The background of the cover is a photograph showing a close-up of hands gently holding a baby. The scene is set under a red fabric canopy, likely in a hospital or clinical setting. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a sense of care and protection. The hands are positioned to support the baby's head and neck.

SAFERKIDS PH MID-TERM REVIEW FINAL REPORT

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Clear Horizon

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Dictionary

Acronyms	Description
AFP	Australian Federal Police
ANZCHAM	Australian New Zealand Chamber of Commerce
BCPC	Barangay Child Protection Committee
COSP	Child Online Safeguarding Policy
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CWC	Council for the Welfare of Children
DepEd	Department of Education
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DICT	Department of Information and Communications Technology
DOJ	Department of Justice
DPO	Disabled People's Organisation
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion
GPH	Government of the Philippines (also PHG)
IACACP	Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography
IACAT	Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking

Acronyms	Description
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NBI	National Bureau of Investigation
OSAEC	Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children
PCC	Program Coordination Committee
PIT	Program Implementation Team
SCP	Save the Children Philippines
SKPH	SaferKidsPH
TAF	The Asia Foundation
TOC	Theory Of Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund

Acknowledgements

The Mid-Term Review team would like to extend our thanks to DFAT Manila and the SKPH Consortium members for their support to the review consultations. The team would also like to thank government, non-government and community stakeholders at the national level and in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan for sharing their insights and experiences of success factors and challenges in the fight to prevent online sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SaferKidsPH (SKPH) is an Australian Government initiative which has funding of \$8 million over six years (2019-2025) and aims to contribute to reducing abuse and exploitation of Filipino children. To do this, SKPH seeks to enhance the country's child protection system to address online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC). Currently at its midpoint, SKPH works towards four end-of-program outcomes: (1) positive behaviours and practices towards protection of children from online abuse and exploitation; (2) law enforcement, prosecutors, and judiciary improve child protection policies and processes in relation to OSAEC cases; (3) improved service delivery for OSAEC prevention and protection of children in target communities; and (4) evidence-informed anti-OSAEC policies and laws that are gender sensitive and inclusive. The SKPH program is managed through a consortium model, the first of its kind, and there are important lessons to be learned going forward. UNICEF is the consortium lead, with The Asia Foundation (TAF) and Save the Children Philippines (SCP) as consortium partners. Under SKPH, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) is also provided with AUD 500,000 to support law enforcement partnerships and capacity building in combatting OSAEC.

This Mid Term Review explored what has been achieved to date to inform what makes the most sense for Australia to support going forward. It focused primarily on understanding the extent of progress against plans, successes and challenges, and relationships that have been critical to achieving outcomes. The contribution of the Program to significant outcomes was explored through documents and consultations from October to December 2022.

Key findings:

The SKPH program has made an undeniably strong start, due to well-chosen consortium members, committed partners, flexibility to influence and respond to emerging opportunities and high level endorsement from both governments. Considering the limitations of COVID and the complexity of the issue of OSAEC, there has been a significant amount of achievement, and in important areas. Some aspects of the program have been more successful than others, but there is a high level of consensus among stakeholders that the core elements and approach are effective and fit for purpose. Going forward, it would be important for the program to continue to work in partnership with other champions on this issue, including through the Ad Hoc working group. Collective efforts have been and will be the most successful approach to address the complexity of OSAEC.

KEQ1. To what extent is SKPH achieving outcomes expected at this time? (*effectiveness*)

The SKPH program is achieving good outcomes at this point in time and its brand is well recognised by the Philippine Government and private sector partners. Under all three components, there is evidence of achievement of intermediate outcomes including improved knowledge and awareness of OSAEC both at the national level and in the program hotspots. SKPH support to policies, laws and processes has also been a highlight of the program to date, with several significant pieces of policy and law being approved and adopted nationally and in the two OSAEC hotspots of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan. Importantly, SKPH was able to contribute key gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) considerations into advocacy and training materials and policies and laws. SKPH has seen positive impacts of support to strategic communication for women police in promoting child protection, and through capacity building support to the Philippine Internet Crime against Children Center (PICACC), the AFP and PICACC partners have increased rescues of child victims and arrests of perpetrators of OSAEC. There were some delays and gaps, however. The Social Norms study has been significantly delayed which impacts the ability of the program to understand several important elements including, what behaviour change is

to be expected from the program, the GEDSI considerations of OSAEC, and successful interventions to address this complex crime. However, the Social Norms study is only one source of data and program activities and expectations can also be informed by studies and community level lessons already undertaken, such as the intervention study. It is not recommended for the program to wait for the Social Norms Study before strategic changes are made, partly because this would cause further delays but also because the value and utility of the study cannot be guaranteed at this early stage. Instead, it is suggested that in the meantime, data can be sourced through reaching out to organisations that focus on relevant issues such as GEDSI, using insights, data or connections from the Ad Hoc Working Group on OSAEC and analysing and disseminating community level insights that have already been learned from existing partnerships. An additional benefit of extending partnerships with GEDSI organisations is that it would help the program to understand better the intersectionalities of program activities and assist in improving the program's GEDSI analysis.

To date, the program has achieved some good results with integrating GEDSI considerations, in particular in laws and policies and activity approaches in project locations, and by highlighting diversity in awareness raising campaigns. Some GEDSI specific initiatives have also been observed, namely the development of a youth engagement strategy on OSAEC and the capacity strengthening of the women police. However, the MTR found that inconsistencies in approach, monitoring, evaluation and learning, and an absence of GEDSI analysis are areas that need to be improved.

The role of the private sector has been captured in a private sector engagement strategy which was developed during the inception phase. The program specifically targets private sector agencies to increase their engagement and responsibility in addressing OSAEC and to raise funds. Partners reported better than expected results and some gains have been made to date: private sector awareness of OSAEC has been increased resulting in over AUD 390,000 funds raised for the program and Partnership Agreements signed, for example with the Australian New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (ANZCHAM). The program has also linked the largest telecommunications and social media companies with the government, for example to shape private sector responsibilities under the new anti-OSAEC law. The private sector has significantly amplified SKPH awareness raising campaigns through their platforms and mobile phone networks.

Despite some delays, there is good evidence that the program is on track to achieve its end of program outcomes (EOPOs), especially in Components 2 and 3 and the overarching EOPO. Component 1 has seen the most mixed results so far and the program will need to strengthen its approach to capturing and actioning learning about what works to address this complex area of behaviour change for this EOPO to be realised. With significant changes in the political economy, there is a risk however, that important and strategic relationships that have been previously built, will need to be re-established with new office holders, particularly but not limited to the Philippines National Police. While program partners are well placed to navigate these changes, some short term targets may be affected by this transition.

KEQ 2. *How well managed is the Program? (efficiency and sustainability)*

In terms of management, the SKPH program is demonstrating value for money by leveraging resources from consortium members both in terms of personnel and their influential networks and connections. With a relatively small investment, much has been achieved. The governance arrangements, consortium partnership and principles have largely been fit for purpose and important to achieving the intermediate outcomes to date. Greater program management leadership from UNICEF would be welcomed by partners, including DFAT, to strengthen monitoring, evaluation and learning, enhance the integration of GEDSI and to increase whole of program cohesion. The PCC could support UNICEF and partners in these efforts by increasing the strategic focus and direction setting for the program, and more deliberately documenting and evaluating strategic opportunities and decisions as a consortium, as

opposed to each agency delivering their own workplans. A more deliberate effort to bring the work together would ensure that the program will continue to be greater than the sum of its parts and is more proactively capitalising on the individual efforts. The program is at a point that it needs to clarify the overall SKPH program management role. With staff movements in both UNICEF and DFAT, UNICEF needs to take on greater leadership of the overall program, with a particular focus on strengthening program cohesion and identifying and sharing learnings.

The approach the program takes in working through Philippines government processes enhances sustainability but at the same time, means that reforms can take time to be implemented as they are outside the direct control of the program.

KEQ 3. *What have we learned from the Review that will inform future programming (Learning)*

Key lessons from the implementation of SKPH that should inform the remainder of the program involve increasing focus by harnessing commitment and champions – both existing and new - and recognising the complexity of OSAEC, and the variable ways to tackle the problem. Stakeholders highlighted the value of bringing together different elements of the child protection system under one program: judiciary, policy making at national and subnational level, community engagement and awareness raising, law enforcement and diplomacy. The complex nature of OSAEC means that long-term investment and flexibility is key, underpinned by a rights-based and multi-disciplinary approach, context-informed strategy and a strong management and M&E system.

There are also risks associated with working in this space. When considering a future investment, there is a risk that a relatively small investment for a complex issue may only “scratch the surface”. Maximising partnerships and networks will be key. When considering options for the future, increasing the investment without fully understanding the phenomenon is also risky and could lead to mistargeted efforts with limited or damaging results. Investment in understanding OSAEC will be a critical contribution complemented by targeted interventions. Alternatively, stopping investment in OSAEC will pose reputational risks to Australia. Stakeholders noted that Australia, through SaferKidsPH and AFP’s efforts, is perceived as one of the leaders on OSAEC and the program has provided Australia with better access to the Philippine Government. Active senior DFAT engagement, through the former Australian Ambassador, further helped harness interest, credibility and collaboration. SKPH, as a partnership with consortium partners, AFP and DFAT, has played an important convenor role and developed a strong network for cooperation and collaboration. There is a very real risk that should DFAT decide to scale back or move away from this role, this will reduce Australia’s ability to engage with the Philippine Government on an issue of mutual importance and harm Australia’s leadership role on combatting OSAEC.

The benefits of continuing to support Philippines partners in combatting OSAEC go beyond the program itself, involving important bilateral and multilateral relationships, and improving partnerships with the private sector. The complexity of the issue means that expectations must be managed to the extent that until more is known about OSAEC, learning, and responding to emergent information is more likely than demonstrating “results”. Philippines partners at the sub-national level when pressed into prioritising which hypothetical scaling approach would be most beneficial for tackling OSAEC, voted for the program to scale up – meaning to intensify the focus at an institutional and policy level, instead of scaling out or scaling deep. The MTR does not recommend scaling in any way until more is understood about success factors and barriers to achieving change in this complex space, which will require a more learning-centred M&E system.

All three current SKPH components are essential for the program to learn about what works at the local level, and use this knowledge and established relationships to influence the policy level. The

effectiveness and implementation of any relevant new policy or law can then be evaluated at the local level with support from the program and improvements identified and fed back up to the policy-makers. Going forward, the MTR found that Australia should build on its strengths and leadership role on this issue and help Philippine government partners to understand and capture what works and expand effective networks to strengthen child protection around OSAEC. This can happen through a similar-sized investment in the medium term by strategically harnessing the partnerships and system strengthening opportunities as they arise.

