

Changing for Children, One Behavior at a Time

Annual Report 2017





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EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

This 2017, we go beyond reporting our accomplishments in terms of activities conducted and number of stakeholders capacitated. Rather, we share with you the **outcomes** of these efforts. For this report, 'outcomes' refer to the **behavioral changes** we've noted **among key actors** who were **directly or indirectly reached by our programs**. Key actors are people belonging to sectors, which, with the right attitude, hold the key to eliminating sexual violence against children. They comprise of the **government, private sectors, civil society organizations, parents and communities**, and finally, **the children** themselves. We consider an action a behavioral change if it breaks the status quo mindset of relevant stakeholders to realize Filipino children's protection rights.

Witnessing these behavioral transformations is like reaping the real fruits of our labor. They make us even more motivated to implement and innovate our programs. As always, we are determined to continue working towards creating bigger impacts until we finally live in a society where children's rights are truly respected and enjoyed.

Dolores SD. Alforte
Executive Director

Amihan Abueva
Chair of the Board

WHERE WE WORK

Majority of this year's accomplishments took place in over 40 barangays in ECPAT's current project areas: **Quezon City, Angeles City, Bohol** and **Boracay**. All activities conducted among stakeholders were a result of exhaustive advocacy work starting from the community level up to the regional level. Through ECPAT's government and CSO partners nationwide, we were able to go beyond project areas and reach more stakeholders in other parts of the country.



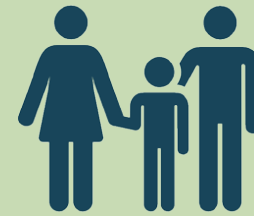
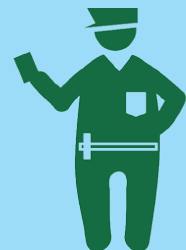
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017



**Children and Youth Spoke-Up
and Advocated for Change**



**Local Governments Integrated
Child Protection Rights into their
Programs**



**Parents and Community Members
recognized their Roles as Protectors
of Children**



**Businesses Advocated for
Child-Protective Operations**



**Civil Society Organizations Raised
Awareness and Extended Support
for Survivors**



BEHAVIORAL CHANGES AMONG KEY ACTORS



Children & youth spoke-up and advocated for change

Underreporting of cases is one of the main challenges in addressing child sexual exploitation.

Child victims are often than not, afraid or ashamed to come forward and seek help. This prevents them from accessing the necessary support for their healing and recovery. Unfortunately, even those who are identified rarely get the support they deserve. Such injustices happen because children do not know what they are entitled to.

ECPAT's continuous conduct of education sessions in vulnerable communities and schools, as well as its support to survivors of sexual exploitation and children living in vulnerable communities aims to **help enable children to assert their rights and empower them to act as agents of change against sexual violence**. This year, from children initiating campaigns against sexual exploitation, to survivors opening-up about their plight and encouraging other victims to get help, the children we reached have taken a stand for their rights.

In July, children and youth living in highly affected areas Angeles City and Boracay formed their own advocacy groups. Together with the existing ECPAT youth groups in Bohol and Quezon City, they held a youth conference in December where they planned strategies and activities to implement in their respective localities.

Unable to recognize their victimization at first, boy survivors in Angeles City have started to open-up their pent-up emotions at their own will. They even encouraged other victims to join them in attending learning sessions on child protection. Children who have attended community education sessions also gained confidence to disclose cases as they referred cases of sexual violence among their peers.

3705 children and youth were reached through a series of child protection education sessions and capacity building, as well as continuous provision of immediate and aftercare services throughout the year.



3,556 vulnerable children and youth educated on their rights, how to recognize threats, how to stay safe and seek help.

88 children and youth volunteers in highly-affected communities trained to advocate for their rights and provided with educational assistance

61 child survivors supported through educational, legal, medical and psychosocial assistance



Youth Volunteers from Quezon City, Angeles, Bohol and Boracay gathered in December in a youth conference



Youth Volunteers in Angeles organized a campaign in partnership with the LGU for Children's Month 2017

Parents and community members recognized their roles as protectors of children

Parents should be their children's main protectors against any form of violence. Likewise, neighbors, teachers, community leaders and every adult that children encounter in their daily lives play an important part in **establishing safe environments for young people**. Unfortunately, adults are seldom aware of the rights of children and their responsibility to respect and help fulfill them. Worse, the trend of parents selling their own children for sex has become an epidemic in impoverished communities. Community members are often silent, if not cohorts to crimes.

