

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors and HIV/AIDS

The relationship between the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and adolescents and the spread of HIV/AIDS is extensive. Poverty, lack of educational and job opportunities, gender-based discrimination, drug abuse and violence are factors that put minors, particularly girls, at risk of becoming victims of sexual exploitation and contracting HIV/AIDS in the process.

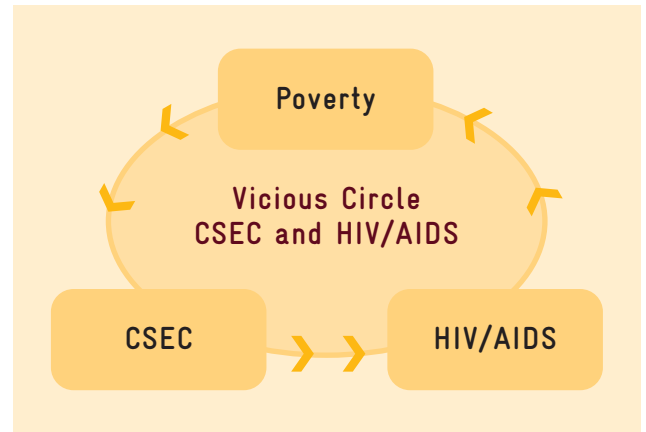
According to UNICEF estimates around one million children and adolescents are forced into commercial sexual exploitation each year. While the majority of them are female, the problem also affects boys. Their dependence on adults makes it difficult for children to defend themselves against sexual exploitation and unprotected intercourse. Some 75 per cent of all HIV infections are transmitted through sexual intercourse.

The risk of contracting HIV is thought to be particularly high among sex workers and drug users. Substance abuse can be both a cause and a consequence of CSEC. Pimps frequently drug the children so they comply with the clients' wishes. However, the children often turn to drugs themselves in an attempt to forget humiliating and painful experiences.

The worldwide HIV epidemic exposes children, above all, to potential exploitation. In sub-Saharan Africa around 12 million AIDS orphans are growing up without the protection and support of their families. To them, prostitution is frequently a way to secure survival for themselves and their younger siblings.

Health implications of CSEC and HIV/AIDS

The physical and mental health of minors who are involved in sexual exploitation suffers above all as a result of the various forms of violence they are



subjected to by their clients. Traumatization is just one consequence that has a sustainable, negative effect on victims' health and health behaviour.

As children and adolescents are often not fully physically developed, acts of sexual violence often cause vaginal and anal injuries that result in a significantly higher risk of infecting both the children and their 'clients' with sexually transmitted diseases including HIV. Their often poor general condition also increases the victims' risk of contracting HIV.

Access to health care and possible AIDS treatment

Victims of CSEC generally have only very limited or nonexistent access to medical care. Discrimination, stigmatisation and also the victims' illegal status are major obstacles to access to public health services. As a result, they fail to undergo urgent health checks and HIV testing and do not receive adequate medical treatment. Sexually transmitted diseases (see above) are also recognised either too late or not at all, and frequently not treated adequately.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors and HIV/AIDS

2



Many children involved have to leave the brothels for health reasons. Non-governmental organisations that offer protection and rehabilitation programmes for CSEC victims are often the only points of contact for victims in search of shelter and medical care. Shame at having been prostitutes and fear of a possible HIV infection and rejection by their families cause many of them not to return to their home towns and villages. If they do decide to return to their families, needed treatment for mental and health problems is often completely neglected. The treatment of young female AIDS victims with antiretroviral drugs remains difficult. Both the limited availability of drugs and the need to keep to a strict therapeutic regime makes it difficult to treat the disease effectively. The successful reintegration of victims in society requires medium and long-term professional psychological support.

Measures required to improve treatment and support for victims of CSEC:

- **Outreach work using peers¹** helps to contact underaged prostitutes in their familiar settings. They receive information on preventive health measures, including HIV/AIDS, and obtain condoms free of charge. If they require medical treatment they are referred to a network of mostly non-profit health centres. Support provided by former prostitutes has turned out to be highly effective.
- **Protection and rehabilitation programmes for victims of CSEC** are offered primarily by local and international non-governmental organisations. These include free shelter, medical and psycho-social care, legal advice and help with reintegrating into society. Free HIV/AIDS tests and vocational training courses are also offered. These programmes are successful in those cases where victims are given time to work through their traumatic experiences.

¹Skilled persons who have certain criteria such as age, sex and social background in common with the target group.

Approaches towards preventing CSEC and HIV/AIDS

Equal opportunities for girls, poverty alleviation, access to primary and secondary education and the prevention of violence are important approaches towards protecting minors from sexual exploitation and the transmission of HIV.

To improve victim support and help combat CSEC, better cooperation is needed between governmental and non-governmental institutions. Positive approaches have been included in public sector programmes for sex workers in Cambodia and Thailand.

If the children are to be given effective access to health care, the programmes must be designed to meet the victims' needs. Children in difficult living conditions can be approached through outreach work and a stronger integration in the village communities.

HIV/AIDS, CSEC, sexual and reproductive health, and violence and health need to be integrated in national action plans in order to enable large-scale preventive and support measures in these areas.

Update 2008


www.gtz.de/nochildabuse

The GTZ convention project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation" is supporting partner countries on behalf of BMZ in implementing the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Further information is available from:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
Health, Education and Social Protection Division,
Convention Project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation"
T +49 (0) 6196-79-1512
F +49 (0) 6196-79-801512
E nochildabuse@gtz.de
I www.gtz.de/nochildabuse





Protection of minors against sexual exploitation

1

themes

According to international estimates, up to two million children and youth worldwide are sexually exploited. The victims are mostly girls, but boys are also affected. They are sold into prostitution or forced to perform other sexual acts. Child pornography, i.e. photographing or filming sexual practices with minors and distributing or showing the results in electronic or printed form, is also a form of sexual exploitation. Children are also trafficked to other regions of the country or abroad to be abused.

For the dealers and everyone else involved in exploitation, these human rights violations are a lucrative business. The children and young people affected are at risk of physical and psychological injury and exclusion from their social environment.

Commercial sexual exploitation of minors – what is it?

Commercial sexual exploitation of minors is a sexual act – usually for money – between a minor and an adult in a position of responsibility, trust or power with respect to the child or young person by virtue of his or her age and development, with the adult deriving sexual pleasure or satisfaction from the act. Youth can also be perpetrators in this kind of relationship with another minor. It is irrelevant whether or not the minor is forced to comply. All sexual acts – for money or otherwise – with children and young people under 18 in one of the relationships described above with the older person constitute a criminal act. Apparently voluntary prostitution of a young person on the street, lack of objection by a child or expressed “agreement” are familiar arguments by perpetrators, but these do not hold up under criminal investigation.

What are the reasons?

Impoverishment and a lack of prospects can lead to the destruction of social networks.

The low social status of children and women, discrimination against specific population groups and a lack of awareness of wrongdoing or taboos result in these crimes being actively committed or tolerated. Armed conflicts and unstable political situations can lead to an increase in the occurrence of sexual exploitation. Another familiar phenomenon is sexual exploitation in tourism.

The limited ability of the police and courts to deal specifically with sexually abused young people – compounded by accusations and repression by the perpetrators – means that the victims often fail to report what has happened. Due to inefficient investigation and police corruption, these criminal acts are often not prosecuted. This leads the perpetrators to believe they are safe.

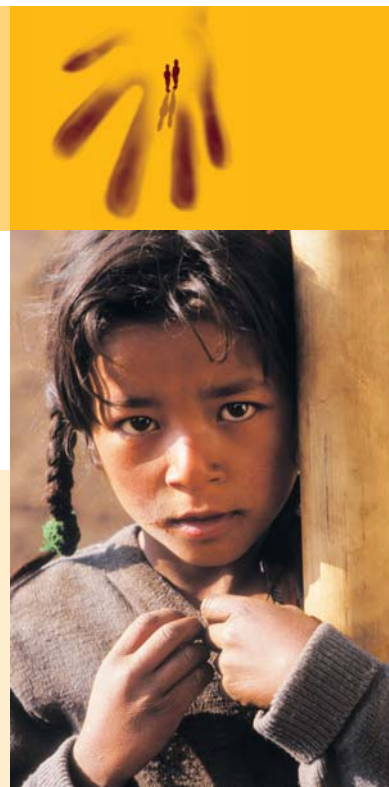
What has to be done to combat sexual exploitation of minors?

Sexual exploitation of minors is a violation of their fundamental rights – the right to physical and emotional integrity, sexual self-determination, and freedom from slavery and similar conditions. The complex causes can only be met with a clear political will and constant attention to the welfare of children.

Protection of minors against sexual exploitation

The international community has committed itself in various agreements to take action against the sexual exploitation of minors, and to initiate extensive measures to prevent these crimes, rehabilitate the victims and prosecute the perpetrators. These agreements include:

- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, with the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
- The Supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children ("Palermo Protocol") to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime
- ILO Convention 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour



At the First World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Stockholm in 1996, the participating states declared their intention to take action against all forms of commercial sexual exploitation of minors. Following the Congress, a number of countries developed national action plans to implement the agreements.