Recommendations

- 1. Under UNICEF's leadership, SKPH needs to develop a simple, fit-for-purpose MEL system that incorporates learning and reflection, context, partnership and risk monitoring, and evaluative activities to help capture and articulate the SKPH story.**

This will help the SKPH consortium to understand when activities are working well and when and how they can be improved and be able to tell the "story" of the program. This includes:

- Revisiting the purpose, scope, audience and resources for SKPH MEL.
 - Revisiting MEL information needs to determine what partners and stakeholders really need to know to improve the program and support anti-OSAEC efforts in the Philippines.
 - Revisiting the current performance indicators and targets to make them more meaningful and less "tick a box".
- 2. With UNICEF's leadership, all SKPH partners should increase consideration of gender, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) issues in program activities.** This could include:
 - Inclusion of a GEDSI outcome with qualitative and quantitative indicators in the MEL framework to help tell a coherent story. The consortium is currently updating its MEL framework so is in a good position to do so.
 - GEDSI analysis in all key program activities, including more nuanced perspectives, for example about boys, LGBTIQ+, children with disabilities, mothers who facilitate OSAEC, gender dimensions of law enforcement, agency and rights, etc, in addition to GEDSI analysis in the baseline and endline studies at the program sites.
 - More consistently partnering with organisations that focus on gender, disability and other social inclusion issues at local and national levels.
 - 3. The delay of the Social Norms Study means that all SKPH consortium members should draw on other data that is available to inform behaviour change approaches.** This could include:
 - partnering with organisations that focus on relevant issues such as GEDSI
 - using insights, data or connections from the Ad Hoc Working Group on OSAEC
 - analysing and disseminating community level insights that have already been learned from existing partnerships and studies, such as the intervention study.
 - 4. SKPH consortium, with support from DFAT where useful, should continue to implement the private sector strategy with a focus on facilitating private sector engagement (along with youth and civil society) in the IRR of the Anti-OSAEC law and consolidating gains made to date.**

With limited human resources, it makes sense to focus on companies where there is traction.

- 5. While maintaining the consortium partnership approach, UNICEF should take on greater convening role of the overall program, with a particular focus on strengthening program cohesion, MEL and GEDSI.**

With staff movements in both UNICEF and DFAT, the MTR team recommends that UNICEF take on greater leadership and convening role of the overall program, with a particular focus on strengthening program cohesion. This should also include the strengthening of the monitoring, evaluation and learning system of the program and driving more consistent integration of GEDSI across the program. This includes:

- UNICEF will need to convene and drive MEL and other management processes to ensure the program can capture and tell its good story of how it has strengthened the child protection system to reduce the prevalence of OSAEC and what it has learned about the best ways to do this.
- The PCC could support UNICEF and partners in these efforts by increasing the strategic focus and direction setting for the program, and more deliberately documenting and evaluating strategic opportunities and decisions as a consortium, as opposed to each agency delivering their own workplans.

6. SKPH consortium partners, AFP and DFAT should harness existing champions and identify and engage new commitment and champions at local, national and diplomatic levels to deliver an adaptive, strategic and responsive program that recognises complexity and maximises the strengths of the members to progress the anti-OSAEC agenda. This should include:

- Undertaking regular learning and reflection processes and structured political economy analysis as a core process in program management and M&E to purposefully consider changes in the operating environment, risks and opportunities, and identification of new stakeholders and change agents.
- Building relationships with relevant new government officials and stakeholders at national and local levels as soon as appropriate to progress the anti-OSAEC agenda in the context of the new Administration, anti-OSAEC law and implementation of the Mandanas Ruling. This may include developing rolling workplans with new partners and supporting coordination between relevant agencies (refer p.34).
- Clarify roles and partnership arrangements with existing government partners and champions on the implementation of OSAEC related workplans to maximise partnerships and achieve the best outcomes (e.g. technical staff from DSWD and DICT)

7. Considering the complexity of OSAEC, Australia's current leadership on the issue and the access the program provides to the Philippine Government, Australia could consider continuing a similar-sized investment in combatting OSAEC, depending on the results and progress of the final years of the program.

- The remainder of the program should focus on where SKPH can have sustainable and tangible impact: secure the wins and focus on operationalisation of the policies before the end of the program (e.g. DICT COSP, IRR Anti-OSAEC law, BCPC budgets, advocacy for resources for LGUs to provide livelihood programs).
 - This should also include strategies for each knowledge product developed under the program with a clear analysis of how to maximise the value of its production. This includes using research and knowledge products as an engagement tool with new or potential partners and champions.
 - It may also be worthwhile to include referral pathways to less harmful livelihood opportunities and access to social protection at the local level.
- The remainder of the program and any new program should retain its child protection focus, including improving case management, its rights based approach and increase its GEDSI lens, because solutions to OSAEC do not exclusively rest with the justice system. SKPH consortium members have a credible and legitimate seat at the table to help the Philippines address this issue.

- A potential new program should build on the lessons and achievements of this investment to determine the focus of the program (e.g. scaling deep, out, up).

These recommendations are discussed further in the Conclusions and Recommendations section.

INTRODUCTION

Background

SaferKidsPH (SKPH) is an Australian Government initiative which has funding of \$8 million over six years (2019-2025) and aims to contribute to reducing abuse and exploitation of Filipino children. To do this, SKPH seeks to enhance the country's child protection system to address online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC). SKPH is aligned with Australia and Philippines' shared commitment to counter all forms of child exploitation, and complements other Australian initiatives in cybersecurity, human trafficking, and law enforcement collaboration (Australia's International Cyber and Critical Technology Engagement Strategy, the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation, ASEAN Australia Counter Trafficking Program, and Philippine Internet Crime Against Children Center). SKPH employs a more strategic and systematic approach building on an earlier, smaller initiative that focused on grants to support promising engagements in child protection from 2015-2018.

Currently at its midpoint, SKPH works towards four end-of-program outcomes: (1) positive behaviours and practices towards protection of children from online abuse and exploitation; (2) law enforcement, prosecutors, and judiciary improve child protection policies and processes in relation to OSAEC cases; (3) improved service delivery for OSAEC prevention and protection of children in target communities; and (4) evidence-informed anti-OSAEC policies and laws that are gender sensitive and inclusive. These are pursued through improving knowledge, attitudes and practices of children, parents, schools, local groups, and businesses in relation to online safety and safeguarding children; strengthening knowledge and capacity of law enforcers, prosecutors, and family court judges on OSAEC case management; and enhancing community-based mechanisms to better detect, report and respond to OSAEC. The program is delivered nationally, with focus on the National Capital Region, and the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Iligan and Angeles, as OSAEC hotspots.

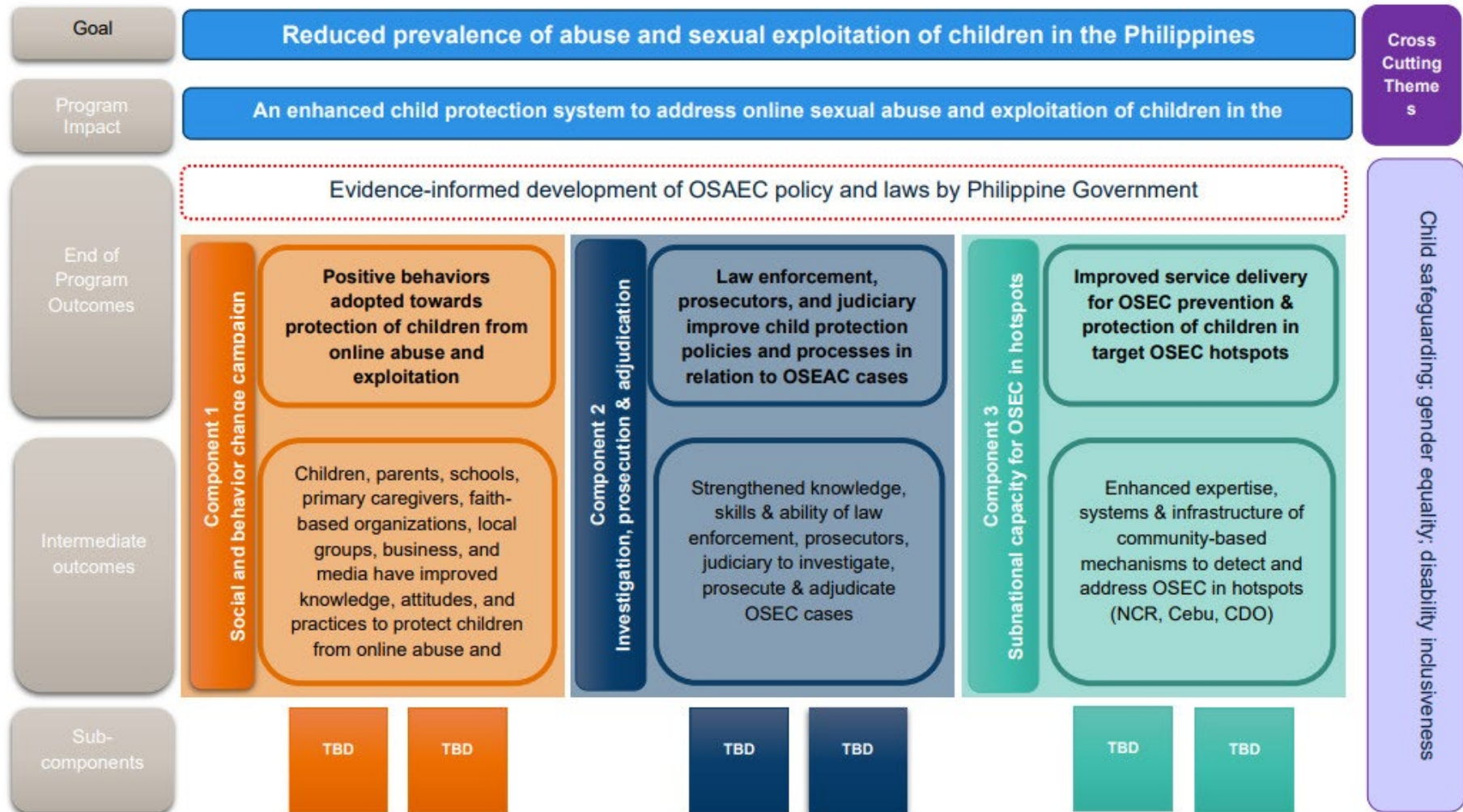
SKPH is implemented through grants with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) (AUD500,000), as supplemental funding for AFP's combatting Child Exploitation Plan for the Philippines) and UNICEF Philippines (AUD7.5 million, as lead in the SaferKidsPH consortium together with The Asia Foundation (TAF) and Save the Children Philippines (SCP). DFAT manages SKPH through a Program Coordinating Committee (PCC) and a Program Implementation Team (PIT). This consortium approach is the first of its kind and there are important lessons to be learned going forward.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the vulnerability of children to OSAEC, with Philippines as a lead source of child abuse materials for a largely foreign audience, including sex offenders in Australia. As part of Australia's COVID Response Plan in the Philippines, SKPH intensified its public awareness campaign on child online safety, support to reporting, referral and rescue mechanisms, and policy enhancements. With support from SKPH, AFP works with domestic and foreign law enforcement through the Philippine Internet Crime against Children Center (PICACC) to undertake joint investigations, rescues, and arrests.

SKPH underwent a Theory of Change (ToC) review and evaluability assessment in 2020, and a partnership health check in 2021.

This Mid-Term Review was conducted in late 2022, three years into the program.

Figure 1 SKPH Overarching Theory of Change



Review design summary, approach and principles

This Review explored what has been achieved to date to inform what makes the most sense for Australia to support going forward. It focused primarily on understanding the extent of progress against plans, successes and challenges, and relationships that have been critical to achieving outcomes. The contribution of the Program to significant outcomes was explored through documents and consultations.

Because there has been a significant change in government stakeholders following the 2022 Philippines elections, it was important to understand the perspectives of previous SKPH partners and stakeholders as well as new or emerging “champions” and stakeholders, so former and new Philippines government partners were consulted as part of this Review.