Like children, parents and relevant adults in highly-at-risk communities are given regular awareness-raising and life skills orientation to help them understand how they should care for children. As they become informed on their legal duties, on recognizing red flags, and how to seek help, adults we reached have started to break away from the cultures of silence and apathy which are very common in communities where SEC is pervasive, and even in the society at large.

Throughout the year, several reports of SEC have been received from parents in the Barangays of Sapali, Butad, Cacutud and Anunas in Angeles City and in Tubigon, Bohol. From May to June, community leaders in Barangay Amsic, Angeles have organized on their own a series of child protection awareness raising activities for parents. Teachers Group Continuous Improvement Program (CIP) in Susano Elementary School in Quezon City did the same for students in April. Meanwhile, recognizing the special needs of SEC survivors to keep up with their studies, another group of public school teachers in Quezon City provided free tutoring services for children living at the ECPAT shelter.

3044 adults reached in CSEC-affected communities

through continuous community work and a series of education sessions for parents and capacity building for barangay officials throughout the year. Barangay leaders reached include officials of Council on the Protection of Children (BCPC), Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) and Gender and Development (GAD) units in all project areas.



 **2225 parents and residents sensitized** on their responsibility in fulfilling children's rights

 **819 community leaders trained** to implement child rights, child protection laws and mechanisms



Parent beneficiaries of 4Ps in Angeles City educated on how to keep their children safe



Parents and Community leaders in Brgy. Gulod, Quezon City sensitized on child rights, trained and assisted to establish child protection mechanisms in their community

Local governments integrated child protection rights into their programs

As a state party to the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children**, the Philippines is duty-bound to establish a legal framework strong enough to protect the Filipino children against all forms of sexual exploitation. Rightfully so, national legislations on child protection have been born over the years out of these commitments. The challenge now lies in the enforcement. With new risk factors emerging i.e. unregulated technology and booming tourism, law enforcers and service providers are finding it more difficult to keep up. ECPAT now works to ensure that **duty-bearers take accountability in efficiently implementing their mandate** through lobbying with national and local governments and conducting training that will capacitate them to enforce laws.

Perhaps, the most significant behavioral change among the local governments we engaged this year was the enactment of the Anti-Child Sex Tourism Ordinance in two major tourist destinations in the Philippines: the province of Bohol and municipality of Malay in Aklan. This ordinance is the first of its kind. It requires tourism related establishments to not tolerate sexual exploitation of children in their premises by putting child protection policies and mechanisms in place. Businesses are also required to conduct regular child protection orientation for their staff.

538 local government officials composed of councilors, police, personnel from local social welfare and local tourism offices were educated on child protection laws and trained on the protocol of case management of child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation.



 **151 local officials trained** how to manage cases of child sexual exploitation

 **387 tourist police sensitized** to implement child rights, child protection laws and mechanisms

In further compliance to the mandate of the Local Council on the Protection of Children (LCPC), the local government of Panglao Island allocated budget for the capacity building training of its Barangay officials who handle Gender and Development and Gender-based Violence. Likewise, the **Department of Social Welfare and Development** in Region III allotted budget for a 2-month psychosocial intervention for SEC survivors.

The Department of Education (DepEd) in Angeles City also implemented a gender awareness program for students grades 7 and 8; while the San Fernando LGU held a seminar on the protocol of case management for its officials. The seminar also included discussions on the LGU's possible integration of community-based healing and recovery program in its plans. Meanwhile, Barangay Gulod in Quezon City cemented its commitment to implement projects that combat SEC as they signed a Memorandum of Agreement with ECPAT in June.