Comprehensive multisectoral strategies to develop measures for the effective protection of children are most likely to be successful. These include:

- Development and amendment of laws ensuring the protection of minors, victim protection and prosecution of perpetrators, including prosecution beyond national borders.
- Extensive information campaigns to reach potential victims and their social environment, the general public and travellers.
- Implementation of economic, cultural and social rights as fundamental human rights and important factors in combating sexual exploitation.
- Creation of a protective environment and strengthening the rights of women, girls and boys.
- Upgrading and awareness-raising among specialists who come into contact with victims or potential victims (e.g. police, healthcare workers, social workers, teachers, judges).
- Promotion of high-quality rehabilitation facilities and psychosocial counselling, improving health and social services.
- Returning those affected to a safe social environment, possibly creating alternative sources of income.
- Informing potential and actual perpetrators about the consequences of their actions.
- Networking of the various institutions at national and international level (data sharing, vention, rehabilitation and prosecution).

Update 2008

www.gtzt.de/nochildabuse

The GTZ convention project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation" is supporting partner countries on behalf of BMZ in implementing the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Further information is available from:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
Health, Education and Social Protection Division,
Convention Project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation"
T +49 (0) 6196-79-1512
F +49 (0) 6196-79-801512
E nochildabuse@gtzt.de
I www.gtzt.de/nochildabuse





Commercial sexual exploitation of children and young people in tourism

According to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), tourism is the world's fastest growing industry. However, new tourist destinations also produce socio-cultural changes, including the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). This includes prostitution, sex tourism, sexual violence, trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, and pornography with minors, i.e. people under 18.

Besides sexual abuse, sexual violence and prostitution, the "rental" of children and young people as "companions" is also widespread in tourism. The majority of those affected are girls and young women, although the number of boys is increasing. However, because of the illegality and covert nature of the crime, no exact data is available.

Sexual exploitation is perpetrated by individuals or by organised groups with various actors (e.g. runners, pimps, hotel owners). Local socio-cultural factors, such as the mistaken belief that sex with 'virgins' is rejuvenating, or prevents or even cures HIV also play a role. The customers, mostly men, come from all over the world. Regional centres of CSEC in tourism are the Mekong region in Asia, the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean, Brazil and southern Africa.

However, the sexual exploitation of minors is no longer limited to long-distance tourism – short weekend trips over local borders (for example from Germany over the Czech border) have made the problem worse. Long-distance, regional and local tourists and business people also use the sex establishments, which in some cases first developed in response to increased tourism. However, children and young people are also sexually exploited on the street. Due to increased demand, the victims are often trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation in the tourist centres, or they head there themselves.

Tourism is not the cause of commercial sexual exploitation of children and young people. However, its structures and services make this possible and facilitate it.

Civil society and the tourist industry – in both the country of origin and the destination country – share responsibility for preventing all forms of sexual exploitation within the structures they create, and for ensuring that the impacts of tourism are socially acceptable.

Cross-border criminal prosecution

In most destination countries, the sexual exploitation of children is a crime. However, the laws, penalties and victim age-limits that determine the punishment of perpetrators vary widely internationally. Pedosexuals in some cases make use of networks and avoid countries with harsher legislation in favour of destinations with less risk of punishment.

For more effective prosecution of sexual offenses against children abroad, Germany has adopted the principle extraterritorial extradition in 1993.

This is incorporated in the German Criminal Code (section 5.8). Accordingly, perpetrators can be prosecuted and punished under German law for criminal acts committed abroad even after their return to the Federal Republic of Germany. While sentencing is done in Germany, evidence must be collected abroad and meet German standards. Unfortunately, corruption and ignorance among the police and judiciary in tourist destinations still often lead to a situation where no charge is made against CSEC, or the evidence is deficient.

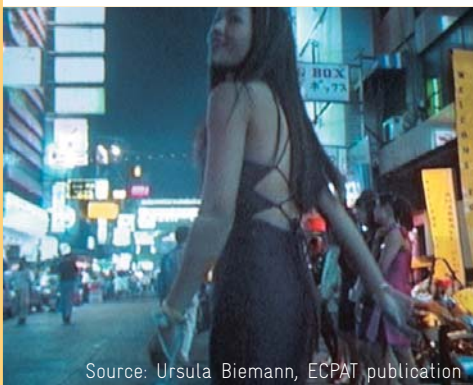
Commercial sexual exploitation of children and young people in tourism



Code of Conduct for the tourism industry

Compliance with children's rights and social standards is a key sustainability goal for ethically acceptable tourism.

The international children's rights organisation ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) developed the "Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism" in 1998 together with the Swedish travel industry. This is supported by UNICEF and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). To date, more than 850 travel companies and travel associations from 32 countries have signed the Code.



Source: Ursula Biemann, ECPAT publication

Signatories of the code of conduct undertake to:

- introduce an ethical corporate philosophy directed against sexual exploitation of children,
- train staff in the country of origin and destination country,
- enter into additional agreements with business contacts stating that sexual exploitation of children will not be tolerated,
- providing travellers and local key persons with information about the code and possible options for action, and
- reporting annually.

In 2001, the tourist industry signed the ECPAT international code of conduct through the Deutscher Reiseverband (DRV – German Travel Association). This agreed measures aimed at actively and sustainably combating the sexual exploitation of children and young people in tourism.

Awareness raising, prevention and education of members of the travel industry, travellers and the local population are important for combating CSEC. In addition, good cooperation between government agencies, embassies, the tourist sector and local civil society is also decisive. Due to the complicated and time-consuming nature of international criminal prosecution, awareness raising and further training for police and judiciary in the destination countries is also very important.

The following websites provide information on the commercial sexual exploitation of children and young people in tourism:

www.gtz.de/nochildabuse
www.child-hood.com
www.world-tourism.org
www.thecode.org
www.ecpat.net
www.ecpat.de
www.tourism-watch.de

Update 2008

www.gtz.de/nochildabuse

The GTZ convention project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation" is supporting partner countries on behalf of BMZ in implementing the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Further information is available from:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
 Health, Education and Social Protection Division,
 Convention Project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation"
 T +49 (0) 6196-79-1512
 F +49 (0) 6196-79-801512
 E nochildabuse@gtz.de
 I www.gtz.de/nochildabuse





Tourism and HIV/AIDS

Tourism as Economic Factor

Tourism is one of the most dynamic and important global branches of the economy, following the petroleum, chemical and automobile industries in rank. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) the daily income of the tourism sector world-wide adds up to around 3 billion US \$. At the same time the yearly growth rate constitutes up to 6 %. While in 1997 613 million international arrivals were registered, by 2007 the figure had already increased to 903 million.

Tourism in Developing Countries

Even though the most favourite tourist destinations are offered by industrial nations, tourism becomes increasingly more important for the economic development of many developing and transition countries. Often one of the most important or the single most important source of foreign currencies, directly or indirectly the tourism sector creates additional (qualified) jobs in the destination countries.

However, the rapid growth in the tourism sector holds risks too. Developing this sector too fast without discernible strategy can swiftly lead to a reduction in what

originally attracted the tourists. External effects like e.g. environmental pollution, urban sprawl, migration, mono-structures or destruction of familiar social structures can induce economic costs that are considerably higher than the income generated through the tourism trade.

Moreover, tourism offers a favourable environment for child labour, trafficking in human beings and commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. These human rights violations are promoted by the concurrence of economic, social and cultural factors. Poverty, a lack in possibilities for gaining income, discrimination of girls and women as well as the local and international demand for sexual services form the basis for a lucrative trade. Quick and easy access to information via the Internet, assumed anonymity and security, increasingly cheaper flights also to exotic destinations as much as the consistently growing tourist infrastructure contribute to the flourishing business of sex tourism. Rising tourist figures are also mirrored in the sex tourism trade. As a consequence the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS increases too. The dissemination of HIV/AIDS illustrates another external factor of tourism.

Excursus: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors

Commercial sexual exploitation of children comprises prostitution, sex tourism, sexual violence, trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation as well as pornography with minors (under 18 years of age). Also common next to sexual abuse, sexual violence and prostitution is the habit of "renting" children and adolescents as "companions".

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is hereby as much cause as effect. On the one hand, HIV/AIDS promotes the demand for even younger children, assuming that these have not yet been infected. Myths like the one that sex with a "virgin" would prevent or even cure a HIV infection also contribute to the rising demand. On the other hand, the dissemination of HIV/AIDS is boosted through the sexual exploitation of children as children and adolescents are especially vulnerable. They often lack access to information and are mostly not able to negotiate the use of condoms. Frequently they are forced to perform sex practices that carry particular risks where they incur injuries. Particularly girls and women are thus exposed to an increased risk of infection. In addition gender-specific discrimination contributes considerably to their endangerment.

Apart from the exploitation in the tourism segment of long-distance travel, children and adolescents are, however, also exploited in the respective neighbouring countries: Perpetrators from Germany or Austria travel to Poland or the Czech Republic; perpetrators from the USA travel to Mexico. The economic divide and insufficient prosecution contribute noticeably to the vulnerability of underage victims.