The key principles that guided the review included the following:

- **Do no harm** – The SKPH involves vulnerable groups and individuals and the review ensured that no-one was harmed either directly or indirectly by their participation or non-participation.
- **Utilisation-focused** – the methods and approach ensured that Review information collected was useful for the purposes of aligning to the requirements of the key audience information needs.
- **Participatory** – all Review activities endeavoured to engage key program stakeholders from planning, data collection and analysis, to sensemaking and learning activities. Five participatory workshops were held and three presentations on emerging findings were delivered.

Audience

The audience for the Review and their respective needs are outlined in Table 2. The table distinguishes between the primary audience – those who will use the Review findings to make decisions about the program; and the secondary audience – those who may have an interest in the Review findings.

The final Review report will be published on the DFAT website.

Table 1 Evaluation audience and information needs

Primary audience

Audience	Information needs
DFAT Manila Post	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand progress of the program, successes and weaknesses and recommendations for improvement • Recommendations about remaining Program future priorities and opportunities for Australia to add value • Recommendations about governance and management arrangements for future programming
Consortium Partners and AFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand progress of the program, successes and weaknesses and recommendations for improvement

Secondary audience

Audience	Information needs
DFAT Canberra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested in the findings and learnings
Philippines sector stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested in the findings and learnings

Review Scope and Methodology

The primary purpose of the Review was to provide DFAT Manila Post with an independent assessment of the quality and quantity of progress towards outcomes to help improve the investment performance in the remaining two years. The Review also provides analysis to inform DFAT’s decision in relation to future investment in the child protection and governance space beyond 2025.

Table 2 Key evaluation questions and sub-questions

Key questions	Sub-questions
<p>KEQ 1. To what extent is SKPH achieving outcomes expected at this time? <i>(effectiveness)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent is SKPH achieving Intermediate Outcomes? To what extent is SKPH demonstrating progress towards end of program outcomes? To what extent is the SKPH achieving its GEDSI and Private Sector Engagement objectives? What has worked well and less well so far and why?
<p>KEQ 2. <i>How well managed is the Program? (efficiency and sustainability)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the program doing to ensure Value for Money? To what extent have the governance arrangements, partnerships and principles been fit for purpose, and critical to the program achieving intermediate outcomes? What are the indications of sustainability?
<p>KEQ 3 (priority). <i>What have we learned from the Review that will inform future programming (Learning)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are key lessons that can help improve the program focus and performance over its remaining years? What are risks, benefits and opportunities that should be considered by DFAT Manila Post in deciding on a next child protection investment in the Philippines?

The review methodology involved a combination of document review, key informant interviews (online and face to face) with former and current DFAT and AFP staff, consortium members, former and current government and non-government partners and participatory workshops with community members in Manila, Cagayan de Oro and Iligan. The workshops used an adapted outcome harvesting approach (https://www.betterevaluation.org/en/plan/approach/outcome_harvesting) and an adapted Most Significant Change (https://www.betterevaluation.org/en/plan/approach/most_significant_change) process. This involved seeking insights from workshop participants about what changes had occurred since their involvement with the SKPH, asking the groups to discuss and decide what was the most significant change and why this was significant. The benefit of this technique is that it enabled the Review team to understand both the outcomes and the importance of these to the stakeholders. The Review team analysed the data against the Key Evaluation Questions and presented the draft findings to DFAT and Consortium partners at the end of the in-country mission for early feedback.

Table 3 Methods

Timeframe	Method	Number of documents/participants
October	Document review	23 (see annex A)
October / November	Key Informant Interviews (online and face to face)	35 individuals (see annex B)
November	Participatory Workshops	5 workshops involving more than 70 people (see annex C)

Limitations

The review was able to consult with a wide range of stakeholders but there were some gaps. The interview with the current Undersecretary for the Department of Justice was cancelled and could not be rescheduled in the timeframe. This meant that detailed information on the plans for the IRR for the new Anti-OSAEC law and the role the program could play was not available from that source. The team was also not able to meet with the current DSWD Undersecretary or national representative to explore the implications of the new anti-OSAEC law. Given this limitation, it would be important for the SKPH consortium members to touch base with these agencies to prioritise the development of the IRR, identify how SKPH can best support the IRR process, and for the IRR to be translated into internal government guidelines to ensure the relevant mechanisms are embedded in processes and internal policies of government agencies. The team was not able to meet with the right people from a disability organisation that the program engaged to learn more about the disability sector’s engagement in OSAEC. The Review team was also not able to meet with students in the two sub-national program locations because of Department of Education protocols, however we were able to have input from representatives of youth organisations and parents in Cagayan de Oro. The Review team would have needed more time in country and more lead time to establish and implement the necessary ethical research protocols for children to participate in this Review so it was not envisaged that the team would be interviewing children. Despite the limitations the MTR team is confident that this report meets the criteria included in the DFAT Monitoring and Evaluation Standards – standard 6 Independent Evaluation Reports (see annex D).

KEY FINDINGS

KEQ 1. To what extent is SKPH achieving outcomes expected at this time? (effectiveness)

The SKPH program is achieving good outcomes at this point in time. Under all three components, there is evidence of achievement of intermediate outcomes including improved knowledge and awareness of OSAEC both at the national level and in the program hotspots. SKPH support to policies, laws and processes has also been a highlight of the program to date, with several significant pieces of policy and law being approved and adopted nationally and in the two OSAEC hotspots of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan. Importantly, SKPH was able to contribute key GEDSI considerations into both advocacy and training materials and policies and laws. SKPH has seen positive impacts of support to strategic communication for women police in promoting child protection, and through capacity building support to the Philippine Internet Crime against Children Center (PICACC), the AFP and PICACC partners have increased rescues of children and arrests of perpetrators of OSAEC. There were some delays and gaps however. The Social Norms study has been significantly delayed which impacts on the ability of the program to understand several important elements including, what behaviour change is to be expected from the program, the GEDSI considerations of OSAEC, and successful interventions to address this complex crime.

To what extent is SKPH achieving Intermediate Outcomes?

As can be expected at the mid-point in a complex program, some expected intermediate outcomes have been achieved, some are on track to be achieved, and there are some gaps. Overall, the assessment of the Review team is that the program is where it can be expected to be at this point in time. When considering the devastating impact of Covid, a relatively small budget and limited implementation time, the assessment against this sub-question is good.

Knowledge and awareness has increased due to awareness programs, engagement with the private sector and capacity building with government and community stakeholders – evidenced by pre and post test data, funds raised, and data analytics of social media.

The first year of SKPH reported an impressive campaign reach:

- 54.6M users globally, higher than the 13M expected;
- A 55% engagement rate vs a UNICEF benchmark of 12%;
- A 16% average view duration vs an industry benchmark of 6%;
- The issue and posts were moving and involving, triggering more shares than comments; more followers than likes; and more sad and angry reactions than likes;
- The campaign achieved a Media ROI of 1:41, generating P20.7M worth of media value vs P500,000 budget spent¹.

In year two, the data analytics reported a reach of over 32,000² on the SKPH Facebook social media.

¹ Annual SKPH Program Report 2019-2020

² This number may include the same people as opposed to 32,000 separate individuals

In addition, SKPH advocacy campaigns and awareness raising materials demonstrated GEDSI dimensions of children’s vulnerability to OSAEC. Disability inclusive materials were observed, but were not consistent. Webinars and advocacy events included subtitles and sign language interpretation.

Figure 2 Example of awareness raising and advocacy messages



Figure 3 Example of awareness raising and advocacy messages



Improvements in the Policy and legal framework have been significant, including support to the drafting of the Anti-OSAEC law, Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Family Court Act and associated Bench book, the Department of Information, Communication and Technology (DICT) Child Online Safeguarding Policy and Philippines National Police (PNP) Child Protection Strategy. The program also supported the establishment and capacity development of the PICACC, Aleng Pulis and Child Protection Committees in schools. SKPH also helped develop and implement the DepEd

Cybersafety modules, LGU Child Protection mechanisms, local ordinances and referral guidelines for child protection. SCP noted that Cybersafe is DepEd's material that was developed together with UNICEF, The Stairway Foundation, and Immap. The modules contain activities best suited for a group/class. SKPH together with the teachers and the Division Office of CDO contextualised the modules for individual modular learning³. These achievements in policy and law reform are indicative of well-placed technical advice and strategic relationships that both the Australian Government and the Consortium have established for the purposes of policy influence.

The 2021-2022 Annual Report noted that "The Consortium was also able to actively participate, lead and advocate for the passing of the OSAEC Bill. It is worthy to note that the submitted draft bill by the consortium has been substantially adopted by both chambers of Congress." P.5. Some of the salient provisions of the bill include: new terminologies such as Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Materials, Content Data, Electronic Money Issuers, Financial intermediaries, Image-based sexual abuse, Internet intermediaries, Internet payment system provider. SKPH also enabled inclusions such as the exemption to the Anti-Wire Tapping Act, duties and obligations of the Private Sector, creation of OSAEC offender registry and reasonable accommodations for children with disabilities.

The Family Courts IRR integrated a dedicated Social Services Counselling Division to enable a more gender-sensitive and inclusive child protection approach in the justice system. When implemented, this will help make children feel more supported and protected during case management.

Some practice change has been evidenced through **increases in reporting and use of referral mechanisms** (although improvements need to be made), and in rescues, arrests and investigations. There is also some evidence of GEDSI-specific activities, which might not have been by design. The program's response to the quickly changing OSAEC context as a result of COVID-19 (which saw an increased risk of children to OSAEC and gender-based violence) has enabled more GEDSI focused activities. The program started working with the Philippine National Police Women and Children Protection Center (PNP-WCPC) to increase its staff capacity to be child protection advocates and increased the online presence of women police to advocate against gender-based violence and OSAEC. As a consequence, the followers of the women police social media page (#AlengPulis) rose by 200 percent. The program also helped establish a Social Media Referral and Management System, which led to 1,998 reported cases and complaints (reported in the 2021-22 annual progress report). Other positive results of support to PNP-WCPC are reported below:

³ More information about the material can be accessed here: www.cybersafe.asia

Figure 4 Practice changes

200% increase in the Facebook followers of the PNP-WCPC page

55% of direct messages in the page were appropriately responded to with guidance from PNP Senior Officers

70-80% improved response rate of the PNP-WCPC Facebook page since the #AlengPulis social media campaign started

5-10 hours compared to the 2 days response rate before the #AlengPulis social media campaign started

In terms of enhancing expertise, systems and infrastructure of community-based mechanisms to detect and address OSAEC in hotspots, achievement of intermediate outcomes has also been good. Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities and four barangays have incorporated child protection projects in their local development and investment plans and are rolling out awareness raising in communities. Cagayan de Oro City has developed an OSAEC action plan and has reportedly allocated budget to implementation. The PCC also heard that all four partners schools are implementing the DepEd Child protection Policy and there have been several matters reported (although most related to bullying). SCP is keen to review strategies in working with communities and potentially work with stakeholders on values formation, supporting family interventions such as referral to livelihood programs and counselling for example, in addition to awareness raising.

In addition to expected intermediate outcomes, the program has achieved other outcomes that are not currently reflected in the Theory of Change. These are important outcomes to capture and understand the contribution to end of program outcomes.

8. SKPH has mobilised likeminded agencies and community members and facilitated the building of networks of champions (including OSAEC “Warriors”) – this is the crux of social change programs and the heart of sustainability. All stakeholder groups consulted for this Review agreed that this was a key outcome of the program.
9. Criminal justice outcomes resulting from SKPH collaboration (police to police) – While the Philippines Internet Crimes Against Children Centre (PICACC) is not funded under SKPH, the program assists with capacity building on interviewing victims, investigations and other relevant subjects. AFP’s work in supporting capacity building on actual cases with PNP and NBI in PICACC has led to tangible outcomes such as arrests and rescues. This relationship building also contributes to the role of Australia as a trusted partner to the Philippines.

