Enhancing Child Protection System to Keep Filipino Children Safe Online Program

(SaferKidsPH)

Completion Review

Final Report

31 January 2025

Acknowledgement

The Review Team would like to thank all respondents for taking the time to participate in interviews and for sharing their views and insights. In particular, the team would like to thank Mr. Pablo Lucero, Portfolio Manager, and Mr. Garret Paris, Program Officer, Australian Embassy Manila for their invaluable assistance throughout this review. We would also like to give our thanks to Mr Quintin Atienza, PALMSS Program Manager, and Ms Andy Bustamante. Assistant Program Manager, PALMSS Manila for their efficient administrative and logistical support.

Disclaimer

This review was undertaken by Ms. Karen Gomez-Dumpit (Team Leader and GEDSI Specialist) and Mr Rudini Nick Baoy, (Design and M&E Specialist). The views expressed in this report are those of the Review Team and do not necessarily reflect those of the Australian Government, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) or Abt Associates.

Contents

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFP	Australian Federal Police
AMIC	Advanced Middle-Income Country
ANZCHAM	Australia New Zealand Chamber of Commerce
APR	Annual Program Report
AUD	Australian dollar
BCPC	Barangay Child Protection Committee
CFCJC	Committee on Family Courts and Juvenile Concerns
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease
COSP	Child Online Safeguarding Policy
CSAEM	Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Material
CSWDO	City Social Welfare and Development Officer
CWC	Council for the Welfare of Children
DepEd	Department of Education
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australian Government)
DICT	Department of Information, Communications and Technology
DSWD	Department of Welfare and Social Development
EOPO	End-of-Program Outcome
FCA	Family Courts Act
FGD	Focus group discussion
GEDSI	Gender equality, disability, and social inclusion
IDD	Investment Design Document
IO	Intermediate Outcome
IMR	Investment Monitoring Report
IRR	Implementing Rules and Regulations
KRQ	Key review question
LCPC	Local Council for the Protection of Children
LRPO	Learners' Rights and Protection Office
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MELF	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Framework
MFIs	Multilateral Financial Institutions
MTR	Mid-term Review
NCR	National Capital Region
OECD-DAC	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development – Development Assistance Committee
OSAEC	Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children
PALMSS	Procurement, Administrative and Logistics Management Support Service for Aid Program Delivery
PCP	Protect the Children Project
PCC	Program Coordination Committee
PIT	Program Implementation Team
PNP	Philippine National Police
PSEAH	Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment
RA	Republic Act
RM	Results Matrix
SBC	Social behaviour change

SC	Supreme Court
SCP	Save the Children Philippines
SKPH	SaferKidsPH
SMT	Social Media Team
SNS	Social Norms Study
TAF	The Asia Foundation
ToC	Theory of Change
TOR	Terms of Reference
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WCCPU	Women and Children Cybercrime Protection Unit

Executive Summary

This completion review examines the six-year SaferKidsPH (SKPH) program (2019–2025), a key initiative by the Australian Embassy in the Philippines aimed at enhancing the national child protection system to prevent online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC). With an investment of AUD 8 million and implemented by a consortium led by UNICEF in partnership with The Asia Foundation and Save the Children Philippines—including funding to the Australian Federal Police—the program has employed a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach to achieve four end-of-program outcomes (EOPOs):

- **EOPO1:** Adoption of positive behaviours to protect children online
- **EOPO2:** Strengthening of law enforcement, prosecutorial, and judicial processes related to OSAEC
- **EOPO3:** Enhanced service delivery in OSAEC hotspots
- **EOPO4:** Evidence-informed development of OSAEC policies and laws by the Philippine Government

The review, conducted from October 2024 to January 2025, assessed the program's effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and integration of gender, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) through a mixed-methods approach. Data were collected via document reviews, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and field visits in targeted areas such as Manila, Quezon City, Angeles, Cagayan de Oro, and Iligan.

SKPH has been highly effective in achieving its intended outcomes thereby contributing to the enhancement of the child protection system to address OSAEC in the country. The program's interventions have led to improved online safety practices among children, parents, educators, and private sector actors. Significant policy milestones include the passage of Republic Act 11930 (the Anti-OSAEC and Anti-CSAEM Act) and the development of supporting regulations, which have strengthened the country's approach to combating OSAEC. Additionally, capacity-building initiatives have enhanced the knowledge, skills and coordination mechanisms of law enforcement, judicial bodies, and local government units.

The program has demonstrated efficient use of resources, maintaining an annual budget utilization rate exceeding 80% despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and initial fund transfer delays. Adaptive measures, such as a business continuity plan and reallocation of unspent funds, ensured that key outputs were delivered on schedule. Collaboration with private sector partners further leveraged additional resources and expertise, although later stages of the program experienced a decline in private sector contributions.