HIV/AIDS and Tourism

A risk of HIV-infection exists in practically every region of the world. By the end of 2007 there were between 30.6 to 36.1 million people with HIV in the world, about 2.5 million thereof children under 15 years of age, according to the status report 2007 of UNAIDS and the World Health Organization (WHO). 50 per cent of the HIV positive adults are women; their rate is continually growing. Changing sexual partners and increasing mobility favour the worldwide spreading of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Tourists also expose themselves to risks like gamble, drugs or sex. Sexual contacts, commercially as much as non-commercially, can be found in all forms of travel, from package tours to individual tourism.

Travellers buying sex carry a particularly high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS as this is widely spread in many destination countries visited by sex tourists. Female sex workers often have a notably high infection quota: in Africa up to 80 per cent and in some areas of Asia up to 60 per cent.

The strong economic divide between developed and developing countries supports a one-sided exploitation of resources and human beings in tourism. Hotels and other tourist institutions in developing countries often record a very high fluctuation in workforce. Seasonal tourist emergence often entails seasonal migration, also of young women. Unknown environments and non-existent social networks contribute to their increased vulnerability too. Salaries are frequently too low to cover the cost of living. Thus in particular employees in the entertainment sector or room service additionally finance themselves and their families through sex with tourists. If they contract a disease through unprotected sex with infected tourists, the virus is then often also spread within their families. Thus the transmission does not only occur from tourists to locals and other travellers or from locals to guests from abroad but also spreads from tourist regions to other parts of the countries.



Tourist Destinations and HIV/AIDS

Many regions where HIV/AIDS is particularly widespread constitute at the same time favourite long-distance destinations where sex tourism is also common. In some countries like e.g. Thailand or the Philippines the presence of foreign armed forces had already created an infrastructure that was subsequently taken over by the (sex) tourism. Travellers often pay more than local clients, thus the sex industry increasingly solicits foreign customers. Countries, however, whose tourist infrastructure is only slightly developed, generally attract fewer sex tourists. Exceptions are tourists that are looking for sex with minors. They often prefer countries with unsafe general conditions as they do not have to face many sanctions there.

During the last decades the proportion of long-distance travel in tourism has risen. Sex tourism has increased as well. Apart from a continuous spreading in South East Asia now African countries, Latin America, South Asia and Eastern and South East Europe are increasingly affected. More and more North American sex tourists travel to Central America. European sex tourists choose African countries like e.g. the Gambia, Kenya, South Africa or Morocco. In Russia sex tourism is on the rise as well; here it is often street children that are affected too. In Eastern Europe there is an increase in sex tourism into the regions close to the borders and the Black Sea.



Example: Cambodia

With an average per capita gross domestic product of 2,727 US \$ (PPP) Cambodia is one of the poorest countries of Asia. The opening of the country after years of civil war, genocide and dictatorship as well as poverty, lack in education and income possibilities, insufficient prosecution and corruption provides favourable general conditions for prostitution, trafficking in human beings and commercial sexual exploitation of minors. The deployment of peace-keeping troops at the beginning of the 1990s also resulted in a rapid increase in prostitution.

An estimate of about 84,000 people, among them 23,000 women and 5,000 children, has contracted HIV in Cambodia. This corresponds to a rate of 0,9 per cent of all adults (2007). The highest HIV prevalence – 26 per cent – is found with female sex workers (age > 20 years; 2003). Approximately one third of the roughly 100,000 prostitutes in Cambodia are less than 18 years old. Next to locals their customers are also tourists from Thailand, China, Japan, North America, Australia and Europe. Tourism in Cambodia is flourishing. Every year around 2 mio. tourists enter the country.

Sociocultural factors like absolute obedience towards adults, a distinct awareness of hierarchy as well as historic remnants of imperialism contribute to an increased vulnerability in children, in particular towards foreign adults. According to a survey conducted by the Cambodian Ministry of Tourism, the National Council for Children and World Vision 45 per cent of the Cambodian travel agencies declared that they had observed how travel guides had established contact between tourists and children. More than 70 per cent of the children questioned close to the World Heritage Site Angkor Wat stated that tourists had already approached them about sex.

The Cambodian government attempts to counteract sex tourism and HIV/AIDS. In 2007 the Ministry of Tourism with support of the ILO and another organizations presented a plan for combating sexual exploitation of minors in tourism as well as a corresponding training programme. Central non-governmental organizations have joined forces by creating a network. However, after Thailand Cambodia is still the country most affected by the commercial sexual exploitation of minors in the Mekong area.

Countries of Origin and HIV/AIDS

The Federal Republic of Germany is heading the worldwide list of countries whose inhabitants travel most. Next to further industrial nations it is China, Russia and the Republic of Korea that spend most on tourism. Each year two million Germans travel to Asia, Africa or Latin America. Many tourists have sexual contacts with people they have only met during their journey in the country they travel. Frequently these had contact with several partners.

Sex tourists originate from all social classes and age groups, though a disproportionately high number of them are single. It is frequently “older men travelling alone” that have already planned sex before the journey, in particular sex with young girls. Hereby power, favourable prices, but also stereotype images of women play a role. Heterosexual sex tourists tend to romanticize their sexual relationships. They indulge in the belief that what they get involved in is no prostitution but that they help the (usually) women

and girls. Thus though the risk of contracting HIV is underestimated. Female sex tourists have similar motives; however, they represent only a small proportion of the sex tourism trade, despite this often being overrated because of media interest.

Sex tourists often adopt a negative attitude towards condoms. A UNICEF study about sex tourism and sexual exploitation of minors in Kenya came to the conclusion that 35.5 per cent of all sexual contacts take place without condoms. Homosexual men romanticize their contacts less, are more aware of the prostitution character and use condoms more often.

The group of tourists also include persons living with HIV/AIDS. Thus approximately 20 per cent of the roughly 1,2 million HIV-infected people in North America travel abroad every year. Due to their immigration rules and regulations some countries can refuse entry to HIV-infected people, such as the USA, the Russian Federation, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Moldavia or China.

Prevention and Combat

Tourism can contribute to the dissemination of HIV/AIDS and worsen the situation for endangered persons in tourist destination regions. Myths, ignorance, lacking awareness of the problem as well as social stigmas present obstacles for the prevention of HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, the tourism sector tends to experience the topic of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases as curbing the business. Tour operators and travel guides want to avoid painting a negative image of a destination.

However, tourism can also contribute to sensitizing towards and combating HIV/AIDS. Since 1999 tour operators in Germany have been obliged to point out dangers, adequate precautions as well as advisory service in travel medicine. Despite this, most travel guides mention the topic HIV/AIDS and measures for protection against possible infection as a side note only. Self-regulatory mechanisms specific to the sector, HIV/AIDS-programmes for the workplace as well as codes of conduct in the tourism sector offer meaningful starting points for prevention and combat. In 1998 the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), travel businesses and the Children's Rights Organization ECPAT have developed the international Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. Meanwhile more than 850 businesses and associations in more than 32 countries have committed to it. In Germany, Deutscher Reiseverband (DRV) signed the Code in 2001.

Socially acceptable working conditions and salaries in the tourism sector can assist workers in not having to improve their income through prostitution. Moreover, high-risk groups like e.g. room service staff in hotels, professional sex workers and street children need to be enabled to negotiate safe sexual behaviour. In particular the lack of access to information and counselling institutions, which frequently provides a problem, as well as the specific need for protection of children and adolescents have to be taken into account. At the same time it is essential to sharpen the public awareness with regard to the fact that through an HIV-infection partner and children are also at risk. Sufficient supply of condoms and sterile syringes should be guaranteed in all tourist areas.

Prosecution

Sexual exploitation of children and trafficking in human beings call for an extra-territorial legislation that makes it possible for criminal offenders to be judged for offences committed abroad according to local legislation. In Germany, for example, this was introduced in 1993. Implementing it though requires functioning prosecution in destination countries as well as co-operation across the borders. The protection of victims takes on an important role too. Their testimonies often represent the only chance of convicting the offenders. Without sufficient protection, however, this can constitute a high risk for the person concerned. Moreover, the people concerned should receive the possibility of gender- and age-based access to extensive rehabilitation measures.

Update 2008

www.gtzt.de/nochildabuse

Further information is available from:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
Convention Project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation"

T +49 (0) 6196-79-1512

F +49 (0) 6196-79-801512

E nochildabuse@gtzt.de

I www.gtzt.de/nochildabuse

Sector Project

"Tourism and Sustainable Development"

T +49 (0) 6196-79-1314

F +49 (0) 6196-79-801314

E Burghard.Rauschelbach@gtzt.de

I www.gtzt.de/tourismus





Sensitizing the Tourism Industry to Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism

The Context

In the Balkan states, commercial sexual exploitation of children is a serious problem facing many of the countries badly hit by the fall-out of economic restructuring, social dislocation and conflict. The causes of commercial sexual exploitation of children are complex and involve many interrelated factors. Poverty, lack of education, family breakdown, crime and corruption, gender discrimination, and a desperate search for a better life make children and their families more vulnerable for exploitation in many ways; these factors contribute to the growing commercial sex business and the trafficking in young women and children. Albania and Montenegro are countries of origin and transit for trafficking in human beings. Especially women and girls are trafficked for sexual exploitation, both across the countries and abroad, preferably to Western Europe.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

The term commercial sexual exploitation of children (or CSEC) is used to describe the various activities that exploit children for their commercial value including child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking in children for sexual purposes. The term implies that the child is not only sexually abused but that there is a profit arising from the transaction - in cash or kind - where the child is considered to be a sexual and commercial object.