Figure 5 Other outcomes

IN 2015, THE PHILIPPINES SAW 12 VICTIMS RESCUED FROM ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN COMPARED TO 231 IN PICACC'S SECOND YEAR.



https://osec.ijm.org/documents/12/rev_PICACC_2nd_Anniv_Magazine.ia.pdf

Some delays/gaps – Unfortunately the Social Norms Study planned for early in the program was delayed by COVID and budgeting problems but is underway now. It was expected that this study would inform the development of effective interventions earlier in the program but these will need to be rolled out in the second half of SKPH. Gaps also exist in terms of meaningful and useful monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) and GEDSI, with the former being unhelpfully focused on accountability for outputs and the latter being inconsistently applied and captured. This is discussed further in later sections of this report.

To what extent is SKPH demonstrating progress towards end of program outcomes?

The SKPH Theory of Change describes four end of program outcomes (EOPOs); the first three are the outcomes expected from implementing the three components and the fourth is overarching.

EOPO 1: Positive behaviours adopted towards the protection of children from online abuse and exploitation – progress towards this EOPO is the most difficult to understand because while the awareness campaigns and engagement through social media have demonstrated reach, without the social norms study and follow up evaluation of behaviour change, it is difficult to know the extent to which awareness has translated to positive behaviour change. The launch of the program saw

impressive reach results and in year two, a significant increase in website visitors was reported as well as AUD 208,566 in donations from the private sector but year three saw a drop in reach and donations – which is likely partly attributable to COVID but could also be a reflection of waning interest due to a decrease in momentum from campaigning. Campaigns are a costly endeavour, and it would be important to understand more about the link between increased awareness and behaviour change prior to investing more. Once the social norms study is completed there should be further clarity about the likelihood of a causal link between OSAEC messaging and campaigning and the types of positive behaviours adopted, and by whom.

EPOP 2: Law Enforcement, prosecutors and judiciary improve child protection policies and processes in relation to OSAEC cases – The SKPH program is on track to achieve this. Several Review informants commented that the program has provided the technical and enabling support required for the implementers of new law and policy to do their jobs more effectively. The IRR for the Family Court Act has been in train since 1994 and without the support of the SKPH to “help it over the finish line”, one government stakeholder suggested that it would have been a slower process. However, the IRR and associated Bench Book will need further technical and strategic financial support from development partners to be fully implemented. With significant changes in the political economy, there is a risk however, that important and strategic relationships that have been previously built, will need to be re-established with new office holders, particularly but not limited to the Philippines National Police. While SKPH partners are well placed to navigate these changes, some short term targets may be affected by this transition.

EOPO 3: Improved service delivery for OSEC prevention and protection in target OSEC hotspots – Progress towards this EOPO is also on track but there are still challenges in terms of application of referral guidelines and funding issues. In Cagayan de Oro, the government officials have secured funds to support child protection, however in Illigan funding was limited resulting in less engagement on this issue. Positively, the new administration’s Local Council for the Protection of Children in Illigan have committed to allocating 24 million PHP for child protection programs, plans and activities for 2023.

Review stakeholders reported many changes in Cagayan de Oro resulting from the support of SKPH. The most significant changes identified by workshop participants at the Municipal level included:

- Enhanced coordination between agencies through meetings (no overlapping of functions) when there was previously no collaboration
- Equipped training participants – “It’s harder to build a human being compared to infrastructure”
- Referral pathways were explained – although a comment was made that the flowchart is clear, but the real situation is “chaotic”. More work is needed to streamline referral processes. A “one stop shop” where all services are available under one roof for abused children was suggested to address this issue.

At the Barangay level, parents considered the most important outcomes to be:

- Self-awareness on children’s exploitation online
- Parental guidance and monitoring of children’s activities online

Other outcomes included:

- “Our children have minimised online gaming and now they are aware of sexual abuse because of the SaferKidsPH program”
- Many have become advocates fighting against OSAEC

EOPO 4: Evidence informed development of OSAEC policy and laws – Progress towards this overarching EOPO is on track but could be strengthened by the program taking a more strategic

approach to ensure knowledge translates to policy and/or practice and ensure there is policy coherence. The delays in the social norms study mean that the evidence from that study will only be available at the end of the program, however, other knowledge products developed in the first half of the program have provided useful evidence of approaches that work, such as the remote counselling pilot and the intervention study. The Bench Book for the Family Court Act includes practical tips for judges and legal practitioners to navigate the numerous laws that cover children.

To what extent is the SKPH achieving its GEDSI and Private Sector Engagement objectives?

The program developed a good GEDSI strategy during the inception. To date, the program has achieved some good results with integrating GEDSI considerations, in particular in laws and policies and activity approaches in project locations, and by highlighting diversity in awareness raising campaigns. Some GEDSI specific initiatives have also been observed, namely the development of a youth engagement strategy on OSAEC and the capacity strengthening of the women police. However, Consortium partners have indicated that they can do better in surfacing, articulating and reporting GEDSI related efforts and issues. This includes undertaking GEDSI analysis as part of program activities and better articulation of GEDSI in the MEL framework and reporting. The disaggregation of data and understanding of GEDSI is inconsistent across the program. The focus on disability-inclusive practises can also be improved. There is evidence of more deliberate consideration of GEDSI in program implementation in the past year, and evidence of engaging more GEDSI groups to support planning, programming and MEL in future. For example, gender analysis is now included in the baseline assessments in new program sites and the youth engagement strategy will see greater engagement of diverse groups of young people in implementation.

GEDSI governance and accountability

The SKPH operations manual includes a detailed and comprehensive gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) strategy. The strategy was developed during the inception phase by UNICEF with inputs from consortium members and approved by the PCC. The program seeks to integrate gender, disability and social inclusion across all components of the program at all stages of implementation (consistent with DFAT standards and policies on gender and disability). The strategy was to be used as a reference in developing, monitoring and evaluating activities.

The accountability and governance section of the Strategy outlines that each staff from the Consortium members who is involved in the implementation of the program plays an important role in upholding the GEDSI policy, and that the consortium collectively ensures that GEDSI leadership, resources and technical capacity requirements are met. It is commendable that the consortium developed the GEDSI strategy right from the start. A DFAT Manila review of 12 Australian development investments, showed that SKPH was one of two programs that had a GEDSI strategy right from the start. However, the implementation of the GEDSI strategy has not been consistent. There are three main reasons for this: the delay of the social norms study to inform GEDSI-nuanced program activities, the assumption that sufficiently qualified GEDSI expertise was already available within consortium partners, and lack of inclusion of GEDSI outcomes in the program's theory of change and MEL framework. The latter can also be supported by stronger leadership from UNICEF to drive the implementation of the GEDSI strategy.

Social norms study

The SaferKidsPH program, and the child protection sector more broadly, lacks clear gender, disability and social inclusion analysis on OSAEC and GEDSI-related governance issues in the child protection system. There is a wide perception that all children are at risk of OSAEC with limited nuancing. COVID

has made the OSAEC context even more complicated, with a recognition that OSAEC is not a problem only facing families in poverty. A program monitoring visit in early 2022 highlighted several gender issues such as the multiple burden and mental health challenges faced by women in their roles as parents, community organisers, social workers, teachers, guidance counsellors, healthcare workers, law enforcers, and family court judges. The visit raised the question of whether law enforcement officers and social workers have access to mental health services to deal with any potential second-hand trauma, particularly law enforcers and social service providers. SCP has noted its intention to design and roll out a Debriefing Activity program as part of their support to SKPH partners. The visit also highlighted the perception that girls are more vulnerable to predators, teenage pregnancy, and incestuous rape.

An important part of the implementation of the GEDSI strategy was the social norms study, which was intended to provide the program with a more nuanced understanding of inter and intra household norms, behaviours and practices on child rearing, family, gender and sex in relation to OSAEC. It would surface more information on the intersectionality of OSAEC with income, education, gender, disability, and cultural identity. Unfortunately, as noted earlier, the social norms study faced significant delays due to COVID and funding limitations.

GEDSI in monitoring and evaluation

As reported in both the theory of change review and the evaluability assessment as well as DFAT monitoring reports, GEDSI is not systematically and purposively articulated in the program outcomes. This undermines the GEDSI articulation in the monitoring and evaluation framework and reduces the ability of the program to capture GEDSI elements in reporting and risk management. The program collects some disaggregated quantitative data in its M&E framework, particularly from learning and training sessions with government partners, communities, schools, and families in project locations. This also includes qualitative data as part of pre- and post-activity assessments. GEDSI implementation sits with the individual agency program managers and there is no GEDSI lead in the consortium to support the GEDSI strategy implementation, which results in inconsistent approaches.

Progress reporting demonstrated that GEDSI was not front of mind in the first two years of the program. Consortium partners have acknowledged that they can do a better job in surfacing, articulating and reporting GEDSI related efforts and issues. This includes better articulation of GEDSI expectations in the MEL framework and disaggregated indicators. Monitoring reports indicated that DFAT has consistently prompted the consortium to be more deliberate in considering GEDSI across all program activities.

To improve the consortium GEDSI efforts, DFAT shared resources and the Child Protection Advisor of Save the Children Philippines led a session on how to do gender analysis on OSAEC as part of the consortium's regular learning sessions. The consortium also included GEDSI as a standing item on the PIT and PCC agenda to ensure it remained front of mind. As a result, GEDSI efforts and reporting significantly improved in year three, with some good and encouraging GEDSI achievements. The consortium is also in the process of identifying a few clear GEDSI activities and outcomes that will be pursued in the remainder of the program. In the program sites, program partners have indicated they will now include GEDSI analysis as part of the baseline and endline assessments.

GEDSI achievements to date

The program has engaged child and youth organisations and some women and people with disability organisations to inform advocacy messaging and policy text. Consistent engagement with the disability sector has been challenging. UNICEF noted that the sector is fragmented, which makes it hard to find organisations that provide a holistic view of the needs of children with disabilities. A disability organisation was engaged to support text for the Anti-OSAEC law and the DICT Child Online Safeguarding Policy.

The program has made important contributions to ensuring gender-sensitive, disability, and social inclusive provisions were included in new laws, implementing rules and regulations, and policies. These included the Anti-OSAEC law, the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Family Courts Act, the Bench Book, and the Philippine National Police (PNP) first Child Protection Policy to ensure children feel safe and protected during rescue and investigation operations, including custody.

The program facilitated the inclusion of diverse groups of children and youth as part of consultations on government policies. These included children with disabilities, children with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics. Pre- and post-evaluations on their participation in consultations showed the children felt more empowered. Through these consultations the law includes more inclusive language and through a partnership with a people with disability organisation, the consortium enabled the inclusion of provisions on reasonable accommodation for children with disabilities in the Anti-OSAEC law (2022):

“Section 29. Reasonable Accommodation for Children with Disabilities. — The DOJ and the DSWD shall develop guidelines, within ninety (90) days from the finalization of the implementing rules and regulations of this Act and pursuant to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, for the provision, as far as practicable, of necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments across all stages of case management of OSAEC cases to ensure children with disabilities will have access to justice.”