Businesses advocated for child-safe operations

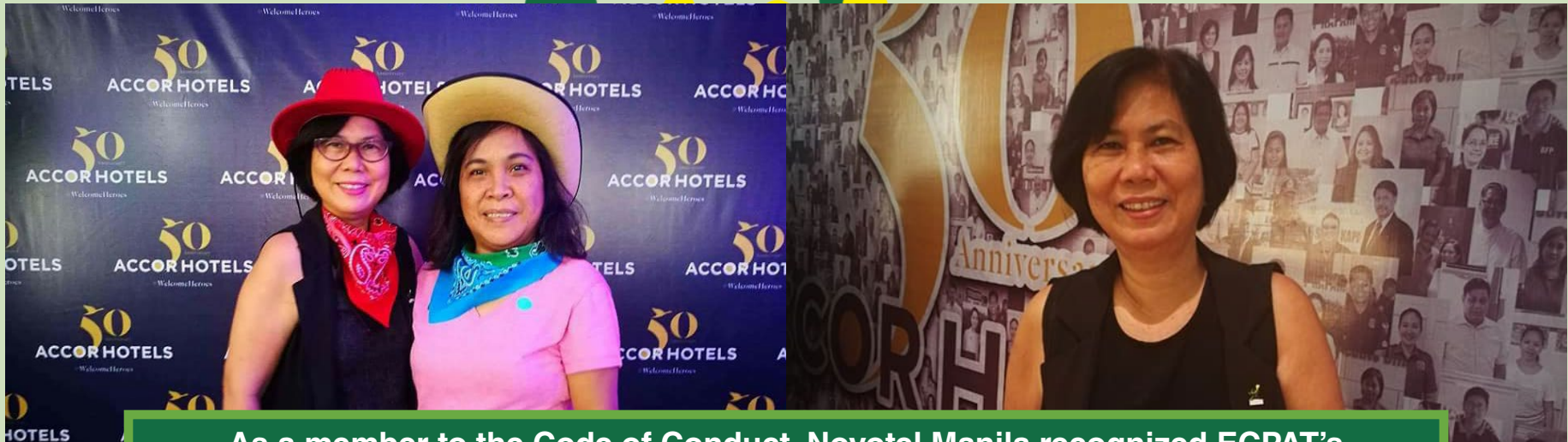
Tourism-related establishments such as accommodations, transportation, tour-operators and the like are often used by sex tourists to facilitate sexual exploitation of children. As businesses are profit-driven and many of them are still unaware of child protection legislation in the country, many turn a blind eye to abuses happening in their own premises. Some simply do how to respond to suspicious cases while some deliberately tolerate illegal activities in exchange for payment.

Through raising-awareness and building partnerships with the private sector, we aim for **businesses to comply with child protection legislation and contribute to the elimination of gender-based violence**. From 2016 to 2017, hotel and restaurant associations in Bohol and Boracay, actively participated in the lobbying for the enactment of an ordinance against child sex tourism. Upon gaining deeper understanding on the phenomenon of SEC in travel and tourism, the idea of pushing for an ordinance came from the Bohol Association of Hotels and Restaurants (BAHHR) themselves. Thanks to the new law, more hotels and accommodations in Tagbilaran City sought accreditation from the Department of Tourism (DOT) in 2017. This means that more hotels are willing to adhere to child-safe standards. Further resulting from the increased awareness of tourism frontliners in Bohol is the reporting of a prospective case of child sexual exploitation involving a foreign tourist.

1,251 tourism frontliners

composed of hotel staff, tourist drivers, tour guides and other tourism related workers in **38 companies** were sensitized on child protection against sexual exploitation and rallied to establish child protection policies and mechanisms within their businesses.





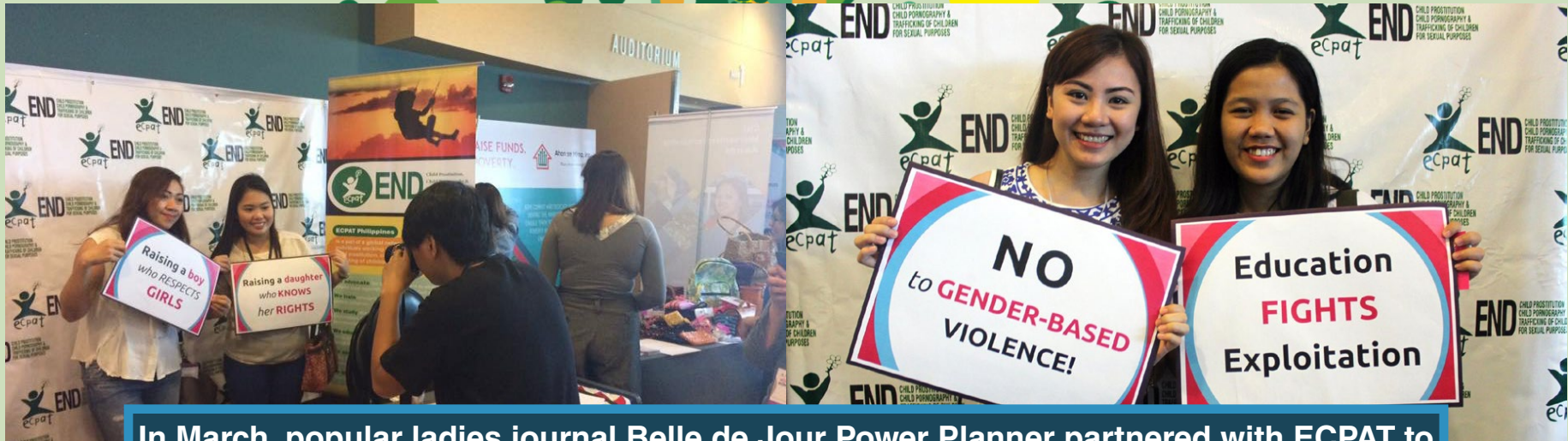
As a member to the Code of Conduct, Novotel Manila recognized ECPAT's contribution in protecting Filipino children against exploitation in travel and tourism.