The growth in tourism, alongside other factors, has led to the expansion of the leisure infrastructure. This in turn has unintentionally contributed to the growth in prostitution and trafficking in human beings. The protection of children and adolescents against CSEC is a difficult task; no single stakeholder, whether it is the government, a non governmental- organization or an international agency, can face the problem on its own. Against this background, non-governmental and governmental organizations support the tourism business in meeting these challenges, developing effective preventive measures and sensitizing the duty bearers in the tourism industry to CSEC.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE¹ Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEAA) initiated the project "Public-Private Co-operation in the Prevention of Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Minors in Travel

and Tourism in Albania and Montenegro" as part of the regional Anti-Trafficking Programme on Public-Private Cooperation in the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings. The project was established to sensitize the tourism sector and business community on how they could contribute to combating trafficking and sexual exploitation. OSCE introduced the international "Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism" (CC) to Southeast Europe as a preventive tool against CSEC. The Convention Project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation" (GTZ) funded the project from 2005 to 2007.

¹ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The Objective

The public-private partnership approach aims to sensitize the local tourism industry to CSEC, trafficking in human beings and the CC, in order to help prevent commercial sexual crimes against minors and enhance social responsibility and standards within the private sector. Activities mainly focused on the adoption of the CC in Montenegro and Albania through establishing communication and cooperation among non-traditional partners, such as the Ministries of Tourism and Ministries of Interiors, NGOs and tourism enterprises as well as a monitoring committee comprised of stakeholders from the tourism industry, governmental institutions and civil society. In support of this process, this fact sheet highlights experiences from Montenegro and Albania on how the tourism business can contribute to the prevention of CSEC.

In 1998, the NGO ECPAT² Sweden initiated the development of the "Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism" (CC). The CC is a voluntary self-regulating mechanism to promote socially responsible tourism through a set of six criteria. They call for the establishment of an ethical policy regarding sexual exploitation of children in tourism, continuous training of staff and the provision of information on the issue. Hotels and other partners sign to monitor and report on the CC implementation. The main message is that sexual exploitation of children is not acceptable and that the implementation of the CC can strengthen the efforts of government and civil society to combat the problem. To date more than 850 enterprises, tour operators and hotels have signed the CC.

² End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography, and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes



Why Addressing the Tourism Industry?

The GTZ-supported project is based on the observation that CSEC and tourism are closely related. The commercial sexual exploitation of children has paralleled the growth of tourism in many parts of the world. Tourism is certainly not the sole cause of the problem; however, the business provides potential abusers with anonymity and an environment conducive to seeking out susceptible children. The tourism industry has a responsibility to protect children and can respond to CSEC through establishing social standards as part of its corporate social responsibility (e.g. through a code of conduct). Children's rights are an integral part of social standards and a prerequisite for substantial targets of responsible sustainability, also in tourism. From the business viewpoint, a code of conduct can provide industry members with a voluntary and more flexible approach to addressing certain societal concerns and provide guidance on how industry could take corporate social responsibility. The broad public outreach of the tourism industry provides the opportunity for greater awareness raising of the problem and its potential solutions.

The Project Approaches

The OSCE representatives in Montenegro and Albania are the lead facilitators to promote the adoption and implementation of the CC in these countries. In the process, the main challenge is to achieve long-term sustainable behavioural change towards the problem and a sense of responsibility among the stakeholders. Different approaches have been employed in the project and have been combined to identify targets including:

Ownership

Supporting governmental ownership is a fundamental element in fostering inter-sectoral cooperation and financial resources.

In Montenegro, the tourism industry is seen as the main source of economic development. Therefore it was important to have the highest tourism authority, the Ministry of Tourism, on board as the main counterpart in the project. The positive result was that governmental ownership and commitment generated surprisingly broad interest among tourism stakeholders throughout the country.

Access to Information

Information on CSEC and trafficking in both countries is limited and while e.g. trafficking in children is viewed as a problem, the civil society does not appear to be sufficiently informed about the issue on a large scale. Producing information material with a wide distribution can help sensitizing the public to the specific issue. The stakeholders in Montenegro and Albania respectively developed promotional material including posters and flyers providing specific contact numbers for assistance and distributed them at tourism enterprises, schools,

public buildings and as well as border crossing points. Individuals entering Montenegro and Albania are informed about the national laws on child exploitation and are reminded of the commitment of the government against CSEC.

Capacity Development

The development of training modules and training material (manuals, guidelines etc.) on the CC implementation constitutes a range of essential tools for the ongoing capacity development process for the sustainable response to CSEC.

The lead facilitators provided training sessions for tourism representatives in each country in order to encourage the industry to discuss the situation from the perspective of the private sector. The aim was to impart the industry's responsibilities and to ensure they had the understanding and necessary local contacts, among law enforcement and civil society, to respond appropriately to a CSEC situation. Further trainings were related to possible development of a regional approach to sexual exploitation and trafficking and international standards on the rights of the children among others complementing the CC.



Source: OSCE

Monitoring

The Code of Conduct and global Code Secretariat obliges Code signatories to annually monitor and report on their activities. Such an annual review forms an important basis for systematic learning and are essential to monitor the effectiveness of the CC. A local monitoring mechanism is essential to ensure multi-sectoral participation and continued commitment to the process.

In Montenegro and Albania, respective national multi-stakeholder Monitoring Committees have been established and tasked with continued promotion of the CC and ensuring stakeholders and signatories remain active in the process. Each Committee is chaired by a tourism

business representative (e.g. a tourism association). The initial task of each Committee was to develop a Plan of Action to guide the structured promotion and implementation of the CC. An important task in Montenegro was to continuing lobbying among government agencies, industry and other stakeholders to expand the implementation of the CC as well as awareness of CSEC among society. Such efforts in Montenegro have resulted in an agreement between the Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Education to bring information to the public schools and students. The committee as a multi-disciplinary and self-regulating mechanism, can also help bring transparency and sustainability to responses to CSEC.

Impacts and Lessons Learned

The promotional and lobbying process for the Code in **Montenegro** concluded with the signing ceremony of the CC, highlighting the positive results of the GTZ supported phase I of the project. In September 2006, the CC was signed by an extraordinary number of 288 tourism companies. This large commitment was due to strong governmental commitment and the “door to door” contact by the National Steering-Monitoring Committee to explain the value of the CC to individual tourism stakeholders who had not participated in the round tables and training sessions. This communication strategy turned out to be highly effective, yet underscores the time-consuming process and resource commitment necessary for proper CC implementation.

In **Albania**, initial consultations resulted in drafting of a Code of Ethics for Albanian Tourism Service Providers, based upon the UNWTO Code of Ethics and local interest to address other issues impacting the tourism sector. The CC is an integral part of the Code of Ethics, and industry stakeholders have expressed support for both.

Where as Montenegro benefited from the strong government ownership led by the Ministry of Tourism in cooperation with the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, the Albanian tourism authority was initially hesitant to promote the Code process. Post election changes to government structures postponed project activities to early 2007. The success in Montenegro serve, in part, to initiate a regional dynamic leading to more interest and commitment in Albania. This suggests that transnational regional exchange of experiences with the CC implementation is of importance in developing national responses to CSEC.

In February 2007, the Albanian Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports and the Ministry of the Interior signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the OSCE Presence on promoting the CC in cooperation with GTZ Albania, UNICEF Albania, and EDEM/ USAID³. The MoU

paved the way for establishing a Monitoring Board of Ethics in Tourism to assist in the organization of training sessions for potential CC signatories and production of awareness-raising and training material. A unique and substantive component of the Code implementation in Albania has been the ability to recognize the value of the CC in the national legislation regulating the tourism industry. Twenty two tour and hotel operators signed the CC during the signing ceremony in November 2007. The signing was accompanied by a national awareness campaign and the preparation of training material.

³ United States Agency for International Development

A key element of the project was the move towards institutional development, which included the provision of technical support to the Ministry of Tourism and the establishment of a Monitoring Committee in each country to strengthen capacity in the areas of action plan development, strategic planning and implementation. The support of government clearly strengthened the political awareness of the issue of sexual exploitation of minors in tourism as well as facilitated first steps towards inter-ministerial co-operation and increased commitment on the side of the private industry.

Signing the CC is only the first formal step to prevent sexual exploitation of children in tourism, but does not imply long-term commitment and behavioural change. To push for full implementation, the OSCE continues its efforts in both countries to ensure:

- organization of the signing ceremony in Albania
- continued support to monitoring committees in action plans implementation
- training for all CC signatories on CC implementation
- training on identifying cases of CSEC (in co-operation with anti-trafficking units, NGOs and UNICEF) and law enforcement activities
- exchange field visits for tourism stakeholders to other implementing countries.