The inclusion of the following text in the PNP Child Protection Policy provides opportunities for SKPH to support more GEDSI-oriented capability building of law enforcers:

“Ensure that all its [PNP] operations and processes are child-sensitive, gender-sensitive, rights-based and disability sensitive, in line with the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly the best interest of the child and their non-discrimination.”

These inclusions have improved the enabling environment for a more inclusive and stronger child protection system.

SKPH also engaged local women, LGBTI+, youth and disability organisations in community consultations, advocacy and training events. The program collects sex, age and disability (Washington Group set of questions) disaggregated information of activities in program sites. GEDSI elements are also included in training modules for children and young people. The training materials were tested by children with a range of disabilities and is conducted in accessible venues.

In the past year, a youth engagement strategy and action plan have been developed, which consider children not only as beneficiaries but also as part of the solution. The program engaged a gender-diverse and inclusive group of 120 young leaders to develop the Strategy which was adopted by the Council for the Welfare of Children and the Inter-Agency Council against Child Pornography (IACACP) to promote a peer-to-peer approach in preventing and reporting OSAEC in schools and communities.

The consortium is currently updating its MEL framework, led by UNICEF. The program should include a GEDSI outcome and qualitative and quantitative indicators to help tell a coherent story. Apart from the inclusion of GEDSI analysis in the baseline and endline studies at the program sites, the program could include GEDSI analysis in all key program activities. The governance arrangements, including having GEDSI as a standing item on the PIT agenda, allow the sharing of learning from study results and the implementation of interventions. SKPH can more consistently partner with organisations that focus on gender, disability and other social inclusion issues to ensure GEDSI issues are considered. In lieu of the social norms study results, these organisations, as well as partners in the Ad Hoc Working Group, can

offer valuable knowledge and insights into relations, barriers, and opportunities at local and national levels.

The role of the private sector has been captured in a private sector engagement strategy which was developed during the inception phase. The program specifically targets private sector agencies to increase their engagement and responsibility in addressing OSAEC and to raise funds. Partners reported better than expected results and some gains have been made to date: private sector awareness of OSAEC has been increased resulting in over AUD 390,000 funds raised for the program and Partnership Agreements signed, for example with the Australian New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (ANZCHAM). The program has also linked the largest telecommunications and social media companies with the government, for example to shape private sector responsibilities under the new anti-OSAEC law. The private sector has significantly amplified SKPH awareness raising campaigns through their platforms and mobile phone networks.

SKPH developed a private sector engagement strategy during the program inception phase and is captured in the program's operations manual. The strategy outlines three private sector engagement objectives:

- **Fundraising:** private sector contributes financial and non-financial assets for project implementation. SKPH's fundraising efforts shall focus on potential donors among the diplomatic community.
- **Consultation and Dialogue:** private sector's direct action contributes to the achievement of project goals. The private sector will be consulted and engaged in identifying bottlenecks and developing and amending relevant child protection policies and laws, if necessary.
- **Advocacy:** private sector and influencers amplify messages for child online safety.

While there is not a specific private sector end of program or intermediate outcome identified in the program's theory of change, the program has five indicators and targets to measure the extent to which the three objectives have been achieved. Most of these targets are achieved or on track. Overall, the consortium reported that the engagement and advocacy with private sector is worth the effort with better than expected results. Private sector actors have also put their own resources in to address OSAEC.

Fundraising

Private Sector companies or high net-worth individuals providing funding support on OSAEC to SKPH is progressing well. Fundraising packages have been developed, targeted to the corporate social responsibility programmes of private sector entities whose main advocacy is child protection. To date, the program has reported to have raised more than AUD390,000 in the first three years of the program.

SKPH signed a Partnership Agreement with ANZCHAM. SKPH has become an integral part of ANZCHAM's yearly fundraising campaign and its partnership with SKPH is the only collaboration of its kind. Members appreciate the opportunity to give something back and SKPH is the "heart" of ANZCHAM's annual fundraising. Central to the success of the partnership is the UNICEF logo and the connection with the Australian Government, both of which provide credibility. The active participation of the former Australian Ambassador added to the importance of the issue.

Partnerships with Globe and PLTD/SMART, Australian companies such as QBE and Macquarie Bank Foundation, ANZCHAM and high-value individuals supported SKPH community projects, such as establishing child friendly spaces and the provision of technical equipment to community child protection units to support online learning, reporting and access to justice remotely. Globe is supporting the development of the Youth Engagement Strategy and Action Plan. PLDT/Smart is equipping the community. QBE is supporting to the Department of Education and select schools in the development of

a road map for the roll out of the Child Protection Policy and connecting school-based child protection committees to the local government for better reporting and referral of online and offline violence against children.

While some good results have been achieved, the private sector fundraising also had its challenges. The program had to disallow reception of funds from certain industries. SKPH private sector engagement adheres to strict due diligence processes and fund flow arrangements, as outlined in the operations manual. These clear processes meant that sensitive issues could be handled well. The pandemic limited access to private sector counterparts and private sector was more inclined to contribute to the COVID-19 response and Typhoon Odette (in December 2021) than to the purely child protection issue of OSAEC.

Consultation and dialogue

In line with the Children's Rights and Business Principles, SKPH, led by UNICEF, engaged eight companies (varying from social media companies, telecommunications, and internet service providers) to influence the conduct of business of companies whose operations count children and their parents and caregivers as consumers through for example child safeguarding policies, codes of conduct and child-protective user settings. Considering internet infrastructure is commercially owned, telecommunications and internet service providers are part of the OSAEC problem.

The program actively engaged private sector in amending/drafting/passing child protection policies and laws. Facilitated by SKPH, the law was developed in collaboration with the private sector (Globe, PLDT/SMART, Google, Facebook and others) to ensure there was viable infrastructure and available technological capacity to prevent, detect, and block child sexual abuse and exploitation material found online. Private sector as well as government partners acknowledged and highly valued SKPH's role as a convenor for private sector engagement in the Anti-OSAEC law.

SKPH also consulted the business sector as part of its support to the DICT for the development and implementation of the Child Online Safeguarding Policy (COSP). It outlines the responsibilities of the private sector and provides practical tools for internet service providers to restrict access to harmful content and employ child safeguarding mechanisms. Through the COSP, DICT also seeks collaboration with internet service providers to safeguard children. DICT noted that Facebook/Meta have adopted the COSP and would value SKPH ongoing support to ensure the adoption of the COSP by other internet service providers.

The program delivered a session on the Children's Rights and Business Principles to ANZCHAM members, however DFAT and ANZCHAM indicated that this has not (yet) led to any change of business policy or operations. Program follow through may make a difference, but interest would need to be investigated before further efforts are made.

Advocacy

The target of engaging five private sector companies that collaborated with SKPH in advocacy awareness raising activities, and utilizing their platforms for such event/activities, has been achieved.

The program has collaborated with the two largest telecommunications companies in the Philippines, Smart PLDT and Globe, and with the largest internet service providers/social media platforms, including Facebook/Instagram/WhatsApp; TikTok/Twitter; and Google/YouTube. These platforms have collaborated with SKPH to amplify the awareness raising and advocacy campaigns through their platforms.

For example, during the pandemic, the program collaborated with the National Telecommunications Commission and major mobile companies to execute a national SMS blast encouraging the public to visit

UNICEF and SKPH websites for tips on online safety and how and where to report during the pandemic. This resulted to a 74,000 percent increase in the number of website visitors.

Globe's existing company education program, its Digital Thumbprint Program, was strengthened by integrating SKPH learning resources, including on child online safety and how children and their parents can protect themselves against online sexual abuse and exploitation. Globe subsequently used its own resources to roll out the Program. It includes a series of workshops designed to educate learners, parents and educators on digital citizenship, online safety, and the responsible use of the internet. UNICEF was part of the panel of experts that engaged educators.

Consortium partners to continue the implementation of the private sector strategy, with support from DFAT where useful, with a focus on facilitating private sector engagement in the IRR of the new Anti-OSAEC law and consolidating the gains made to date. With limited human resources, it makes sense to focus on companies where there is traction.

What has worked well and less well so far and why?

Review consultations consistently confirmed that the key success for the program has been the ability of the SKPH consortium members and AFP to use their established relationships, networks and credibility to engage the right people in the Philippines government to influence policy and law relating to OSAEC. Also important is the role of Australia as a trusted partner to the Philippines and the expectation that as long as Australians are offending against Filipino children, the Australian government is committed to partnering to prevent and protect children from OSAEC. High level engagement from the former Australian Ambassador during campaigning was noted as a key success factor in raising awareness of the issue of OSAEC at the national level. At the local level, building partnerships between local agencies and partnering with a local NGO has enabled community engagement to occur more quickly and champions to be identified resulting in better progress and results for local anti-OSAEC activities. Two Review informants noted that the goodwill and connections made through study visits to Australia have reaped long term rewards. In addition to allowing senior officials who would not normally spend extended periods of time together (e.g., PNP and NBI), a study tour of the Family Court motivated participants to see what was possible in terms of child protection reforms in the justice process.

SKPH supported a remote counselling pilot, which showed positive results. The pilot partnered with different agencies to provide remote counselling to 30 OSAEC survivors (including 8-9 males) between the ages of 15 and 18. The pilot trained up nine male and female counsellors who offered counselling in local languages and targeted emotional regulation, self-esteem, world view, and social skills. The results of remote counselling found that there was decreased trauma, increased well-being scores and changed behaviour. The pilot not only allowed counselling of OSAEC victim survivors during COVID lockdown but would, long term, enable access to counselling services to children in remote communities. Children with intellectual disabilities were excluded from the pilot as they would require different approaches.

With one exception, all key informants for the Review considered the program to be valuable and a worthwhile investment for Australia. There were, however, some observations relating to improvements that could be made. The main improvement relates to the need for the consortium to be more deliberately strategic and for UNICEF to strengthen its leadership and management of the program. Other areas for improvement relate to this main factor and include the need to better capture and articulate the SKPH "story" through better capturing results and learning, more deliberately programming and capturing of GEDSI, and clarifying roles and responsibilities of SKPH members and partners. One Philippines government partner noted that they were not sure if their agency was a partner or a beneficiary and what was expected of them was not very clear.

With a new administration, a new anti-OSAEC law, and implementation of the Mandanas Ruling, it would be timely for the program to reflect on changes in context and to undertake a political economy analysis (PEA) and document opportunities. Another observation from consultations was that the knowledge products supported by the program were of a high standard but the strategy around how knowledge can influence policy and practice and how it should be disseminated was not clear to other consortium members nor some government departments. UNICEF noted that the studies such as the OSAEC Intervention Strategies and the (pending) Social Norms Study are included in the rolling workplan for the DSWD and will inform the response plan for the National Coordination Centre on OSAEC and Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Material created under the new Act. There may be other benefits to deliberately disseminating these knowledge products more widely (or not), but a strategy for each product with a clear analysis of how to maximise the value of its production would be useful.

As already noted, the MEL system has not been able to capture and record achievements and learnings as much as hoped. UNICEF has made efforts to improve the SKPH MEL system but a main factor causing the problem is the structure of the MEL being centred around a logframe. DFAT quality standards for MEL systems outline several elements that are not consistent with logframes such as including evaluation questions, context and risks, responsibility (individual). These issues can be relatively easily remedied by adding narrative text to the results framework table. However, a bigger problem is that the measurement of achievement relies solely on numerical indicators and targets. This means that the “success” of the SKPH is only captured in terms of indicator targets (accountability) and there are no learning or partnership measures or expectations. What ends up happening is that when an output target is “achieved”, for example, 70% of people trained have increased knowledge, then that “box is ticked” (accountability style). What we do not understand, is why some people didn’t learn, who they were, what the success factors were, what difference the learning made (if any), what the challenges to implementing the new learning were, how do we improve. A more fit for purpose MEL system would capture and report information on monitoring (useful, meaningful monitoring), evaluation (through evaluative activities and analysis of monitoring data) and learning about what is working and not working and why, for improvement.