Sustainability prospects are strong at the national level, bolstered by the institutionalization of new laws and policies and the establishment of coordinating bodies such as the National Coordinating Centre Against OSAEC-CSAEM. Continued government ownership, combined with the capacity-building of local stakeholders and strengthened partnerships, is expected to preserve the gains achieved by SKPH. Nonetheless, sustaining these outcomes at the sub-national

level will require ongoing commitment from local government units amid potential shifts in leadership and priorities.

The consortium model proved effective in fostering collaboration across government, civil society, and private sector partners, although challenges related to coordination, knowledge management, and comprehensive data collection were noted. The program's efforts to mainstream GEDSI are evident in training materials, advocacy campaigns, and policy development, yet gaps remain in systematic data disaggregation and resource allocation for these areas. Future initiatives would benefit from enhanced knowledge-sharing platforms, more targeted private sector engagement, and robust mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation.

The SKPH program has made a significant and lasting impact on enhancing the Philippines' child protection framework against OSAEC. Through strategic interventions in behaviour change, policy reform, and capacity building, the program has not only achieved its primary outcomes but also established a strong foundation for the continued safeguarding of children. The lessons and innovations identified in this review offer valuable insights for future DFAT investments and similar child protection initiatives.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

SaferKidsPH (SKPH) is a six-year (2019-2025) program of the Australian Embassy in the Philippines that seeks to enhance the child protection system, particularly, addressing online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC) in the country. This AUD 8 million investment has four end-of-program outcomes (EOPOs):

(i) positive behaviours adopted towards protection of children from online sexual abuse and exploitation
(ii) law enforcement, prosecutors and judiciary improve child protection policies and processes in relation to OSAEC cases
(iii) improved service delivery for OSAEC prevention and protection of children in target OSAEC hotspots; and
(iv) evidence-informed development of OSAEC policy and laws by the Philippine Government (added because of an evaluability assessment in 2021).

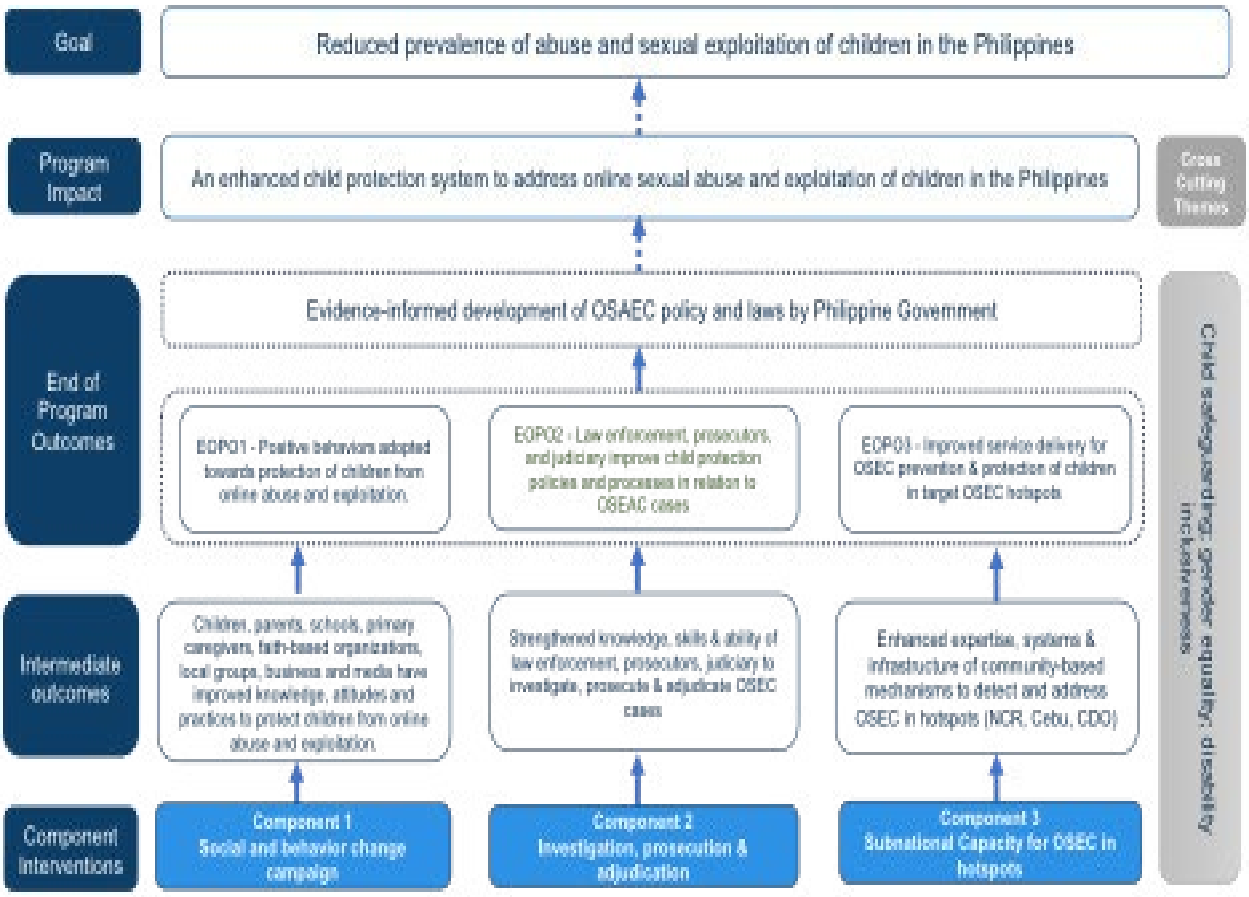
Consistent with the investment design and the program's Theory of Change (see Figure 1 below), the SKPH outcomes are pursued through a set of interlinked and mutually reinforcing interventions organized into four components: Component 1 - improving knowledge, attitudes and practices of children, parents, schools, local groups, and businesses in relation to online safety and safeguarding of children; Component 2 - strengthening the knowledge and capacity of law enforcers, prosecutors, and family court judges on OSAEC case management; Component 3 - enhancing community-based mechanisms to better detect, report and respond to OSAEC in target hotspots in Taguig, Manila, and Quezon City in the National Capital Region and in the provincial cities of Angeles, Cagayan de Oro and Iligan; and Component 4 – developing evidence-informed OSAEC policy and laws by the Philippine Government.