At this stage, it is too early to evaluate the CC promotion measures in Montenegro and Albania, as activities in the industry have just started. It can be assumed that the project contributed to an increased awareness regarding the problem of trafficking, CSEC and the CC. However, in order to achieve a measurable change in public awareness, a long-term research design is necessary.

Perspectives

On international level, the awareness in the tourism industry is slowly changing, e.g. tourists report more cases of CSEC, which indicates an increased awareness of the problem. But nonetheless, there are not enough tourists being informed and appropriately sensitized, because the issue is not yet presented outright enough through the tourism business.

Essential Elements For Successful CC Implementation:

- A lead agency or co-ordination mechanism resulting in an institutionalized national monitoring committee,
- Political commitment and support of the highest tourism authority (e.g. Ministry of Tourism),
- Inter-governmental and cross-institutional co-operation, especially among ministries, child protection organizations, anti-trafficking agencies and law enforcement,
- Local tourism industry commitment and co-operation with foreign signatories and operators to recognize the business value,
- Regular information for the public and for tourism stakeholders on the issue and risks of CSEC to achieve sustainable awareness and behavioural change,
- Long-term funding mechanism for CC sustainability.

The code of conduct, being one instrument to respond to CSEC, is only achievable through long-term efforts. The impact of the CC is limited if implemented alone – it must be coupled with other prevention and child protection efforts, such as awareness raising and education in schools and increased law enforcement.



**We protect
children from
sex tourism.**

Update 2008

www.gtzt.de/nochildabuse

The GTZ convention project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation" is supporting partner countries on behalf of BMZ in implementing the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Further information is available from:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
Health, Education and Social Protection Division,
Convention Project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation"
T +49 (0) 6196-79-1512
F +49 (0) 6196-79-801512
E nochildabuse@gtzt.de
I www.gtzt.de/nochildabuse



Commercial sexual exploitation of minors in Cambodia

1

Population:	c. 14,2 million
Proportion below 15:	37,6%
GDP per capita (US\$ PPP):	2.727
Human Development Index Rank:	131 (of 177)
Gender-related Development Index Rank:	114 (of 177)
Illiteracy rate (15+):	26,4%
Primary school attendance:	99%
further schooling:	24%
Tourist arrivals (2007):	2 million



The Mekong Region is one of the world's main areas of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). Cambodia ranks second behind the regional centre Thailand. CSEC has been widely known here since the start of the 1990s.

Extent and forms

The data are based on a limited number of studies and estimates by various organisations. According to UNICEF figures, one third of all 80,000–100,000 prostitutes in Cambodia are under 18. The main regions for child prostitution are Siem Riep, Sihanoukville, Phnom Penh and the provinces bordering on Thailand and Viet Nam. There has also been a sharp increase in the production, dissemination and use of child pornography, particularly over the internet and cell phones.

This primarily affects girls. They come from poor rural regions and urban slums, and are usually between 12 and 17. Young male sex workers are often street children working on their own account. The “clients” are Cambodians and pedosexuals from Thailand, China, Japan, Korea, USA and Europe.

Traffic in children is primarily domestic. Cambodia is, however, also a country of origin, transit and destination for international traffic. One third of the girls comes from Viet Nam and China. Very young Cambodian girls are primarily traded to Thailand. Other destinations include Hong Kong, Malaysia, Japan, the USA, Europe and South Africa. Relatives and friends are often involved in trafficking.

Causes and context

Cambodia is currently one of the poorest countries in Asia. Many families have virtually no sources of income. This encourages the “sale” or “rental” of children, often the oldest daughter.

After the Khmer Rouge dictatorship, prostitution flourished again during the civil war in the 1980s. The stationing of some 22,000 UN peacekeepers at the start of the 1990s led to a rapid increase in prostitution, primarily of girls. One of the results of this was a rapid dissemination of HIV/AIDS in Cambodia. Particular risk factors for CSEC today are a lack of education and ignorance of the situation, destruction of family structures by war, experienced violence (including sexual violence) in families, and gender-specific discrimination. The widespread belief that sex with “virgins” has a rejuvenating effect and cures HIV infections is also having a devastating effect.

The corruption that prevails in the country is making criminal investigation considerably more complicated. The officials themselves are often involved in sexual exploitation.

Commercial sexual exploitation of minors in Cambodia

National measures to combat the problem

Cambodia ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1992), the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2002), the Palermo Protocol against trafficking to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2005) and the ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour in 2006. The new Cambodian law extended the penal provisions against trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and children, but implementation is not very effective. The convictions against pedo-sexuals are decreasing, for reasons including a lack of protection for victims, lack of evidence and corruption.

The National Plan of Action on Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation (2006-2010) includes measures for prevention, victim protection, rehabilitation and return programmes.

Women's and children's rights organizations are key actors. There are various coalitions to protect children from CSEC such as COSECAM, ECPAT Cambodia and Chab Dai.

Their activities include PR, psychosocial counselling, maintaining refuges and programmes for the economic and social reintegration of victims.



Examples of approaches to prevention and rehabilitation

- The Government and international organisations implemented a legal reinforcement project involving national upgrading measures for police and court employees, establishing a hotline and TV commercials.
- The Cambodian Women Crisis Centre also offers refuge to minors who are victims of sexual exploitation, providing health care, life skills training and counselling.
- The NGO Social Service of Cambodia is developing a training programme for social workers to counsel victims.

Internationale cooperation

The Government has signed a cooperation agreement with Thailand and Viet Nam on criminal prosecution and the return of trafficking victims. Every month, 400-500 children are returned to Cambodia from Thailand and Viet Nam with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and NGOs. In 2004, Cambodia signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* with the other five states in the Mekong Region, establishing a framework for regional cooperation in combating human trafficking through criminal prosecution, border controls, victim protection and return.

Information on CSEC in Cambodia is available on the following web sites: www.ecpat.net, www.child-hood.com, www.humantrafficking.org, www.no-trafficking.org

Update 2008

www.gtzt.de/nochildabuse

The GTZ convention project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation" is supporting partner countries on behalf of BMZ in implementing the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Further information is available from:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
Health, Education and Social Protection Division,
Convention Project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation"
T +49 (0) 6196-79-1512
F +49 (0) 6196-79-801512
E nochildabuse@gtz.de
I www.gtzt.de/nochildabuse





Social Services of Cambodia

Basic Social Work Training

Lessons learned

Gender-based Violence and Widespread Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Cambodia

Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in Asia. Its recent history is shaped by 30 years of conflict and social breakdown. Today its post-conflict society is attempting to rebuild institutions at family, community and national levels.

Violence is widespread among a generation that grew up during civil war, without parents or in disrupted families, thus lacking a clear code of behaviour. Women and girls continue to have a subordinate status relative to men and boys, but gender-based violence has become more common in Cambodia and ranges from sexual harassment, domestic violence or intimate partner violence to rape, commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking of women and children. Even though the awareness of gender-related violence and the protection of children's rights have increased, a huge gap exists between officially signed conventions and new laws and the day to day behavior of people.

The Mekong Region is one of the world's main areas of commercial sexual exploitation of children. Cambodia ranks second behind the regional centre Thailand. Poverty and violence lead many children (girls and boys) into the sex trade, especially those from rural regions and urban slums. Because of their high vulnerability, sex-trafficked and exploited women, girls and boys face especially high risk of sexually transmitted infections like HIV.

No Social Work Training System

Cambodia has no established social work training system. Numerous non-governmental organizations provide a patchwork of services like shelters, legal aid and counseling to women and children who have been subjected to violence and/or commercial sexual exploitation. The demand for professional social workers by far outstrips the availability of adequately trained staff. The skills

deficit of the service providers is often addressed with short, one-off courses, mostly conducted by experts unfamiliar with the Cambodian sociocultural context and unable to take local beliefs, values and learning styles into account.

Building Capacities of Local NGOs through High Quality Training of Social Workers and Training of Trainers

In response to the lack of quality training for social workers and with support from GTZ, in 2004 Social Services of Cambodia (SSC), an NGO delivering social services and training in Cambodia since 1992, established the Training Center for Counselors and Social Workers. The goal of the Training Center is to improve the support for women and children affected by gender-based violence, including commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking; it aims to achieve this by strengthening the social work and counseling skills of staff of NGOs providing direct service delivery and support to them.

Social Services of Cambodia offers a high quality basic social work and counseling course of 30 days, delivered five days per month for six months, with intervals of application and self-learning phases. The course promotes a client-centred approach to social support and counseling where the social workers and their clients meet on a level of being human beings of equal value. It also puts emphasis on challenging the social worker's traditional, culturally embedded patterns and beliefs about gender, violence and approaches to helping. Participants learn how to use active listening, effective responding, and other case management tools that help their clients to find a way to achieve a good-enough life. The social worker develops an understanding of the clients' situation and helps her to explore possible strategies and solutions. In this aspect, the course breaks with a traditional approach to helping where victims come to service providers in order to request help and receive advice from the workers.