A simple, fit for purpose MEL system that incorporates learning and reflection, monitoring context, partnerships, risk and evaluative activities that help the SKPH consortium to understand when activities are working well and when and how they can be improved.

KEQ 2. How well managed is the Program? (efficiency and sustainability)

The SKPH program is demonstrating value for money by leveraging resources from consortium members both in terms of personnel and the influential networks and connections. With a relatively small investment, much has been achieved. The governance arrangements, consortium partnership and principles have largely been fit for purpose and important to achieving the intermediate outcomes to date. Greater program management leadership from UNICEF would be welcomed by partners, including DFAT, to strengthen monitoring, evaluation and learning, enhance the integration of GEDSI and to increase whole of program cohesion. The PCC could support UNICEF and partners in these efforts by increasing the strategic focus and direction setting for the program. The approach the program takes in working through Philippines government processes enhances sustainability but at the same time, means that reforms can take time to be implemented as they are outside the direct control of the program.

What is the program doing to ensure Value for Money?

As noted in an earlier section, the program has leveraged extensive resources from consortium members in terms of relationships and networks, and additional resources have also been leveraged for specific activities such as youth and private sector engagement. While the program supports training and forums that bring agencies together, agencies reported that they then used their own resources to implement the new procedures such as the referral mechanism and child protection policies in schools.

In addition to the funds raised by private sector engagement noted earlier, the consortium model was reported by stakeholders to be greater than the sum of its parts, compared to other modalities, and because of their credibility and collective goal. While UNICEF led fundraising efforts, in particular with their private sector partners such as Globe and SMART, DFAT with support from Austrade, played a central coordinating role in relation to raising funds with ANZCHAM and its members.

Overall, however, the Review found that the extent of the program's reach and influence, particularly in such a short amount of time, means that it is "punching above its weight" considering the investment. It will be important to maintain the momentum by continuing to be strategic as the context and what is known about the problem evolves.

To what extent have the governance arrangements, partnerships and principles been fit for purpose, and critical to the program achieving intermediate outcomes?

Program governance arrangements

The governance of the program is guided by the program's operations manual, which was developed in the first six months of the program, led by UNICEF in partnership by The Asia Foundation, Save the Children Philippines and DFAT. The manual was set up as a living document to allow for updates as needed. It outlines the consortium's business processes, funding flows and governance arrangements. It also includes child protection policy and processes; preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment policy; risk management matrix; GEDSI strategy; private sector engagement strategy; monitoring and evaluation framework; and sustainability plan. All program partners indicated that the manual has been an effective program management and governance tool. As noted by the Partnership Case Study, "when there have been unforeseen challenges to the function of the consortium, the group has leaned on the agreed processes and procedures within the Manual to guide their shared response to those challenges."

The program is coordinated through the Program Implementation Team (PIT), consisting of the three consortium partners' program staff, AFP and DFAT. The PIT meets regularly and is an important platform for risk, program planning and management discussions and for sharing insights and lessons from implementation experience. The Program Coordinating Committee (PCC) includes consortium heads of agencies, DFAT and AFP staff. It convenes quarterly and provides strategic guidance, discusses key risks to the program (which is a standing item on the agenda) and approves annual workplans and changes. All staff highlighted the importance of frank, open and honest conversations, and collaborative decision-making processes as central to their successful function.

The PCC meeting observed by the MTR team focused mainly on program updates⁴. With the program in its fourth year and considering the recent changes in the program's operating environment, the PCC could now focus more on building coherence across the program, setting strategic directions and on action-focused political economy discussions. For example, what are the entry points into the new Administration (champions and blockers), how will the program strategically engage with the implementation of the Anti-OSAEC law, and to what extent does the program need to make any adjustments with the implementation of the Mandanas Ruling? PCC meetings can identify clear actions from these discussions to guide the program management team.

Partnership model

The consortium model has been very positively perceived by almost all stakeholders interviewed during the MTR process. The consortium brings together three credible and well-respected agencies that collectively work towards the common goal of improving the child protection system to reduce the prevalence of OSAEC. All interviewed stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society noted the strength of the consortium in bringing together extensive networks, relationships and experience that provided government and private sector stakeholders great confidence to partner with SKPH.

The DFAT Annual Monitoring Reports have stated that the consortium remains efficient for the program, particularly because "OSAEC is a complex issue requiring collective and coordinated response from multi-sectoral partners" (IMR 2020-21). The collective awareness raising campaigns have also provided opportunities for Australia to stand side-by-side Government, private sector and civil society to fight OSAEC. SKPH has provided critical entry points to the government and the judiciary, and greater visibility for Australia to demonstrate that it is serious about addressing the issue that also involves Australian perpetrators.

The three consortium members also all value the partnership. It allowed them to reinforce each organisation's individual commitment, leverage each other's networks and pursue joint opportunities. Their individual and collective credibility helped raise the issue of OSAEC through the SKPH brand with the government, private sector and the public as well as in key advocacy and policy/legislative dialogue events. The collective action through the SKPH launch campaign, for example, saw campaign messages become front and centre in key government advocacy events.

However, some key informants stated that the program is currently not capturing all that it is doing in a coherent story and does not have clear strategic intent. Consortium partners are very clear on their individual workplan and the work of the other partners, and the thinking that underpins these workplans is very strategic. A more deliberate effort to bring the work together would ensure that the program will continue to be greater than the sum of its parts and is more proactively capitalising on the individual efforts.

Strategic leadership

While the structure of SKPH activities and components means that individual organisations can work and lead on individual components of the program, consortium members value the sharing of insights and learning to deal with the multifaceted and complex nature of OSAEC and to achieve better outcomes. However, the responsibility of building program cohesion to capture the collective story remains less clear. As one key informant noted, the program is "missing the glue".

⁴ Although it was possible that the PCC members refrained from having strategic discussions because the MTR was in attendance and they may not have wanted to pre-empt the findings.

Both DFAT and UNICEF have played dual roles, which require more clarity to continue the effective management of the program and ensure program cohesion. DFAT and UNICEF staff worked intensively together on the oversight of the consortium within the PIT, however, staff time allocations have recently changed.

DFAT played a dual role as both the donor and a consortium member. The consortium members recognised DFAT's efforts within the consortium to act transparently and promote an open and approachable atmosphere. However, as the Partnership Case Study notes, this approach has largely been built on the professional approach of DFAT staff who have worked on the program, rather than a 'partnership' program management design which commits DFAT to working in particular ways within the consortium. During the MTR process, DFAT staff noted they had taken a step back from the intense management of the program due to competing priorities. DFAT is keen to engage strategically but want UNICEF to lead on everyday program management issues. Several Review informants noted that when DFAT gets involved, things move "more quickly", and things "get done", presumably because the issue or obstacle has been "escalated" by involving DFAT.

- a. UNICEF holds a contractual obligation to demonstrate results to DFAT and therefore needs to hold consortium members accountable for their share of the activities, while simultaneously trying to foster a horizontal and equitable culture as a consortium member themselves. The UNICEF program manager is also fulfilling a technical role, which has meant that roles and responsibilities have not always been clear. UNICEF's human resource allocations to the program have also varied, in part depending on operational requirements. At the time of the MTR, UNICEF indicated it is reviewing its staff allocation for the SKPH program. This should hopefully see greater UNICEF leadership of the program to bring the efforts of individual partners together.

Strategic leadership also means providing space for learning and reflection, and reviewing the strategic direction of the program, although UNICEF may want to take the role as convenor as opposed to facilitator to ensure the positive partnership-based ways of working are retained. The MTR suggests these reflection workshops should occur six monthly and could involve the following questions (among others):

1. What has worked well and why?
2. What has worked less well and why?
3. Where do we have traction?
4. Who are we working with, and not working with but should be?
5. How can we address this?
6. How are we engaging with partners to maximise support to change agents?
7. Are there new players and what's the plan to engage them?
8. What has changed in the context and what are the implications for us?

The program is at a point that it needs to clarify the overall SKPH program management role. With staff movements in both UNICEF and DFAT, the MTR team recommends that UNICEF take on greater leadership of the overall program, with a particular focus on strengthening program cohesion. This should also include the strengthening of the monitoring, evaluation and learning system of the program and driving more consistent integration of GEDSI across the program. Other consortium members indicated they would welcome this approach. This doesn't mean that the partnership and collaboration that has been forged between partners needs to change, but UNICEF will need to drive some processes such as learning and reflection to ensure the program can tell its good story of how it has strengthened

the child protection system to reduce the prevalence of OSAEC and what it has learned about the best ways to do this.

What are the indications of sustainability?

Sustainability of benefits of a program usually involves program-supported reforms being embedded or enshrined in government systems and owned by government agencies. While it is relatively early days for the program, the Review found evidence that at the local level there is a great deal of ownership of the program supported materials. The approach the program takes in working through Philippines government processes enhances sustainability but at the same time, means that reforms can take time to be implemented as they are outside the direct control of the program. A critical success factor for sustainability is the identification of “champions” who will lead and carry the work supported by the program and this is dependent on the program continuing to build on strong relationships developed with government and non-government actors and establish new connections as they arise. Government and non-government Review key informants reported that the plan to continue the networks and connections created with the support of the program because they are passionate about fighting OSAEC. One of these is the Ad Hoc working group on OSAEC, comprising eight key NGO and IO partners currently, which has been established by the consortium and will continue beyond the SKPH program. It is possible that this could expand in future.

KEQ 3 (priority). What have we learned from the Review that will inform future programming (Learning)

Key lessons from the implementation of SKPH that should inform the remainder of the program involve increasing focus by harnessing commitment and champions – both existing and new - and recognising the complexity of OSAEC, and the variable ways to tackle the problem, only some of which are worth pursuing. The complex nature of OSAEC means that a long term investment and flexibility is key, underpinned by context-informed strategy and a strong management and M&E system. There are also risks associated with working in this space. When considering a future investment, there is a risk that a small investment may only “scratch the surface” but increasing the investment without fully understanding the phenomenon is also risky. Currently the MTR considers the program to be relevant and appropriate in its focus and approach. The benefits of continuing to support Philippines partners in combatting OSAEC go beyond the program itself, involving important bilateral and multilateral relationships, and improving partnerships with the private sector. The complexity of the issue means that expectations must be managed to the extent that until more is known about OSAEC, learning and responding to emergent information is more likely than “results”. Partners at the sub-national level voted for the program to scale up – meaning to intensify the focus at an institutional and policy level instead of scaling out or scaling deep, but until there is more evidence about what works, the program should not make any decisions about scaling.

What are key lessons that can help improve the program focus and performance over its remaining years?

As noted in earlier sections of this report, the changing Philippines administration and new anti-OSAEC law have created a natural “pause point” in the program, that allows SKPH to reflect on where would be the most strategic contribution the program can make in its remaining time, and develop action plans with clear timeframes. Lessons that can help improve the **focus** of the program include:

Harnessing commitment - There is a great deal of commitment and goodwill about addressing OSAEC at all levels – national and local government partners are happy to run with resources that the program develops and delivers. OSAEC is an issue that garners much attention and both AFP and other governments are increasing their resources to support the Philippines in addressing the issue.