SKPH is delivered through strategic collaborations with government, civil society, private sector, like-minded donors, young people and the community. Key approaches adopted by the program include employing adaptive and flexible strategies, promoting innovation and sustainability, mainstreaming gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI), and engaging the private sector including Australian businesses operating in the Philippines.

The program is implemented through a consortium with UNICEF as lead, and The Asia Foundation (TAF), and Save the Children Philippines (SCP) as members. UNICEF is responsible for the overall program implementation and overseeing the delivery of Component 1 interventions. TAF and SCP lead the implementation of program interventions under Component 2 and Component 3, respectively. Following the revision of the TOC in 2021, the delivery of Component 4 interventions along with some interventions in the other components became a shared responsibility among the consortium members. SKPH is funded through a grant to the consortium amounting to AUD 7.5 million with UNICEF Philippines as the agreement partner. Through a separate Record of Understanding with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Australian Federal Police

(AFP) was also provided with funding worth AUD 500,000 to help support law enforcement partnerships and capacity building in combating OSAEC.

Figure 1. SKPH Theory of Change



SKPH is managed by a Program Coordination Committee (PCC). Composed of the First Secretary of the Australian Embassy as Chair and representatives of the AFP and the Consortium agencies as members, the PCC provides strategic guidance and decision-making for the program. Under the direction of the PCC is a Program Implementation Team (PIT) comprised of key personnel from the Consortium partners, AFP and DFAT. The PIT provides day-to-day operational, technical and administrative support to program operations including regular reporting and coordination with DFAT Manila.

The program underwent a Mid-term Review (MTR) from October to December 2022. Overall, the MTR found evidence of achievement of intermediate outcomes including improved awareness and knowledge of OSAEC both at national level and in the target OSAEC hotspots. The MTR recommended areas for improvement to which the DFAT Post concurred, namely: (i) enhancing the monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework with consistent GEDSI analysis of the whole program; (ii) revisiting the private sector engagement strategy to improve ways of working with the private sector; (iii) ensuring the alignment of the SKPH sustainability plan with the current child protection landscape; and (iv) continuing the internal discussion within DFAT on the future of the program including embedding aspects of the

program into existing or future DFAT investments in relation to education, law and justice, and social protection.

With the program envisaged to end in June 2025, the Embassy commissioned this completion review to help inform existing and future Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) investments through an assessment of program effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of gains achieved and documentation of innovations and lessons learned.

1.2. Objectives and Scope of the Review

Based on the Terms of Reference (see ***Annex 1***), the primary objectives of the completion review are to:

(i) assist the Embassy in assessing the effectiveness, efficiency and the prospects for sustainability of SKPH.
(ii) document innovations and lessons learned from the program; and
(iii) put forward recommendations to help inform existing and future programs of DFAT in the Philippines.

Considering the development orientation of SKPH, the review framed its inquiries around the established OECD DAC evaluation criteria on effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability; and DFAT's standards on gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI), monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL), and risk management.

The review covers five years of program implementation from 2019 to 2024. The principal users of the review findings will be the Australian Embassy, particularly the Development, Economic and Political Sections, and the AFP. The review findings will be shared with the SKPH consortium partners, and relevant DFAT Canberra units. The completion review report, along with its associated management response, will be published in the DFAT website making it accessible to a wider audience including government and non-government entities involved in addressing OSAEC issues.

1.3. Approach and Methodology of the Review

Guided by DFAT's Design and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Standards, the review adopted rapid, practical yet reliable study methods that have been proven to be effective in evaluation studies that require quick results and a certain amount of participation from program stakeholders and beneficiaries.

The review used a mixed-methods approach, combining key informant interviews (online and face-to-face), focus group discussions / group interviews with program participants, review of program documents, and direct observation. Field visits to selected program were undertaken to observe program-assisted activities and gather feedback from program participants.

