decision-makers are more aware and trained on issues of SEC, they are expected to approach more and more other sectors involved in SEC.
	# of CPS actors (specify) enrolled in child friendly and gender responsive approaches training	1,396	919	66%	
	# of CPS actors trained on understanding sexual exploitation of male children and effective interventions to address it	263	154	59%	
	# of boy victims supported (define) by CPS actors	204	37	18%	CPS actors are being trained to better support boy victims, therefore the support received by boy victims is slowly growing, and following after the training of CPS actors.
	# of private sector staff trained on SEC	2,178	547	25%	
	# of companies sensitised on SEC	160	106	66%	
# of companies supported in developing an ethical company policy related to SEC	89	97	109%		

Intergovernmental bodies at regional and international level, governments and the private sector prioritise SEC within the wider child protection agenda in building back better during and in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic	# of lobby interventions by Alliance and project partners	32	6	19%	Lobby interventions are being developed, the results of these will come in 2022.
	# of companies sensitised on SEC at international level	115	150	130%	
	# of companies supported in developing an ethical company policy related to SEC at international level	56	52	93%	
	# of CSOs supported in creating lobby & advocacy plans for implementation	33	12	36%	
	# of regional workshop organised by the BBB Alliance	5	4	80%	
	# of meetings where the country experience, data, case studies and analysis on SEC was presented to regional and international actors	14	7	50%	
	# of documents including country experience, data, case studies and analysis on SEC are presented to regional and international actors	19	2	11%	Research, data collection and country experiences are being developed in the first half of the programme, and will be finalised and presented in the second half.
	# of meetings where CSOs participate in sharing their country experience, data, case studies and analysis on SEC	25	8	32%	
	# of L&A tools translated and contextualised for use at regional/national level	8	1	13%	L&A tools are being developed in the first half of the programme, and will be translated at the start of 2022.
	# of CSOs using the translated and contextualised tools in follow-up activities	24	0	0%	As L&A tools are still being finalised, the usage by CSOs in follow-up activities will follow at the end of the programme.

Annex 2: Risk Analysis by the Alliance as part of the BBB proposal (2020)

Risk	Potential adverse impact on programme	Risk level	Risk mitigation approach
Context			
Unknown impact of (unforeseen and rapidly developing) Covid-19 pandemic	Children increasingly vulnerable to SEC; public investment in CPS reduced or nil; reduced staff mobility and staff may contract Covid-19; delays in implementation	High	Regular review of context and security situation as a result of Covid-19 developments. Staff of partners will comply with government Covid-19 measures such as social distancing, working from home, etc. Staff will adapt to online ways of working and adjust their interventions accordingly, using remote support to children such as via text messages, smart phones and radios and ftf meetings in small groups. Partners will pay attention to vulnerabilities of children due to Covid-19 measures by establishing help lines and staying in touch with children via their communities
Political unrest, social unrest due to elections (e.g. Bolivia, Nicaragua, India) or armed/criminal presence and unrest due to Covid-19	Psycho-social stress, insecurity or gender based violence for staff and stakeholders; delays in implementation	High	Security monitoring and adherence to safety and security protocols by partners and their staff. Partners have well informed and trained staff
Continued shrinking civic space for civil society	(serious) delays in implementation; staff and partners under pressure	Low – medium (depending on context)	NGOs continue to abide by national laws and regulations but also liaise with local governments to be able to continue working. Seek EU/NL government diplomatic support in case security of staff or partners is at stake
Natural disasters (floods, hurricanes, etc)	Delayed implementation; psycho-social stress of target groups	Medium	Partners will apply adaptive programming and adjust programming more to the immediate needs of the target group while paying attention to child protection
Less Government collaboration and less focus on CPS due to overwhelming demands on the government caused by the pandemic	This increases the vulnerability of children to SEC due to even further breakdown of CPS and protection services	Medium	The program will shift emphasis towards working with community leaders who will hold local governments accountable and maintain community based child protection systems if government support reduces. The Alliance partners are also working directly with different levels of governments (national, regional, local)
Programme			
Involvement in L&A can increase vulnerability of children to stigma, discrimination and backlash	Children can no longer take part in L&A; children may need extra protection measures	High	Child safeguarding measures are in place; use victims' perspective rather than involving victims directly
(frequent) staff turnover in Law Enforcement Agencies / government agencies	Reduces sustainability of interventions and requires re-investment in training	Medium	Availability of manuals to transfer information; knowledge and skills are embedded within wider Child Protection Systems