Harnessing champions – Identifying and supporting OSAEC champions in the new administration will help to ensure that the efforts of the program are well targeted.

Recognise the complexity of OSAEC – OSAEC is a very complex issue and an understanding of root causes is still evolving. There is an opportunity for SKPH to contribute to this understanding through investing in knowledge products such as the Social Norms study and sharing and using the information. There are “good” and “bad” ways to address the problem of OSAEC; the good ways include taking a rights-based approach, focusing on child protection and victim-centred approaches, and whole of community engagement. As one key informant noted “You can’t arrest your way out of this problem” – solutions need to be multi-faceted and involve systems level change rather than one dimensional or punitive justice sector approaches.

In terms lessons to improve the **performance** of the program in its remaining years, the following factors should be noted:

Consider context and gains – A regular, action-focused PEA and GEDSI analysis is critically important to maximise opportunities to ensure the program remains effective. There is scope to anchor the remaining program to the Anti-OSAEC law and strategic plan (being careful to focus on human rights and rights-based elements), harness and train new champions, and consider the need to engage a broader set of government partners.

Need for ongoing flexibility and stronger management – One of the key strengths of the program so far has been the ability of the program to respond to opportunities e.g., the law, youth engagement, Family Courts Act IRR, all of which were not in the original plan. For this flexibility to continue to be effectively managed and results captured, UNICEF needs to take more of a convening role in managing the consortium rather than relying on DFAT to play the main coordinating role.

Long term commitment is required – When considering performance expectations, it is important to remember that this type of problem requires a long term commitment. Australia has supported the ASEAN region to combat trafficking in persons for the last 20 years and this long term partnership has led to significant gains in terms of political and security relationships.

An improved M&E system would improve performance – The current focus on indicators and targets in the M&E framework is problematic because the narrowness of indicators means that everything else is potentially “lost”. The revised SKPH results framework includes more than 30 quantitative indicators at the sub-outcome level with targets from which it is difficult to extract a meaning. For example, targets such as ‘70% of parents passing knowledge tests’ and ‘4 parent-led groups set up’ keep the M&E focus of the program at output level even though these are outcome targets. UNICEF should consider including qualitative indicators and sub-questions to capture more meaningful outcome information.

What are risks, benefits and opportunities that should be considered by DFAT Manila Post in deciding on a next child protection investment in the Philippines?

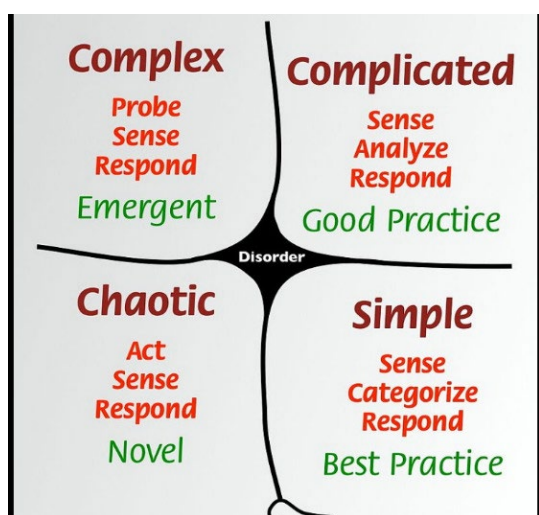
The program goal is huge and partnership will be key.

Risks: The relatively small investment in terms of funding means that there is a risk that a future program seeking to tackle such a complex problem can only “scratch the surface”. However, given that OSAEC is a relatively new phenomenon and cause and effect relationships and good practices are not well understood, allocating more funding at this stage may not translate to better outcomes. Without more information, there is a risk of “getting it wrong” by not fully understanding the complexity. For example, targeting OSAEC facilitators by imposing punitive sanctions risks further harming children and families, when working with parents to address root causes such as poverty and lack of education may enable better outcomes. With the enactment of the new anti-OSAEC law, the Department of Justice rather than the Department of Social Welfare and Development is leading the Philippines government response to OSAEC. There is a need to undertake a PEA to ensure that the program aligns itself with the right government partners, and if necessary, reach out to new and emerging partners. There will be a reputational risk if Australia withdraws from the sector as it has built up its reputation as a leader in this modern day trafficking issue. Consortium stakeholders mentioned the opportunity to bring in other donors, but this would potentially diminish Australia’s leadership on the issues and its opportunity to influence.

Benefits: Continuing to build and take advantage of the brand, relationships, networks and experience in country and internationally to make informed decisions about responses to strengthen the child protection system. The bilateral relationship is strengthened by this program, with increased access and influence. One example is the improved relationship with the courts which has led to a planned future “twinning” arrangement between Philippines and Australian family courts.

Opportunities: There is an opportunity for Australia to continue its leadership on OSAEC, building on the networks and collaborative efforts that have been established under SKPH. This can happen through a similar-sized investment by strategically harnessing the partnerships and system strengthening opportunities as they arise and are influenced. From the outside this may look ad hoc and fragmented, but the subject area is in the “complex” domain (Cynefyn framework – Dave Snowden 1999, see below), which means that the relationship between activities and outcomes is only emerging.

Figure 6 Cynefyn Framework



Partnerships

It is clear that the consortium members’ existing relationships and networks were a critical success factor for the engagement and influence seen so far. With the significant changes in the political landscape, these relationships will need to be largely forged with new potential champions who are yet to be identified. The new legislation has also changed roles for various agencies so that there will need to be

new partnerships developed. As noted, to improve the GEDSI focus of the program, potentially new partners need to be reached such as CSOs and Philippine Government agencies that focus on GEDSI. These changes pose both risks and opportunities that need to be considered in detail by the consortium partners. Some suggestions for new and emerging partners include (but are not limited to):

- The Supreme Court – so far the program has worked closely with the Family court but more could be done with the Supreme Court
- Philippines Commission on Women – the program has yet to engage with this agency
- Department of Interior and Local Governments - re implications of Mandanas Ruling on combatting OSAEC and building capacity of LGUs

Other agencies that have worked with the program will still be essential to engage, such as:

- Department of Justice and DSWD (to ensure progress and support for IRR of Anti-OSAEC law), DICT, DepEd (to continue efforts to roll out the CPP and capacitate school based protection committees, and potentially include integration of OSAEC-related material in curriculum), PNP, LGUs

It will be important to be selective about partnering because developing and maintaining effective relationships requires extensive resources. A regular reflection and PEA analysis will help the program to make good partnering decisions.

Stakeholder reflections on what next

Review informants at the national level considered that there is an opportunity to bring in more champions from more agencies, including non-government and thinktanks, and “ride the wave of influence” to contribute to amending problematic laws/policies and advocating for GEDSI as a key principle in all activities and outcomes. At a sub-national level, some stakeholders considered that the program could expand or scale out, by including emerging areas as well as hotspots. However, Cagayan de Oro City SKPH partners, when asked by the MTR, unanimously agreed that if they had to choose between scaling out, scaling deep or scaling up, they would choose scaling up because as community actors, they experienced first hand how to implement current policies on child protection. By choosing "scaling up," they see the link between good policy and solutions to OSAEC in the community. This is more a bottom-up approach (community level to legislation) than a top-down. To contribute to sustainability, SKPH could actively support lobbying and initiatives from the community level. The table below describes common types of scaling and associated strategies.

Table 4 Types of scaling

Type of scaling	Description	Main strategies
Scaling out	Expanding the innovation so that it reaches more people.	Expanding programs geographically such as to other schools or districts not involved in the original pilot. This can be done either through direct replication or increasing awareness of the innovation so that it is implemented in new locations.
Scaling up	Changing policies and practices so that the innovation becomes codified within institutional structures, and as a result, changes the ‘rules of the game’.	Engaging in policy change efforts, such as advocacy or partnering with government partners in policy reform. This could include using the results of a pilot on teacher incentives to advocate for changes in how teachers are paid.

Type of scaling	Description	Main strategies
Scaling deep	Changing values, beliefs and identities of people, organisations or communities so that the idea underlying the innovation is embedded.	Undertaking a comprehensive behaviour change program which can include a range of interventions, including awareness raising, capacity building and developing communities of practice.

This is partly drawn from Darcy Riddell and Michelle-Lee Moore, 2015, Scaling Out, Scaling Up, Scaling Deep: Advancing Systemic Social Innovation and the Learning Processes to Support it

DFAT, AFP and consortium partners should harness existing and new commitment and champions, that build on the credibility and influence of consortium partners and is gleaned through an updated political economy analysis at both the national and sub-nation levels, to deliver a flexible, strategic and responsive program that recognises complexity. This means embedding learning and reflection as a core process in program management and M&E and embracing and facilitating knowledge products.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The SKPH program has made an undeniably strong start, due to well-chosen consortium members, committed partners, flexibility to influence emerging opportunities and high level endorsement. Considering the limitations of COVID and the complexity of the issue of OSAEC, there has been a significant amount of achievement, and in important areas. It would be important for the program to continue to work in partnership with other champions on this issue, including through the Ad Hoc working group. Collective efforts have been and will be the most successful approach to address the complexity of OSAEC.

With a new administration and a new legislative environment, combined with a realignment of DFAT involvement from a coordination role to a more strategic role, it is time for the program to reflect on and plan for what makes the most sense on which to focus in the remaining years, and what and whether to prepare for the potential subsequent years. It would be essential for the whole consortium to revisit and clarify roles and responsibilities that would support this understanding.

For this to occur, UNICEF needs to strengthen its program management and leadership role in the consortium, in addition to its important technical role. Part of this involves the need to initiate a political economy analysis at both national and sub-national levels that draws on the extensive combined credibility, knowledge and experience of consortium members, including DFAT, and relevant stakeholders, and ensure this is structured, action-focused, documented and reflected upon regularly. UNICEF also needs to review the utility of its MEL system to ensure that it captures learning as well as accountability information.

The program has good plans and intentions in the design and operations manual, but implementation of the GEDSI strategy has been slow and inconsistent in the first two years of program implementation. There have been improvements in the past year with further improvements underway for the second half of the program but these require strong leadership and systems to capture and report.

Going forward, Australia should build on its strengths and leadership role on this issue and help Philippine government partners to understand and capture what works and build and establish effective networks to strengthen child protection around OSAEC.

Recommendations

- 1. Under UNICEF's leadership, SKPH needs to develop a simple, fit-for-purpose MEL system that incorporates learning and reflection, context, partnership and risk monitoring, and evaluative activities to help capture and articulate the SKPH story.**

This will help the SKPH consortium to understand when activities are working well and when and how they can be improved and be able to tell the "story" of the program. This includes:

- Revisiting the purpose, scope, audience and resources for SKPH MEL.
- Revisiting MEL information needs to determine what partners and stakeholders really need to know to improve the program and support anti-OSAEC efforts in the Philippines.
- Revisiting the current performance indicators and targets to make them more meaningful and less "tick a box".

This recommendation will require resources. Due to the complexity of OSAEC, it would be useful for the program to contract a part-time MEL expert with strong GEDSI working knowledge to support the

strengthening of the MEL framework and the ongoing implementation and capturing of information and learning.