This review used qualitative data and quantitative data, when available and deemed useful, particularly when quantifying and disaggregating results achieved per program component, evaluating GEDSI mainstreaming and private sector

engagement, among others. Findings were triangulated while conclusions and recommendations were formulated based on evidence gathered.

Review Design Matrix

Shown in ***Annex 2*** is the Review Design Matrix which outlines the key review questions and sub-questions prescribed in the TOR, proposed supplemental sub-questions in line with DFAT's evaluation focus areas and standards, data sources, and methods that will be used to collect the data needed to address each review question. The data collection methods employed by the review are described in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Data Collection Methods

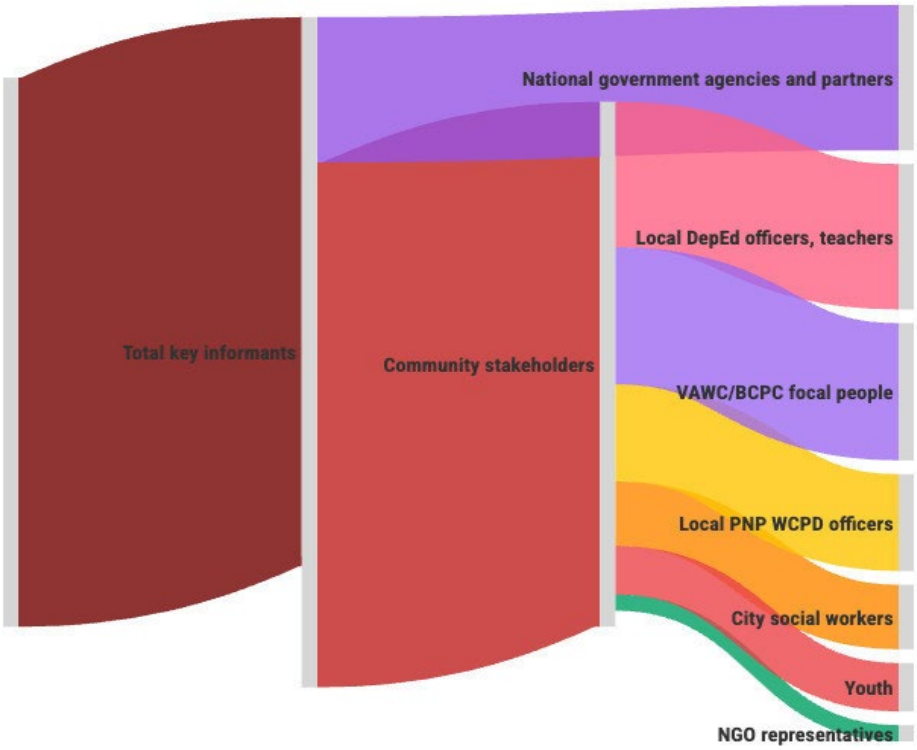
Method	Key approaches to be adopted by the review
Documents review	This entailed review and analysis of DFAT policy and strategy documents, monitoring and evaluation standards, and SKPH program documents including investment design document, manual of operations, investment monitoring reports, annual program reports, etc. (see list of documents reviewed in ***Annex 3***). Findings from the document review were used to guide the finalization of the completion review plan.
Key Informant Interviews	Semi-structured interviews were conducted among DFAT and AFP staff, SKPH consortium members, former and current partners from government and non-government organizations. Interview guides were used to guide the discussions (See sample interview guide in ***Annex 4***). KII questions were coded against the key evaluation questions to facilitate subsequent analysis.
Focus Group Discussions / Group Interviews	Focus group discussion (FGD) with community members in selected program sites were conducted to gain insights about the changes that have resulted from their involvement in SKPH. FGD guide questions were prepared with questions coded against the key evaluation questions to facilitate subsequent analysis.
Direct observation	Visits to selected SKPH program sites were conducted to collect additional data, observe tangible intervention results, and validate/triangulate findings from document review, key informant interviews and focus group discussions. In addition, content analysis of nominated social media accounts that deal with OSAEC were explored as a method of direct observation. Site visits were properly coordinated with SKPH program management with the objective and itinerary of the visit properly explained in official communications.

Key informants

The approach to key informant selection was purposive with informants selected based on their roles and degree of participation in the program. Key informants included individuals from DFAT, AFP, SKPH consortium members UNICEF, SCP, and TAF, government partners at the national and local level, private sector and non-government organizations. Based on the document review, potential key informants were identified in close consultation with DFAT and consortium members.

In total, the review team was able to conduct interviews and focal group discussions with at least 83 individuals – 65 are community stakeholders/clients while 18 are from national organizations involved in the program (see list of informants in ***Annex 5***). As for this completion review, the focus group discussions (FGDs) were mostly attended by females, highlighting their significant engagement in the community conversations. Out of a total of 44 participants (including 8 members of the youth sector), 46 were female, compared to 8 males. This striking disparity underscores the active role women play in shaping and sharing collective insights during these sessions.