Training Course Content - Basic:

1) Knowing Yourself

A social worker's main tool is him- or herself and the relationship s/he can create with the client(s). Therefore a social worker must learn to understand his or her own thoughts, attitudes, values, feelings and behaviour and how s/he came to be the way s/he is. This session includes intensive self-reflection in order to get to know yourself better.

2) Getting to Know Your Client: Basic Counseling Skills and Attitudes That Are Necessary to Build a Relationship with Your Client and Jointly Explore Her Situation

Developing empathy; developing awareness of our own value judgements and their impact on our work with the client; active listening; observation of behaviour and body language; how to respond to your client.

3) Getting to Know your Client: Understanding the Situations of Clients Who Suffer Domestic Violence, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation

Explore the causes of those situations; the impact on clients, families and the community; clients' needs and ways to support clients' recovery.

4) Problem Solving - Helping the Client to Make Decisions

Working with the client to increase the client's and the social worker's understanding of her situation. Identifying the areas in the client's life that she wants to change and helping her find solutions for her problems or coping strategies to improve her life.

5) Case Management Skills

Methods to plan your work with the client to ensure you work systematically and pay attention to all the important aspects of the client's life. It includes learning about the 'Steps in Social Work' from when you first meet the client to when you finish your work with her; case planning; case presentation; referral and collaboration with other professionals; client advocacy and empowerment; confidentiality.

6) The Overall Purposes, Function, Role and Ethics of a Social Worker

The clients' rights to confidentiality and self-determination (making their own decisions about their lives), and an exploration of the values we hold as professionals working to help vulnerable people.



Source: Jo Wan



An additional intermediate course programme combines classroom skills development with the preparation of a case study and fieldwork supervision. It also includes legal issues, so that social workers can provide their clients with better information about their legal rights. In total, the face-to-face time with trainers amounts to 17 days per trainee over a period of 5 months.

The training of trainers - which takes approximately 18 months to 2 years - is based on the same principles as the basic training course. As there is neither a pool of experienced social workers nor one of social worker trainers to draw from, all applicants are assessed on the basis of their potential, their attitude to learning and their disposition to personal change. The trainers are essentially trained to be both social workers and social work trainers to give them credibility as well as professional experience to draw upon. Training and social work practice - 2 weeks per month each - are ongoing; however, the most significant investment is made in the first year, which the trainers spend in apprenticeship and during which they do not contribute training outputs.

Impacts and Lessons Learned

267 social workers from 65 NGOs have been trained through Social Services of Cambodia as of the end of 2008. The final beneficiaries of the course are the girls and women that have received qualitatively better services due to the increased technical capacities of NGOs.

Reflecting on cultural patterns where women and girls are subordinate to men helped trainees to develop an understanding of the social, cultural and economic context of gender-based violence. A better understanding of the reasons for gender-based violence assures that people working with the victims do not reinforce blame towards them or inflict further harm through a wrong judgement of their situation. However, traditional behaviour and deeply rooted attitudes do not change overnight and an initial open-mindedness of participants has been a precondition for the success of the project. But once social workers embraced the new approach

towards gender-based violence, they were able to pass their learning on to their workplaces and become agents of change in their own organizations, sometimes against initial resistance. Those who finished the course were keen to continue learning and to reflect on setting the new tools in practice with feedback from their peers. An Alumni Association was formed in 2007, allowing the trainees of the Centre to meet quarterly to exchange experiences, maintain their relationships, and have the opportunity for further training.

Training materials have been continuously revised and improved and trainers were encouraged to contribute to the design of the course. Because all the trainers are also practitioners, they have a profound knowledge of the situation in the field and the everyday challenges of the social workers, which allowed them to enrich theory with their own practical experiences. During their preparation as social work trainers, the Social Services of Cambodia trainers went through an important personal process in which they learned to trust their own judgements. In the end, this increased ownership and identification of the trainers with the new tools. Rather than using pre-described, ready-made courses for social workers from other contexts, the training materials were specifically adapted to the sociocultural context of Cambodia. All the training material is in Khmer, the language of the people providing and receiving social services.

The staff of NGOs that participated in the courses contributed to its monitoring through ongoing feedback. Trainees have been asked to evaluate the instruction they received and not to accept their trainers as untouchable superior authorities. In this way, the course initiated a process of mutual learning and dialogue between trainers and trainees, which was crucial in achieving a change in mentality and breaking with traditional beliefs. The importance of this participatory approach cannot be overestimated in a society where authorities are often not questioned and leadership lacks accountability.



An external evaluation of the course that has been undertaken in 2007 draws a positive result of the piloting phase of the project, whose primary goal was to develop a model course including culturally adapted teaching materials and manuals as well as a pool of trained trainers. The courses have been important entry points for the empowerment of women and girls who have been subjected to gender-based violence and, indirectly, to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS in Cambodia. They are highly appreciated among a network of legal, social and human rights organizations working in the field of gender-based violence. This can be seen not only in a positive feedback but also in the fact that demand from other NGOs by far outstrips available places.

Social Services of Cambodia offers the only high-quality course of its kind in Cambodia. It sets quality standards for other training courses and serves as a model for the Ministry of Social Affairs that also offers training courses,

which are, however, not specifically aimed at gender-based violence. While the development of the course has been concluded successfully, the challenge of the second phase of the project will be to increase the supply of courses without reducing its quality. The evaluation recommends an expansion and eventually a broadening of the courses to a wider range of settings where social workers are engaged in work with vulnerable people.

The experiences of Social Services of Cambodia can inspire social work of other organizations not only in Cambodia but also in other countries where gender-based violence such as commercial sexual exploitation of children is conditioned by an inferior situation of women and girls relative to men and boys, and where sociocultural issues have to be addressed in order to defend the rights of the victims. A further exchange of experiences would stimulate and sustain innovation in the field of social work and gender-based violence.

Update 2008

www.gtz.de/nochildabuse

The GTZ convention project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation" is supporting partner countries on behalf of BMZ in implementing the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Further information is available from:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
Health, Education and Social Protection Division,
Convention Project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation"
T +49 (0) 6196-79-1512
F +49 (0) 6196-79-801512
E nochildabuse@gtz.de
I www.gtz.de/nochildabuse



Commercial sexual exploitation of minors in Viet Nam

Population:	c. 85 million
Proportion below 15:	29,6%
GDP per capita (US\$ PPP):	3,071
Human Development Index Rank:	105 (of 177)
Gender-related Development Index Rank:	91 (of 177)
Illiteracy rate (15+):	9,7%
Primary school attendance:	88%
further schooling:	69%
Tourist arrivals (2006):	c. 3,6 million



The Mekong region is one of the world's main areas of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). CSEC is increasingly spreading from Thailand as the regional centre into neighbouring countries. The problem is rapidly growing in Viet Nam.

Extent and forms

Various researches and surveys that have been conducted by government agencies show that commercial sexual exploitation of children is on the rise. While it is difficult to estimate the exact number of Vietnamese children being trafficked, certain trends can be identified. It is estimated that thousands of Vietnamese children are trafficked both within and outside the country's borders every year. Due to the illicit nature of the business, very little is known about the phenomena. Child pornography is also growing rapidly, although there is still virtually no data on this.

Child prostitution affects almost exclusively girls. It is more widespread in the south of the country than the north, and the girls also tend to be younger in the south. The centres are Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, and the coastal regions in the north where tourism is increasing rapidly. The main customers are Vietnamese and Chinese, but the number of other foreigners is growing.

Viet Nam is a country of origin, transit and destination for the traffic in children. Girls are trafficked in the

country itself and also to Cambodia and China mainly for illegal marriage or for prostitution. Often, relatives and friends are involved. Women, girls and boys are trafficked to destinations including Europe, the USA (including for adoption) and other Asian countries.

Causes and context

In former North Viet Nam, prostitution was socially frowned on, prohibited and virtually non-existent, while it was clearly visible in the south. Urbanisation and migration as a result of the transition to a market economy are today fuelling the growth in (child) prostitution, although it is still generally prohibited, also for adults. Despite economic growth, the gap between rich and poor is growing. In rural areas in particular this is encouraging the exploitation of children, while at the same time the demand for sex with girls is rising, for instance from business people.

Other risk factors are the lack of education and unawareness of child trafficking, experience of violence (including sexual violence) in families, and gender-specific discrimination. Some traditions are particularly harmful, such as the "deflowering" of girls in the Chinese new year celebrations.

Organised crime and corruption are playing a growing role in CSEC, and officials are often involved in child trafficking or are themselves customers.

Commercial sexual exploitation of minors in Viet Nam

National measures to combat CSEC

Viet Nam has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the ILO Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. The government is taking the problem seriously, but the struggle is still in its infancy.

The criminal code prohibits prostitution, sexual abuse of children, child prostitution, rape, child pornography and trafficking in children. However, prosecution is still inadequate, and there is a lack of effective co-operation between the agencies responsible. To date, there is no uniform definition of human and child trafficking.