Civil Society Organizations raised awareness and extended support for survivors

It takes everyone to end sexual exploitation of children. **Civil Society Organizations and individuals have the power to influence its communities to act.** Likewise, educating the general public is crucial in helping stop objectification of women and children especially in this age where technology is advanced, highly accessible, and unregulated.

Throughout the year, colleges and universities have organized child protection education sessions for its students. Tugon Ateneo, a students' organization which campaigns against sexual abuse of children has conducting recreational and psychosocial activities for girl survivors since 2016, while *Far Eastern University (FEU) Diliman* faculty and *Professional Electronic Institute* in Iloilo organized learning sessions on child rights for their students in November. Grameen Australia, an organization working on economic empowerment of women did the same in November for its assisted youth.

In addition, CSOs in Quezon City have extended their support for the healing and recovery of survivors. The *Center for Functional Medicine* conducted psychological counseling to children from September to October while a group of legal advocates raised funds for survivors in March.



In March, popular ladies journal Belle de Jour Power Planner partnered with ECPAT to provide a venue where women were encouraged to support women empowerment.

EXPANDING SPACES: ISLAND-WIDE CONSULTATIONS FOR THE ALTERNATIVE REPORT ON THE UNCRC



In preparation to the upcoming submission of the NGO Alternative Report on the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)*, the *Philippine Civil-Society Coalition on the Rights of the Child (CSC-CRC)*, a network of over 20 CSOs that monitors the implementation of UNCRC in the Philippines, held 3 island-wide consultations with children and other child-focused CSOs from October to November. The consultations entitled “Expanding Spaces” gathered relevant data to supplement the drafting of the NGO report which is to be submitted to the UN Committee 6 months after the government submits its state report. The issue of sexual exploitation of children was represented by 2 children from Luzon and 3 children in Visayas. The consultations were made possible with the support of *Church of Sweden, ECPAT Philippines, Save the Children Philippines*, and *Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency*.



GENDER-INCLUSIVE RIGHTS-BASED DEVELOPMENT



Through Church of Sweden (COS), ECPAT Philippines attended the Training of Trainers (ToT) on Gender-Inclusive Rights-Based Development (GIRBD) in Rangpur, Bangladesh on October 22-26, 2017. Along with other COS assisted organizations in Indonesia, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Myanmar, Laos, Australia and Bangladesh, the ToT aimed to capacitate partner organizations to implement gender-sensitive and rights-based programming and train also train other networks in their respective countries.

**TRAINING OF TRAINERS on
Gender Inclusive Rights-Based Development**

22-26 October 2017
RDRS Bangladesh, Rangpur

Top row (from left): Ginno - Philippines, Ivy - Malaysia, A. Rahman - Bangladesh, Willy - Philippines, Aslam - Bangladesh, Anchita - India, Catherine - Philippines, Anne - Australia, Sofia - Sweden, Mary - Bangladesh, Genisha - Nepal, Veasna - Cambodia, Phyo - Myanmar, Siriphone - Lao PDR

Bottom row (from left): Khin - Myanmar, Tiurma - Indonesia, Noy - Lao PDR, Monalisa - India, Santosh - India, Vishruta - Nepal, Karin - Sweden, Mizanur - Bangladesh, Mazbahun - Bangladesh, Htay - Myanmar, Sann - Myanmar, Noveny - Indonesia

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