Figure 2. Distribution of Key Informants



Triangulation and Data Analysis

Data were triangulated, where applicable, to ensure rigor in the information gathered. As such, findings from document review and key informant interviews were validated through focus group discussions with clients/beneficiaries, ocular observations during site visits and subsequent interviews with other stakeholders.

The review used the content comparison technique in qualitative data analysis where data gathered from the documents review, FGDs and KIIs were coded to generate emerging themes. Specifically, the review focussed on themes gathered from the discussions that reveal perceptions about the effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, gender equality, disability inclusion, among others, of the SKPH intervention.

Data Collection and Management Protocols

Data collection and management adhered to DFAT's Ethical Research and Evaluation Guidance Note. As such, data collection methods employed by the review

ensured the protection of the rights of the respondents with special consideration given to the needs of respondents where appropriate. Participants were informed of the purpose and intended use of the review, and that interviews are voluntary and responses to questions will be kept confidential. The review team respected the confidentiality of DFAT information provided. Due consideration has been given to the appropriateness and sensitivity of information provided in this final report.

1.4. Review Timetable

The review was conducted from October 10, 2024, to January 31, 2025. Actual timetable of review activities is shown below:

Table 2: Timetable

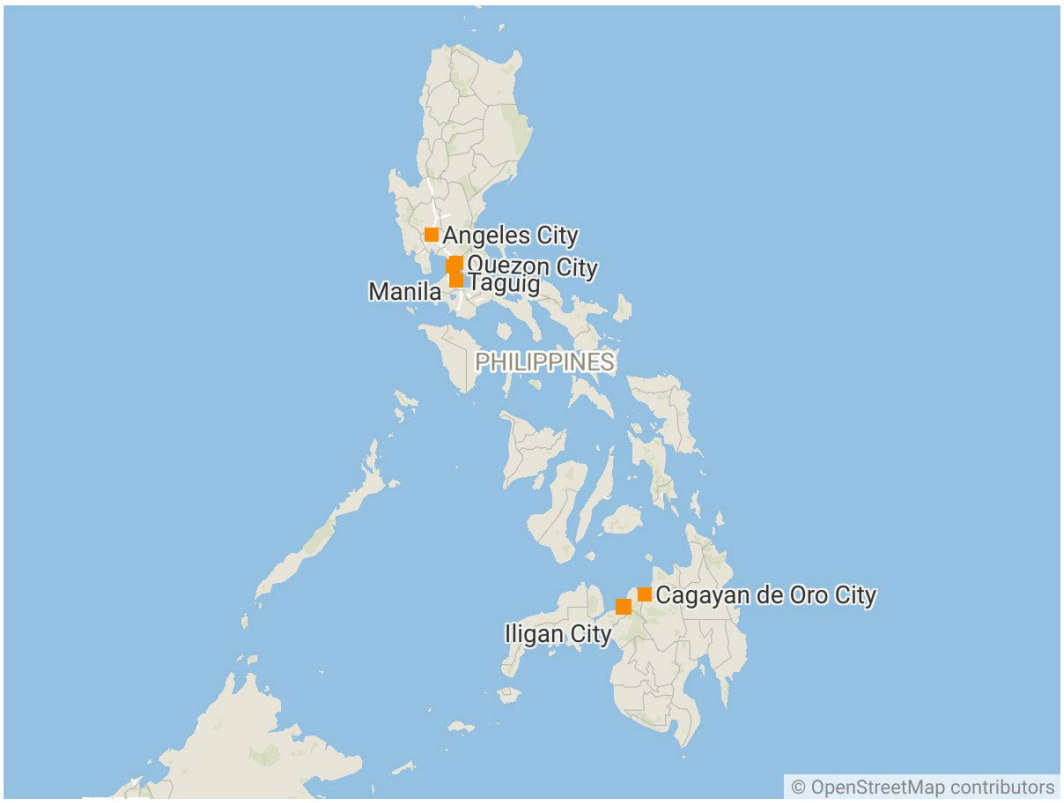
Activity	Start date	End date	Deliverable
Conduct desk review of program-related documents	October 10	October 20	N/A
Prepare and finalize review plan and review design matrix	October 21	October 31	Final review plan
Collect data through KII, FGD and field visit to selected program sites	November 4	December 13	N/A
Consolidate review findings and prepare Aide Memoire/draft review report outline	December 16	January 10	Aide-memoire/ draft report outline
Prepare draft review report; collect supplemental data, if necessary	January 11	January 15	Draft review report
DFAT Manila Post to review and comment on the draft review report	January 16	January 21	N/A
Revise draft review report incorporating comments from DFAT Manila Post	January 22	January 31	N/A
Submit final review report to DFAT Manila Post	January 31	January 31	Final review report

1.5. Limitations of the Review

This review is a rapid evaluation exercise within a period of about three months with approximately 60 days of consultants' input. The holiday season as well as the year-end activities, closing of financial and administrative reporting in government offices have presented difficulties in obtaining common schedules.