The 2004-2010 National Action Plan for the Protection of Children in Special Circumstances provides, among other things, for further training for police and court employees in prosecution and in dealing with victims, and awareness raising measures for the general population through radio and TV spots.

The 2004-2010 National Action Plan against Human Trafficking includes measures to develop uniform legal standards and administrative guidelines; the coordination of the work of border police, criminal police, courts, social workers, women's and youth organisations; and awareness raising campaigns at local community level and in tourism.



Examples of approaches to prevention and rehabilitation

- At province and local community level in the south of the country, employees from the social services, courts and police are being given further training in cooperation with UNICEF and the Union of Women.
- The Committee for Population, Family, and Children is implementing in cooperation with other organizations in Hanoi a project to sensitize the general public and to provide psychosocial counselling for victims of sexual exploitation.
- The International Organisation for Migration is carrying out a return programme for girls in cooperation with the Vietnamese Union of Women.
- The government has created a legal handbook for prosecutors and judges working on law enforcement in human trafficking.

International cooperation

In 2004, Viet Nam signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the five other nations in the Mekong region, establishing a framework for regional cooperation in combating human trafficking through criminal prosecution, border controls, victim protection and return/reintegration. There are also bilateral cooperation agreements with other Asian and European governments which, among other things, make possible prosecution of sex tourists.

The following web sites provide information on CSEC in Viet Nam: www.ecpat.net, www.child-hood.com, www.humantrafficking.org, www.no-trafficking.org

Update 2008

www.gtz.de/nochildabuse

The GTZ convention project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation" is supporting partner countries on behalf of BMZ in implementing the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Further information is available from:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
Health, Education and Social Protection Division,
Convention Project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation"
T +49 (0) 6196-79-1512
F +49 (0) 6196-79-801512
E nochildabuse@gtz.de
I www.gtz.de/nochildabuse





Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors in Guatemala

Population	about 12.7 million
Children under 15 years of age	43.1 %
GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	4.568
Human development index rank	118 (of 177)
Gender-related development index rank:	104 (of 177)
Illiteracy rate (15+):	30,9 %
Primary school attendance:	94 %
Further schooling:	34 %
Tourist arrivals (2005)	about 1 million



Extent and Shape

In Central America the number of minors affected by commercial sexual exploitation of minors is constantly rising, at the national as much as at the regional level.

Government sources estimate the number of underage victims at more than 15.000. Persons concerned are above all girls between 15 and 18 years of age, but increasingly also boys. About 50 % of the children and adolescents originate from bordering countries like El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. They migrate from their neighbouring countries, either because they are looking for paid work or because they are being recruited and trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation by organized networks. They finally arrive in brothels and nightclubs, in particular in Guatemala City, but also in harbours and border towns where they are exploited. Many of the Guatemalan adolescents belong to the indigenous rural population and often have lost their families because of the 36 years of civil war in their country.

In Guatemala, pornographic material with children is produced, used and distributed nationally and internationally.

Causes and Background

After decades of civil war and accompanying manifold human rights violations - especially with regard to the indigenous population - Guatemala's society is deeply divided and highly traumatized. Continuing economic and social injustice between the indigenous and the "white" classes of population cause a high amount of social and gender-specific violence. Due to the "machismo culture" discrimination and social exclusion of women and girls are everyday occurrences; murders of women and rapes of girls as initiation rites of boy gangs constitute part of the common, though rarely prosecuted crimes. At present only about 10 % of the committed crimes in Guatemala are cleared up: according to a local daily paper every seventh child out of ten is being physically abused. In this social climate, characterized by violence, the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents represents only another offence that is directly connected to the organized crime and the routes of drug dealing and trafficking in human beings, leading from Central America into the USA.



National Activities Combating the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors

National Action Plan

In 2001, the National Action Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors has been adopted. It is effective until 2010 and schedules activities in the areas of prevention, prosecution and victim support. A group of state institutions, children's rights organizations and multilateral donors has been significantly involved in developing the Action Plan. Unfortunately there is no public budget available for its implementation. Even though Guatemala has already signed the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Pornography and Child Prostitution in 2002, the Guatemalan criminal code shows gaps with regard to definition and extent of offences of sexual exploitation of minors. The Legal Initiative 2630 for defining the various elements of the crime of commercial sexual exploitation of minors has been in existence since 2004 and so far has not been passed by the Congress.

Promotion of Training and Further Education of Skilled Personnel in Guatemala

Our Partners

In Guatemala, the Convention Project co-operates with various partner organizations. One of them is the Guatemala office of the NGO "End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT)". Already in 2004 ECPAT Guatemala has started developing further education material for police staff.

In 2006 and 2007, the GTZ Convention Project supported ECPAT in implementing a course on the commercial sexual exploitation of minors aimed at members of the police force and migration authorities and a course on the same subject for the prosecutors and assistant prosecutors of the public prosecution service.

Both training courses, arranged in modules, were designed at improving the investigation and protection of the victims of commercial sexual exploitation, with a special emphasis on preventing revictimisation. According to recent studies, neither the police, nor the migration authorities and the judiciary are much aware of the complexity of the problems of commercial sexual exploitation of minors. Instead of perceiving the persons concerned as victims, discriminating behaviour and wrong questioning techniques have them often violated anew in their rights.

The training courses for policemen and -women is composed of the following contents:

- Analysis of the situation of children and adolescents in Guatemala
- Gender relations, masculinity and the patriarchal culture
- Different forms of commercial sexual exploitation of minors, definitions and extent of the problem
- National and international legal framework for combating commercial sexual exploitation of minors
- Case treatment in the context of the police task

Participants of this training were line policemen and -women who work directly in the police units concerned with cases of commercial sexual exploitation.

After initial police investigations public prosecution staff takes responsibility for further steps in the legal prosecution. In co-operation with the training unit of the Guatemalan public prosecution service, ECPAT trained altogether 350 public prosecutors and assistant prosecutors with regard to commercial sexual exploitation of minors in 2007. In conjunction with the public prosecutors, a manual was also produced, containing the following:

- A detailed description of the different forms and characteristics of commercial sexual exploitation, the mechanisms involved, criminal offences related to this practice and the perpetrators
- The root of the problem: the construction of masculinity
- The importance of preventing the revictimisation of children and adolescents who have experienced sexual exploitation
- An analysis of national and international legislation concerning the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents
- The criminal process in Guatemala
- The investigation of offences involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

Lessons Learned from the Training Processes for Police and Judiciary Concerning Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors

Planning effective and sustained investigation measures requires the following conceptual steps:

- Institutionalise training processes in the target group: it is recommended to include the subject of commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the curricula of the national civilian police academy.
- Include the various hierarchy levels of the institution in the process of further education.
- Jointly develop a set of criteria for the selection of participants to receive training.
- Determine how to promote institutional learning alongside successful personal learning and how to put the knowledge acquired into practice in the institution.
- Provide gender-sensitive training.
- Establish a multidisciplinary team of trainers.
- Develop training contents adapted to the knowledge of the participants (i.e. assess knowledge before and after training).
- Carry out a periodic evaluation of training in order to continuously improve methodology and didactics.

With regard to the further education of the police through ECPAT, there was a co-operation agreement with the Guatemalan national civilian police force to train 500 middle-level police officers.

Actual changes in perception amongst the individual participants have been achieved - participants e.g. reported learning experiences like: "Identifying a victim of sexual exploitation; acting in cases of human rights violations; conducting an investigative conversation with victims without revictimising them; developing more appreciation for and solidarity with children and adolescents."

The chief and middle executives of the institution, however, did not receive any further education; thus an essential criterion for even greater sustainability of the training measure has not been realized.

In order to actually gauge the real effect of the training measure, a continuous quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the individual seminars is required. In the framework of the training modules with the public prosecution service evaluations of content, methodology and trainers were carried out and continuously statistically analyzed. Amongst other things this allowed to implement changes in teaching content and didactics/methodology applied by the trainers straight away while the series of seminars were still running.

For a country characterized by strong conservative values like Guatemala, the integration of topics like masculinity and exposure to sexuality in these traditionally male-dominated target groups is very innovative. The methodological approach initially aims at working with the phenomenon of sexual violence against women and girls on a sociological basis and addressing each participant also on a personal level. This approach makes it possible to generate empathy and solidarity with the persons affected by commercial sexual exploitation.

The team of trainers includes both men and women. Here ECPAT used an experienced psychologist who developed the contents on masculinity and the patriarchal system, otherwise considered taboo in participation with the groups.

With a view to strengthening the institutional capacities of the public prosecution service, public prosecutors and assistant prosecutors received training and a manual was produced on investigative procedures and the application of the law in cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. This manual will be revised and approved by the public prosecution service for adoption by this institution.