Short programme duration coupled with under-execution	Lesser ability to achieve desired impact and limited time to make up for under-expenditure	Low	Timely preparation of programme documents and administration in order to mobilise quickly; realistic planning and budgeting; strict monitoring to be able to quickly adjust timelines; flexibility to re-allocate budgets within the Alliance if there is structural under-expenditure
Impact of Covid-19 on the programmatic commitment, not being able to travel, more/ long term lockdowns and curfews	No direct contact with stakeholders and beneficiaries possible; Decrease of priority for child protection by stakeholders	Medium-High	Make use of experience from 2020 adaptive programming, taking activities online to reach stakeholders and beneficiaries, staff work from home/ online, L&A online
Increased psychosocial stress, health or insecurity for staff and programme stakeholders due to Covid-19 and/or unrest	Staff is not effective or fall ill physically or mentally Programme stakeholders no longer able to implement programme	Medium	Staff's health is monitored and supported to be able to work from home and apply adaptive programming; the Alliance can tap into an extensive network of mental health and psychosocial support services; experienced staff able to work with new staff
Gender inequality at the household level exacerbated; women take the brunt of combining work, household and (child) care when children remain at home	Parents/caregivers, especially mothers, Are less able to provide the necessary care and protection for their children	High	Partners and staff will monitor situation of mothers and girls and remain alert on signs of deterioration in household situation
Risk of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) of children, by local partners/ stakeholders	Children become more vulnerable and lose trust in partners. Partners need to be suspended/ discontinued and possibly replaced	Low	Child safeguarding and integrity training for staff and partners and safeguarding policies are in place and adhered to; If partners are suspended the Alliance can re-allocate funding to other partners in-country and if needed between countries
Organisational			
Disagreements between Alliance members, partners e.g. regarding ways of working, which are unsolvable/ persistent and hamper the programme	Non-alignment and lesser ability to reach joint impact and learn from each other	Low	Alliance has been working together for the last five years and Alliance members have a joint interest in implementing the programme as agreed; MoU is in place / mitigation measures in place to solve conflict between Alliance members
Risk of corruption, bribery, mismanagement, misuse of funds, or fraud by partners	Funds are not used the way they were intended. Situation undermines the programme's achievements and the Alliances' reputation, and need for suspension/ discontinuation of partners	Low	(Long term) partnerships do not give immediate cause for concern; Fraud policies and Code of Conduct in place to investigate any suspicions. Strict monitoring and audits taking place.
Loss of knowledge and discontinuity due to staff- turnover or lack of access to the right information in a timely manner	Alliance staff, coordination and oversight of the programme is less effective	Medium	Good and jointly accessible documentation in place to transfer knowledge easily; Back-up system of staff in place so staff can replace/ step in for each other if needed

Annex 3: Financial Report

As requested in the agreement please find the summary of the financial update for the grant. You see the below information in aggregate

- The income from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The transfer from the Lead (TDH) to the alliance members
- The commitment by the alliance members
- The transfer to the project partners other activities by alliance members
- The actual organisation per alliance member.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY BUILDING BACK BETTER GRANT		Activity Number: 4000004776		Duration 15 May 2021 to 14 May 2022			
BUILDING BACK BETTER PROJECT FINANCIAL STATUS	BBB Alliance	TDH	DCI/ECPAT	Free a Girl	ICCO	PLAN NL	
Budget Per organization	€ 5,000,000	€ 1,334,976	€ 1,141,255	€ 841,255	€ 841,256	€ 841,258	
As per 15 May 2021	€ -						
- Received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (lead organization)	€ 2,500,000	€ 2,500,000					
- Payment sent to Alliance members by lead organization	€ 1,832,512	€ 1,832,512					
- Received from Alliance lead organization in the year	€ 1,832,512	€ -	€ 570,628	€ 420,628	€ 420,628	€ 420,628	
- Interest received this year	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	
TOTAL AMOUNT RECEIVED	€ 2,500,000	€ 667,488	€ 570,628	€ 420,628	€ 420,628	€ 420,628	
1.2 CONTRACT SIGNED/OTHER COMMITMENTS							
- Project Commitment contract signed with partner organization	€ 3,449,175	€ 685,000	€ 852,175	€ 657,000	€ 615,000	€ 640,000	
- Commitments for the direct project activities	€ 856,755	€ 338,000	€ 230,193	€ 118,525	€ 96,252	€ 73,785	
- Commitment for indirect project activities	€ 399,630	€ 253,088		€ 6,842	€ 71,116	€ 68,584	
- Other Commitment related to this project	€ 294,440	€ 58,888	€ 58,888	€ 58,888	€ 58,888	€ 58,888	
TOTAL COMMITMENT	€ 5,000,000	€ 1,334,976	€ 1,141,256	€ 841,255	€ 841,256	€ 841,257	
1.3 TRANSFER TO PARTNERS & OTHER							
- Transfers related to signed contract with partner organization	€ 1,899,236	€ 349,880	€ 432,500	€ 327,856	€ 369,000	€ 420,000	
- Transfers for the direct project activities	€ 262,583	€ 68,662	€ 68,740	€ 60,475	€ 31,589	€ 33,117	
- Transfers for indirect project activities	€ 238,632	€ 126,664	€ 41,083	€ 2,516	€ 67,642	€ 727	
- Transfers other commitment related to this project	€ 147,220	€ 29,444	€ 29,444	€ 29,444	€ 29,444	€ 29,444	
TOTAL TRANSFER	€ 2,547,671	€ 574,650	€ 571,767	€ 420,291	€ 497,675	€ 483,288	
Actual Transfers versus Approved Budget	51%	43%	50%	50%	59%	57%	
1.4 ACTUAL EXPENDITURE							
- Actual Expenditure Partner contracts/country offices	€ 1,206,033	€ 346,011	€ 215,711	€ 246,919	€ 187,766	€ 209,626	
- Actual expenditure direct project costs	€ 215,602	€ 21,681	€ 68,740	€ 60,475	€ 31,589	€ 33,117	
- Actual expenditure indirect project costs	€ 180,012	€ 68,044	€ 41,083	€ 2,516	€ 67,642	€ 727	
- Actual expenditure other commitments	€ -						
- Overhead	€ 147,220	€ 29,444	€ 29,444	€ 29,444	€ 29,444	€ 29,444	
TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	€ 1,748,867	€ 465,180	€ 354,978	€ 339,354	€ 316,441	€ 272,914	
Actual Expenditure versus Approved Budget	35%	35%	31%	40%	38%	32%	
Planned expenditure for December to 15 May 2022	€ 3,251,132	€ 869,795	€ 786,277	€ 501,901	€ 524,815	€ 568,344	