Given time limitations, the review team relied on the PIT members to identify the available key informants for the process. Given the conflict of schedules and time limitations, the Review team discussed with critical PIT key informants to be able to obtain firsthand responses to the key questions. This included informants from the PCC and youth. Nevertheless, the review was able to obtain information from key informants as planned.

SaferKidsPH Project Areas



2 Key Review Findings

Following are the salient findings of the review structured around each key review question (KRQ). Each sub-section provides a narrative against KRQ domains and the lines of inquiry presented in the Review Design Matrix.

2.1 How effective was SKPH in achieving its program outcomes (KRQ1)?

The SKPH Theory of Change (TOC) identified four end-of-program outcomes EOPOs), namely: (i) positive behaviours adopted towards protection of children from online sexual abuse and exploitation; (ii) law enforcement, prosecutors and judiciary improve child protection policies and processes in relation to OSAEC cases; (iii) improved service delivery for OSEC prevention and protection of children in target OSAEC hotspots; and (iv) evidence-informed development of OSAEC policy and laws by Philippine Government. As implied by the TOC, these EOPOs are generated through distinct yet mutually-reinforcing interventions including: improving knowledge, attitudes, practices of children, parents, teachers, local groups and businesses in relation to online safety and safeguarding of children; strengthening knowledge and capacity of law enforcers, prosecutors, and judiciary on OSAEC case adjudication; and enhancing community-based mechanisms to detect, report and respond to OSAEC.

In the absence of performance indicators at the level of EOPOs, effectiveness of the program in achieving its EOPOs was assessed through the achievement of the intermediate outcomes and outputs. Overall, the Review Team found the SKPH program to be highly effective in achieving its EOPOs based on evidence gathered from the review of program documents and interviews with key program informants at the national and sub-national level. Key program stakeholders interviewed have indicated that SKPH was very effective in influencing behaviour, improving processes, and enhancing policies and laws to combat OSAEC.

The updated monitoring report on the progress of intermediate outcome and output indicators identified in the Results Matrix (see ***Annex 6***) shows that almost all the indicator targets have been achieved. The review team, however, exercised some caution in assessing effectiveness based on indicator achievements considering the weaknesses noted on the current Results Matrix (see discussion in the M&E section).

The effectiveness of SKPH in achieving the four EOPOs is discussed below.

EOPO1 – Positive behaviours adopted towards protection of children from online sexual abuse and exploitation

To achieve EOP1, the SKPH program has implemented various interventions (e.g., awareness raising campaigns, trainings, etc.) aimed at achieving the following intermediate outcomes: (i) children practice protective behaviour online; (ii) parents and caregivers demonstrate protective behaviour to ensure children's safety online and offline; (iii) teachers and CPC members demonstrate protective behaviours towards preventing and protecting children from OSAEC; (iv) private sector have

adopted business practices that better protect children online; and (v) increased public engagement on OSAEC prevention.

Findings from the review of Annual Program Reports (APRs), Investment Monitoring Reports (IMRs) and interviews with key program stakeholders suggest that the SKPH program has contributed to the adoption of positive behaviours towards protection of children from online sexual abuse and exploitation. This was evident in the target OSAEC hotspots where results of awareness raising and training activities conducted in selected schools and barangays were closely monitored by the program (see Table 3 below).

Table 3: Increase in knowledge on child protection and OSAEC in target hotspots based on pre and post-test results, 2023-2024[1]

Indicator	Findings in 2023	Findings in 2024
Children have improved knowledge about OSAEC	345 out of 652 (53%) students from Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities have increased their knowledge	98 out of 136 (72%) children (6-11 years old) while 90 out of 134 (67%) children (12-17 years old) from Angeles City and National Capital Region showed increased knowledge
Parents and caregivers have improved knowledge about OSAEC	58 out of 58 (100%) parents in Cagayan de Oro City have increased their knowledge	81% of 218 parents (193 females, 20 males, 5 LGBTQIA+) from nine barangays in NCR and Angeles showed increased knowledge
Teachers have improved knowledge on OSAEC	135 out of 157 (11 males and 124 females) or 86% of the teachers in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan	205 out of 205 or 100% of teachers from NCR and Angeles

Source: Annual Progress Reports, 2023-2024

Likewise, this review found evidence that SKPH has been effective in changing the behaviour of the private sector towards protecting children from online sexual abuse and exploitation. Guided by the SKPH private sector engagement strategy embedded in the SKPH Manual of Operations, the program succeeded in mobilizing support from the private sector in the areas of advocacy and awareness raising, consultation and dialogue, and financial mobilization in support of child protection and OSAEC prevention. Key achievements related to private sector engagement reported in the APRs include: (i) mobilizing active private sector participation in the consultations and dialogues aimed at drafting/amending anti-OSAEC laws and

[1] No data were available from 2020 to 2022 as the indicators were only adopted beginning 2023.

policies such as the Anti-OSAEC Law and the Child Online Safeguarding Policy of the DICT; (ii) collaboration with telecommunications companies (e.g., PLDT Smart and Globe Telecom) and social media platforms (e.g., Facebook, Google, etc.) to amplify awareness raising and advocacy campaigns on OSAEC; and (iii) raising funds to support SKPH program activities such as equipping child-friendly spaces in target OSAEC hotspots (additional details reported under section on Efficiency).