These training processes can be considered good practice, as they focus on issues that are new in this context, such as commercial sexual exploitation, masculinity and avoiding the revictimisation of children and adolescents. It is therefore hoped that the police and public prosecution service will implement this rights-based approach that seeks to increase the protection of victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

Update 2008

www.gtz.de/nochildabuse

The GTZ convention project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation" is supporting partner countries on behalf of BMZ in implementing the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Further information is available from:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
Health, Education and Social Protection Division,
Convention Project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation"
T +49 (0) 6196-79-1512
F +49 (0) 6196-79-801512
E nochildabuse@gtz.de
I www.gtz.de/nochildabuse





Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors in Nicaragua

Population	about 5.7 million
Adolescents under 15 years of age	37.9 %
GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	3.674
Human Development Index Rank:	110 (of 177)
Gender-related Development Index Rank:	99 (of 177)
Illiteracy rate (+15):	23,3 %
Primary school attendance:	87 %
Further schooling:	43 %
Tourist arrivals (2005)	712.000



Extent and Shape

In Central America, the number of persons affected by commercial sexual exploitation of minors is constantly rising, at the national as much as at the regional level. In Nicaragua any forms of sexual exploitation of minors can be found: prostitution of minors – predominantly girls – on streets and markets, in bars and hotels, in tourist centres and in form of pornographic exposure in the Internet. Furthermore, Nicaragua is regarded as country of origin with regard to trafficking in human beings towards Guatemala and Costa Rica for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

The extent of human rights violation in Nicaragua can only be estimated: according to information of the network for children's rights CODENI about 20.000 children and adolescents are being exploited sexually. Most of the girls and boys concerned are between 13 and 18 years old; 90 % of the perpetrators are male and mostly of national origin. The escalating development of tourist centres and an increasing number of international and regional tourists also cause a rising demand for commercial sex in centres like Granada, Rivas, Masaya, Corinto, Esteli and Managua. Especially in the business of trafficking with minors, close contacts to networks of the organized drug trade using the well-known route from Nicaragua via Guatemala and Mexico into the USA are already in existence.

Causes and Background

Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries of Latin America; growing poverty and corrupt political structures contribute to an increased lack of prospects in particular in the lower social classes. Family life is frequently characterized by sexual and physical violence; its prevalence in Nicaragua belongs to the highest in Latin America. According to publications of the World Bank, up to 54 % of children and adolescents are being physically, mentally and sexually mistreated in their families. Sexual abuse of girls through family members as well as discrimination of women and girls illustrates the pronounced "Machismo", which stresses male power and gratification of interests and relegates women and girls to mere sexual objects. This also explains why the Nicaraguan society tolerates the exploitation of minors instead of condemning the perpetrators. In lieu thereof the young girls and also boys are often stigmatized.

National Activities Combating the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors

National Action Plan

Since 2001 Nicaragua has a National Action Plan against commercial sexual exploitation of minors that was compiled jointly by state institutions and civil social groups. Unfortunately there are no sufficient resources for implementing this Action Plan, so that the updated Plan of 2003 to 2008 can be implemented in a very limited way only. Children's rights organizations and multilateral donors like UNICEF and ILO/IPEC mainly support the few activities directly referring to sexual exploitation of minors.

In 2003 Nicaragua ratified the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Pornography and Child Prostitution; the following years saw the signing of the Palermo Protocol as well as the Inter-American Convention Against Trafficking in Children. The new Penal Code of Nicaragua entered into force in July 2008. It includes the elements of the crime of commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents such as pornography, sexual relations in exchange for presents or payment, sexual exploitation in tourism and trafficking for sexual exploitation. In 2008 the Ministry for Family, Adolescence and Childhood in coordination with UNICEF is drawing a Strategy to combat abuse, sexual exploitation and trafficking in minors in Nicaragua. The Ministry has set up the hotline number 133 for reporting cases. The insufficient legal prosecution of sexual offences and the inefficient closure of lawsuits discourage the persons concerned from reporting an offence to the police.

Promotion of Training and Further Education of Skilled Personnel in Nicaragua

Our Partners

The Convention Project supports the foundation "Puntos de Encuentro" in the framework of their gender-sensitive public relation and awareness-raising work. Puntos de Encuentro aims at advancing gender justice and the rights of adolescents in their daily life. They pursue the vision of creating a space where women and men, adolescents and adults can live together free of violence and with sensitivity towards gender issues. In order to spread these values they use public media like radio, television and journals in particular, but also seminars and trainings for improving personal and institutional communication.



The Boletina

In 1991 the idea emerged to develop an easily accessible journal in simple language with feminist orientation for the rather diverse Nicaraguan women's movement. The **Boletina** has lined up to describe feminist content suitable for daily use and to contribute to the forming of opinion in the wider population. It is released quarterly with a print-run of about 26.000 copies and is being distributed via a network of volunteers to more than 1.000 women's groups, schools and communities throughout the country. Special subject areas are discussed in extra supplements to the Boletina; they are used in groups as material for discussion and further education as well as for reference.



In November 2007 the supplement titled “When They Steal Your Life – The Sale of Sex with Adolescents, Girls and Boys” was published with support of the Convention Project. It mainly addresses young women and mothers and is supposed to provide a basis for analyzing the complex set of problems of commercial sexual exploitation of minors in Nicaragua as well as for counteracting taboos and stigmatization. The following subject areas are covered:

- What do we understand by commercial sexual exploitation of minors?
- Real-life examples of commercial sexual exploitation of minors in Nicaragua
- The “promises” perpetrators give to adolescents
- Characteristics of male and female perpetrators
- The male-dominated, authoritarian society
- Seeing, listening and holding one's tongue: The tolerance of the society
- Vulnerability and social exclusion of children and adolescents
- Casualties on the outer and the inner - consequences of sexual commercial exploitation of minors
- How can we protect girls and boys? The roles of state institutions, communities, families and individuals
- The legal situation in Nicaragua and contact points for advice and information

In order to produce this supplement the editors alongside numerous colleagues from the Foundation went through an intense learning process that was composed of the following steps:

- Making contact with 15 children's rights organizations and visiting places and persons affected by commercial sexual exploitation of minors in Nicaragua.
- Analyzing documents about the commercial sexual exploitation of minors in Nicaragua.
- Conducting an internal concept workshop with external specialist counselling in Puntos de Encuentro in order to analyze the set of problems around the commercial sexual exploitation of minors in Nicaragua and to develop future core messages for the Foundation.
- Integrating the topic of commercial sexual exploitation of minors in Nicaragua into the strategic planning of the Foundation: In future they treat commercial sexual exploitation of minors in Nicaragua as gender and generation topic, and analyze in particular the interface between political and economic rights of children and adolescents.
- The editors creating the first draft of the supplement, with constant advice from the experts.
- Linguistic editing with view to the target group and reflecting on the content messages that the supplement strives to convey.
- Selecting photos, laying out of the material and proofreading of the galleys by the group of advisors and adolescents.
- Interviews with focus groups help evaluating the supplement with reference to readability and relevance for the target group.
- An unexpected but pleasant result of this process is the institutionalization of the topic due to the intense discussion inside the Foundation. The commercial sexual exploitation is now being incorporated into the priority topics for radio, television and further education work.
- The new TV series of the Foundation, to be screened in Nicaragua from 2010 onwards and later on also in Central America and Mexico, treats the commercial sexual exploitation of minors in Nicaragua as a consistent topic.

Learning Experiences With Regard to Further Education for Police and Judiciary Concerning Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors

Organisations that have distributed the supplement report that they are now more aware of the complexity of commercial sexual exploitation of children. In addition, the supplement has helped women community leaders to learn about this matter and to work with government institutions at local level. The booklet is also being consulted by girls and boys in secondary school.

The production of high-profile media requires a timely definition of the target group for the materials and an according design of the materials with view to content and language.

In designing awareness-raising materials the following criteria should be applied as a basic principle:

- Interest is sparked; however, beware of stigmatizing anew.
- Information and analysis concerning the commercial sexual exploitation of minors are presented in order to counteract myths and taboos.
- Understanding and awareness for the causes and contexts of commercial sexual exploitation of minors are promoted.
- Options for action are developed, and the target groups are being motivated to personal engagement.

Interacting with the taboo of commercial sexual exploitation of minors also required a renewed sensitization for an editorial team that was already quite aware of gender issues.

When working with the issue of commercial sexual exploitation of minors with its different facets it is extraordinarily important to differentiate whether it is children up to 12 years of age or affected adolescents that are placed in the focus of the message. For the editorial staff of the *Boletina* it was essential not to disseminate any stigmatizing content - neither with regard to the persons concerned nor with regard to their mothers who in Nicaragua are often blamed for their "wayward" daughters. For rights-based information it is necessary to openly name the demand side for commercial sexual exploitation of minors and define perpetrators as such.

In countries with a pronounced tolerance towards the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents like Nicaragua, broadly based sensitization campaigns targeting the basic attitude of society are important precursors for an actual protection of persons concerned.

Update 2008

www.gtz.de/nochildabuse

The GTZ convention project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation" is supporting partner countries on behalf of BMZ in implementing the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Further information is available from:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
Health, Education and Social Protection Division,
Convention Project "Protection of Minors against Sexual Exploitation"
T +49 (0) 6196-79-1512
F +49 (0) 6196-79-801512
E nochildabuse@gtz.de
I www.gtz.de/nochildabuse