2. With UNICEF's leadership, all SKPH partners should increase consideration of gender, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) issues in program activities. This could include:

- Inclusion of a GEDSI outcome with qualitative and quantitative indicators in the MEL framework to help tell a coherent story. The consortium is currently updating its MEL framework so is in a good position to do so.
- GEDSI analysis in all key program activities, including more nuanced perspectives, for example about boys, LGBTIQ+, children with disabilities, mothers who facilitate OSAEC, gender dimensions of law enforcement, agency and rights, etc, in addition to GEDSI analysis in the baseline and endline studies at the program sites.
- More consistently partnering with organisations that focus on gender, disability and other social inclusion issues at local and national levels.

This recommendation will require some resources. Partnerships with GEDSI organisations would require program resources to support contract arrangements for program contributions.

3. The delay of the Social Norms Study means that all SKPH consortium members should draw on other data that is available to inform behaviour change approaches. This could include:

- partnering with organisations that focus on relevant issues such as GEDSI
- using insights, data or connections from the Ad Hoc Working Group on OSAEC
- analysing and disseminating community level insights that have already been learned from existing partnerships and studies, such as the intervention study.

This recommendation will require some program resources and facilitation.

4. SKPH consortium, with support from DFAT where useful, should continue to implement the private sector strategy with a focus on facilitating private sector engagement (along with youth and civil society) in the IRR of the Anti-OSAEC law and consolidating gains made to date.

With limited human resources, it makes sense to focus on companies where there is traction. It will require targeted contributions from the UNICEF private sector engagement team as well as Australian Embassy staff in relation to any further engagement with ANZCHAM and member companies.

5. While maintaining the consortium partnership approach, UNICEF should take on greater convening role of the overall program, with a particular focus on strengthening program cohesion, MEL and GEDSI.

With staff movements in both UNICEF and DFAT, the MTR team recommends that UNICEF take on greater leadership and convening role of the overall program, with a particular focus on strengthening program cohesion. This should also include the strengthening of the monitoring, evaluation and learning system of the program and driving more consistent integration of GEDSI across the program. This includes:

- UNICEF will need to convene and drive MEL and other management processes to ensure the program can capture and tell its good story of how it has strengthened the child protection system to reduce the prevalence of OSAEC and what it has learned about the best ways to do this.
- The PCC could support UNICEF and partners in these efforts by increasing the strategic focus and direction setting for the program, and more deliberately documenting and evaluating strategic opportunities and decisions as a consortium, as opposed to each agency delivering their own workplans.

This will have some resource implications. In addition to a MEL resource, the facilitation of discussions on strategic direction and cohesion of the program would require appropriate level input from UNICEF. TAF could support the facilitation of more action-focused PEA exercises.

6. SKPH consortium partners, AFP and DFAT should harness existing champions and identify and engage new commitment and champions at local, national and diplomatic levels to deliver an adaptive, strategic and responsive program that recognises complexity and maximises the strengths of the members to progress the anti-OSAEC agenda. This should include:

- Undertaking regular learning and reflection processes and structured political economy analysis as a core process in program management and M&E to purposefully consider changes in the operating environment, risks and opportunities, and identification of new stakeholders and change agents.
- Building relationships with relevant new government officials and stakeholders at national and local levels as soon as appropriate to progress the anti-OSAEC agenda in the context of the new Administration, anti-OSAEC law and implementation of the Mandanas Ruling. This may include developing rolling workplans with new partners and supporting coordination between relevant agencies (refer p.34).
- Clarify roles and partnership arrangements with existing government partners and champions on the implementation of OSAEC related workplans to maximise partnerships and achieve the best outcomes (e.g. technical staff from DSWD and DICT)

Apart from a MEL resource, this recommendation has limited resource implications and can be implemented by consortium staff.

7. Considering the complexity of OSAEC, Australia's current leadership on the issue and the access the program provides to the Philippine Government, Australia could consider continuing a similar-sized investment in combatting OSAEC, depending on the results and progress of the final years of the program.

- The remainder of the program should focus on where SKPH can have sustainable and tangible impact: secure the wins and focus on operationalisation of the policies before the end of the program (e.g. DICT COSP, IRR Anti-OSAEC law, BCPC budgets, advocacy for resources for LGUs to provide livelihood programs).
 - This should also include strategies for each knowledge product developed under the program with a clear analysis of how to maximise the value of its production. This includes using research and knowledge products as an engagement tool with new or potential partners and champions.
 - It may also be worthwhile to include referral pathways to less harmful livelihood opportunities and access to social protection at the local level.
- The remainder of the program and any new program should retain its child protection focus, including improving case management, its rights based approach and increase its GEDSI lens, because solutions to OSAEC do not exclusively rest with the justice system. SKPH consortium members have a credible and legitimate seat at the table to help the Philippines address this issue.
- A potential new program should build on the lessons and achievements of this investment to determine the focus of the program (e.g. scaling deep, out, up).

ANNEX A DOCUMENT REVIEW

1. DFAT Development Evaluation Policy
2. DFAT Monitoring Evaluation Standards (Standard 5 and 6)
3. DFAT Ethical Research and Evaluation Guidance
4. DFAT Accessibility Guidelines - Creating documents that meet accessibility guidelines | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (dfat.gov.au)
5. Investment Design Document October 2018
6. Program Document UNICEF, TAF, Save the Children Philippines 2019
7. Updated SKPH Manual of Operations 2021
8. DFAT Investment Monitoring Report 2019-2020
9. DFAT Investment Monitoring Report 2020-2021
10. DFAT Investment Monitoring Report 2021-2022
11. UNICEF Annual Progress Report 2019-2020
12. UNICEF Annual Progress Report 2020-2021
13. UNICEF Annual Progress Report 2021-2022
14. SaferKidsPH Evaluability Assessment March 2021
15. Case Study and Partnership Review August 2021
16. SaferKidsPH MEAL Framework
17. Revised SaferKidsPH Results Framework
18. PNP Child Protection Policy
19. UNIPH-2021-National Study on OSAEC
20. UNIPH-2021-Philippine Kids Online
21. PICACC proposal for circulation
22. SaferKidsPH Baseline Study Inception Report
23. Highlights of data gathering for OSAEC in Angeles City

ANNEX B KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS/CONSULTATIONS (NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

Table 5 Consultation list

#	Name	Agency
1	Steven Robinson, former HOM	DFAT
2	Richard Sisson, Deputy Head of Mission	DFAT
3	Thanh Le, Development Counsellor	DFAT
4	Paul Harrington, First Secretary (Development) and SKPH	DFAT
5	Pablo Lucero, Portfolio Manager	DFAT
6	Ria Go Tian, Senior Program Officer	DFAT
7	Jore annie Rico-de Leon, Senior Program Officer (GEDSI)	DFAT
8	Daisie Beckensall, Liaison Officer,	AFP
9	Christopher Lim, Trade Counsellor	AUSTRADE
10	Laura Ralph, Assistant Director, Philippine Section	DFAT
11	Behzad Noubary, Deputy Resident Representative	UNICEF
12	Patricia Lim Ah Ken, Child Protection Chief	UNICEF
13	Marj Ardivilla	UNICEF
14	Mitch Muñoz	UNICEF
15	Ramil Anton “RA” Villanueva, Child Protection Officer	UNICEF
16	Marga Baula, Corporate Fundraising Officer	UNICEF
17	Atty Albert Munoz	SCP
18	Benjamin “Benjie” Delfin II	SCP
19	Melanie Llana	SCP
20	April Correa	SCP
21	Jhaziel Bermejo	SCP
22	Sam Chittick	TAF
23	Carol Mercado	TAF
24	Roda Cisnero	TAF
25	Justine Aganinta	TAF
26	Assistant Secretary Glenda Relova- DSWD (former)	DSWD
27	Chief State Counsel George Ortha II- Undersecretary in charge of IACAT (former)	DOJ
28	USEC Emmeline Villar – IACAT (former)	DOJ
29	Atty Laura Del Rosario – Judicial Reform Program Administrator	Supreme Court
30	Jo-Ann Vidal	ANZCHAM
31	Jose Felicisimo Rosete, Assistant Vice-President, Stakeholder Management	Smart/PLDT

#	Name	Agency
32	Miguel Martin Bermundo, Senior Manager, Sustainability and Social Responsibility	Globe Telecom
33	Maria Caridad Tarroja, PhD De La Salle University-Social Development Research Center	De La Salle University
34	Selena Fortich, Country Program Manager Child Protection	Plan International
35	Angelina Dungog, Area Manager Cebu	Norfil

ANNEX C PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOPS

Workshop – Philippines Government 21 st November	Agency
Christian Bioc – Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)	DSWD
Ezequiel Dacanay – Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)	DICT
Michael Catbagan – Council for Welfare of Children (CWC)	CWC
Marieta Alcid – DICT	DICT
Atty. Kit - IACAT, OIC Director, Department of Justice (DOJ) – main contact for new National Coordinating Council (NCC)	DOJ

23rd November – Iligan City

DepEd Schools Division Office of Iligan, Youth Development Formation – Mr. John Perkin Sebuja and Ms. Rhoda Pearl Herrera

City Admin Office – Atty. Jaafar I. Amerol

PNP – Women and Children Protection Desk – PSSg Micharla D. Aban and PSSg Mercie C. Amargo

Ms. Armien Alorro – OIC-CSWDO and Executive Assistant of the Mayor

Mr. Valbert Galorio – Office of Councilor Rosevi Queenie Belmonte (Gender & Dev, Chair for social dev)

7 participants

Barangay Tabacan Iligan City HS – Annex

Abiyon Principal

Abacak Elem School

Tambacan Barangay Advisory Council

17 participants

24th November Cagayan de Oro

DepEd

Chief, WCPC-PNP

BCPC

Councilor – Chairperson for Committee on Child Services

16 participants

Barangay Carmen

Barangay Chairperson & Kagawad

Barangay Child Protection Committee

Sangguniang Kabataan

Parents

20+ participants

ANNEX D STANDARD 6 INDEPENDENT EVALUATION REPORTS

Introductions

No.	Element
6.1	A background to the evaluation summarizes: the total value of the investment; the number of years of the investment; the stage of investment implementation; key outcomes of the investment; and the key issues identified in the terms of reference
6.2	A brief summary of the methods employed is provided
6.3	Key limitations of the methods are described and any relevant guidance provided to enable appropriate interpretation of the findings
6.4	The executive summary provides all the necessary information to enable primary users to make good quality decisions

Findings and Analysis

No.	Element
6.5	The evaluation report clearly addresses all questions in the Terms of Reference
6.6	The relative importance of the issues communicated is clear to the reader
6.7	There is a good balance between operational and strategic issues
6.8	The report clearly explains the extent to which the evidence supports the conclusions and judgments made
6.9	Alternative points of view are presented and considered where appropriate
6.10	Complicated and complex aspects of issues are adequately explored and not oversimplified
6.11	The role of context and emergent risks to investment performance are analysed
6.12	The text uses appropriate methods/language to convince the reader of the findings and conclusions
6.13	There is an adequate exploration of the factors that have influenced the issues identified and conclusions drawn
6.14	The implications of key findings are fully explored
6.15	The overall position of the author is clear and their professional judgments are unambiguous.

Conclusions and Recommendations

No.	Element
6.16	The conclusions and recommendations logically flow from the presentation of findings and any associated analyses
6.17	Individuals have been allocated responsibility for responding to recommendations
6.18	Where there are significant cost implications of recommendations, these have been estimated (financial, human and materials costs)
6.19	The recommendations are feasible
6.20	The circumstances under which any important lessons are transferable are described
6.21	The final evaluation report is published within the timeframes outlined in the DFAT Aid Evaluation Policy