Based on the APRs and the latest Results Matrix monitoring report, SKPH has succeeded in achieving its output targets (see Table 4 below). However, this review noted opportunities for improving ways of capturing results of private sector engagement such as using the amount of contributions and the number of partnership agreements with the private sector as outcome indicators, and establishing correlation between social media engagement and the amount of individual contributions received in the SKPH donation page.

Table 4. Achievements related to SKPH private sector engagement indicators as of 2024

Indicator	Target	Achievement	Progress
Number of companies that contribute to SKPH program outcome	8	8	Achieved
Number of companies that collaborate with SKPH in advocacy raising activities using their platforms	5	5	Achieved
Number of businesses oriented/trained on CRBP	3	3	Achieved
Number of businesses consulted or engaged in amending or drafting OSAEC law or policy	40	40	Achieved
Number of companies or high net worth individuals providing funding support on OSAEC	5	5	Achieved

Source: Updated progress report on Results Matrix indicator achievement (see ***Annex 6***)

Furthermore, findings from the review suggest that SKPH has contributed to the heightened public engagement on OSAEC as result of its advocacy campaigns and awareness raising activities through social media platforms (e.g., Facebook. Instagram and Twitter) and participation in public events (e.g., Safer Internet Day, Girl Child Week, etc.). Following the launch of the SKPH website (www.saferkidsph.org) and social media accounts on Facebook. Instagram and

Twitter in October 2019, the 2020 APR reported an impressive social media reach of 54.6 million users. However, social media reach significantly declined from a peak of 54.6 million users in 2020 to 70,000 users in 2021 and hovered at over 600,000 users from 2022 to 2024. Key informants attributed this decline to the shift in program focus on thematic public engagements from 2023 to 2024. During the said period, the program launched five thematic campaigns including the Dress video aimed at generating awareness on OSAEC prevention. Due to inadequacies of the SKPH M&E framework, however, this review found no evidence that will explain how public engagement activities contributed to changes in behaviour towards OSAEC.

The review team recognizes the difficulty in assessing the contribution of SKPH towards EOPO1 in the absence of EOPO indicators and the quantitative orientation of the indicators at the level of outputs and intermediate outcomes. The Social Norms Study was expected to provide indications as to how SKPH influenced changes in behaviour over the life of the program. However, completion of the study was delayed such that its usefulness in this review was greatly diminished. In line with the 2022 MTR recommendation, the SKPH Results Matrix was revised to include indicators to measure intermediate outcomes under EOPO1. On the basis of achievements of intermediate outcomes, this review found the SKPH to be effective in contributing to the achievement of EOPO1. Awareness raising and training activities in selected schools and communities in target hotspots (originally under Component 3) contributed significantly to the adoption of positive behaviour towards protection of children against OSAEC.

EOPO2 - Law enforcement, prosecutors and judiciary improve child protection policies and processes in relation to OSAEC cases

SKPH interventions to achieve EOPO2 focused on the delivery of two intermediate outcomes: (i) Supreme Court Committee on Family Courts and Juvenile Concerns (CFCJC) adopt child-sensitive processes and policies; and (ii) law enforcement and relevant interagency councils have increased capacity to prevent and respond to OSAEC cases.

The review team found that the SKPH made substantial contributions to the improvement of child protection policies and processes in relation to OSAEC cases. Key achievements that are clearly attributable to SKPH include: (i) assistance in drafting of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Family Courts Act (FCA) of 1997; (ii) support to development and roll out of the Bench Book for Family Courts; (iii) support to the establishment of the Social Services Counselling Division of the CFCJC; and (iv) assistance to the Social Media Team (SMT) of the PNP Women and Children Protection Center (WCPC) in developing the *Aleng Pulis* Helpline Guidelines for Functionalising Case Entry via Social Media Referral and Management System.

Review informants from the CFCJC consider the IRR of the FCA and the Bench Book for Family Courts as the most significant outcomes of SKPH. To achieve these outcomes, SKPH helped the CFCJC organize workshops and consultations with judges and other stakeholders from key government agencies to validate the IRR and the Bench Book which the CFCJC members drafted with the technical assistance of SKPH. Moving forward, the CFCJC informants highlighted the need for

further assistance from development partners in updating the training modules on OSAEC case management and enhancing the capacity of family court judges on OSAEC case adjudication including the use of Videotaped In-Depth Disclosure Interviews (VIDI) with child victims as evidence in prosecuting OSAEC offenders.

