



IJM

PHILIPPINES

THE PROBLEM

ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (OSEC)

Filipino children are vulnerable to this fast-growing trafficking crime, with infants as young as two months old at risk.

Children are trafficked by parents, trusted relatives, friends, or neighbors for the creation of child sexual exploitation material (CSEM) like photos and videos.

Traffickers livestream the exploitation to satisfy the online demand of child sex offenders in foreign countries paying to direct the abuse in real time.

THE RESPONSE

IJM WORKS WITH THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AGAINST THIS CRIME



LAW ENFORCEMENT

IJM provides support to law enforcement agencies in the investigation of suspects and in rescue operations.



PROSECUTION

IJM supports child-protective prosecution in its casework and collaboration with the Department of Justice.



AFTERCARE

Partnering with social services, IJM supports the care of each survivor.

THE FACTS



The Philippines is a global hotspot for OSEC, the livestreaming of online child sexual abuse.

OSEC affects minors of all ages, from months-old infants to 17 year-olds, male and female.

In 2011, the United Nations and United States FBI estimated **750,000 child sex predators online** at any given time. In 2021, the UK National Crime Agency estimated **550,000 to 850,000 people in the UK alone posing a threat to children online.**



Aaron's Story

Aaron* is a five-year-old boy who loves cars and superheroes. Today, he feels the happiest while playing and the safest at home. But this wasn't always the case.

*A pseudonym

In 2019, Philippine authorities arrested a German national in Lapu-Lapu City, on the island of Cebu, for sexually abusing and exploiting young children, and selling child sexual exploitation materials (CSEM) to multiple people in multiple countries over the internet. One of the children he abused and filmed is his son Aaron. Aaron was two years old when he was rescued.

It was in 2017 when German and Australian police discovered evidence of Aaron's father producing and selling CSEM. They shared this information with Philippine authorities, including the Philippine National Police - Women and Children Protection Center (PNP-WCPC). This intelligence was acted upon during the Advanced Investigative Workshop (AIW), a highly contextualized mentorship-based workshop, guided by visiting experts and IJM. The investigations led to the arrest of Aaron's father and the rescue of Aaron and other children who were similarly exploited.

Aaron's father is detained and is on trial for charges of Qualified Trafficking under Philippine law.

Following his rescue, Aaron was brought to an Assessment Center where a multidisciplinary team began providing trauma-informed services including therapeutic interventions, and the combined expertise of multiple agencies.

Not soon after, Aaron was placed in the care of loving foster parents, in a place where he can freely be a child again. Aaron enjoys playing with cars and anything related to superheroes. His favorite: Captain America!

MILESTONES

2011

IJM responds to the **first reported cases of online sexual exploitation of children.**

2016

IJM **fully focused its resources on battling OSEC**, working with the government in investigations and law enforcement, prosecution, and aftercare.

2017

The Philippines, through IJM, received a generous donation from the U.S. government. This partnership, aptly named the **U.S.-Philippine Child Protection Compact**, accelerated the work against online sexual exploitation of children.

2019

IJM becomes founding member of **the international law enforcement collaborative, Philippine Internet Crimes against Children Center (PICACC)**, together with the Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation, Australian Federal Police, UK National Crime Agency, and National Police of the Netherlands.

2020

Launch of the **Center to End Online Sexual Exploitation of Children**, which works to protect children from online sexual exploitation from a global perspective, committed to seeing the proliferation of this crime come to an end.

2022

Over 1,000 survivors and at-risk children brought to safety in IJM-supported operations since 2011.



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IJM works with the Philippine government, international law enforcement, and relevant stakeholders to combat the trafficking of Filipino children for livestreamed sexual abuse.

IJM Philippines seeks to protect children from online sexual exploitation by strengthening the capacity of the Philippine criminal justice system to enforce the law, increasing local and global collaboration, building trauma-informed networks of care, and empowering survivor and government leadership.