Following the enactment of the Anti-OSAEC Law, SKPH focused its assistance to the PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group (ACG). Building on the good relationship established by the Consortium, through TAF, with the PNP Women and Children Protection Center (WCPC), the program was able to quickly respond to the needs of the Social Media Team (SMT) of the Women and Children Cybercrime Protection Unit (WCCPU), to establish an effective social media platform for OSAEC victim-survivors as a venue for reporting abuse and seeking support from law enforcement authorities. With the technical assistance from SKPH, the WCCPU of the PNP-ACG was able to develop the SMT case reporting and referral guidelines and establish the *AlengPulis* Facebook page. Subsequently, the program assisted the PNP in developing the Digital Informed Consent Form in compliance with the PNP Child Protection Policy. According to the 2024 APR, the first conviction under Anti-OSAEC Law resulted from a case that was reported through the *AlengPulis* platform. Active SMT engagement with the victim-survivor led to the arrest of the perpetrator with the alias “Cyan Cyan”. The 2024 APR highlighted key lessons learned from this case: “While law enforcement performance indicators put a premium on arrests, victim identification, rescue and referral for victim protection and assistance, must remain a priority, especially where children are victims; there is a need to build capacities on victim identification (technical expertise and tactical resources), and to allocate additional resources for evidence gathering to meet judicial standard standards and criminal procedures; and stronger child safeguarding measures, and a functional victim protection and assistance referral pathway must be established.”

Apart from enhancing the capacity of the PNP WCCPU to manage an online platform for OSAEC case reporting and referral, the SKPH intervention contributed to the change in behavior among the women police in relation to OSAEC as indicated by their increased participation in anti-OSAEC activities such as the Cyber Safety Orientation among students and deployment of the Digital Informed Consent Form in selected schools as part of PNP’s celebration of National Children’s Month.

In addition, the IMR and APR in 2022 highlighted the SKPH contribution to the enhancement of OSAEC case management protocol through the development and piloting of a remote counselling approach including a treatment manual for victim survivors of OSAEC.

EOPO3 – Enhanced expertise, systems and infrastructure of community-based mechanisms to detect and address OSAEC in hotspots

To achieve EOPO3, SKPH focused on improving the capacity of local government units and service providers in implementing programs, policies and mechanisms to address OSAEC in selected OSAEC hotspots (namely, Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, Angeles City, Manila, Taguig, and Quezon City). Towards this end, SKPH interventions included community awareness raising, capacity building of service providers and other stakeholders, and local advocacy for the prioritization of OSAEC by LGUs. However, it should be noted that outcomes related to change in behaviour

towards OSAEC among teachers and CPC members resulting from awareness raising and capacity building activities were treated as part of EOPO1 following the revision of the SKPH results matrix in 2023 (see Table 3).

Information gathered from the APRs and FGDs showed that the SKPH program contributed to the strengthening of the child protection system at the local level by increasing the capacity of LGUs in target OSAEC hotspots to implement policies and plans to prevent OSAEC through the passage of local ordinances, activation and strengthening of Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPCs), and allocating budgets for implementing anti-OSAEC-related programs. The City of Iligan passed a local ordinance in 2023 penalizing OSAEC activities and providing support mechanisms for victims. Cagayan de Oro City enacted a city ordinance in August 2024 localizing the Anti-OSAEC and Anti-CSAEM Act (RA 11930). A representative of the LCPC of Cagayan de Oro revealed during the interview that an initial budget of Php3 million (AUD83,333) has been earmarked by the City Council to implement key provisions of the ordinance.

Local service providers from DepEd, CSWDO, PNP and BCPC who participated in the FGDs reported that the trainings provided by SKPH have improved their knowledge and skills on Anti-OSAEC and Child Protection Laws, OSAEC case reporting and referral pathways, trauma-informed care and Filipino Sign Language. Additionally, these trainings provided the participants the opportunity to network with other local service providers. The review team noted the following suggestions from participants to improve the effectiveness capacity-building interventions: (i) focus on training of trainers (TOT) to broaden impact with fewer resources; (ii) include training on enhanced methodologies for interviewing OSAEC victims; (iii) provide participants with access to training materials (e.g., links to training resources, etc.); and (iv) include more barangays and schools in training programs. It should be noted that SKPH extended support to several schools and barangay LGUs beyond the project areas by providing training/orientation on key topics such as Anti-OSAEC Law and online safety. However, FGD participants still felt the need to expand SKPH assistance to other areas.

Key informants from OSAEC hotspots who participated in the FGDs noted significant changes that resulted from the SKPH interventions. At the city level, FGD participants from the CSWDO, PNP and DepEd observed the following positive changes that may be attributed to SKPH:

- Adoption of local policies and plans to promote child protection and prevent OSAEC.
- Improved knowledge and skills of service providers (e.g., teachers, social workers and police officers) on how to protect children from OSAEC.
- Increased awareness among service providers about reporting and referral mechanisms for child protection and OSAEC cases.
- Improved coordination and networking among local offices of DepEd, CSWDO and PNP.
- Referral systems became clearer and more actionable resulting in faster responses to OSAEC cases.

At the barangay level, FGD participants from the barangay LGUs, schools and parent groups reported the following significant changes resulting from SKPH interventions:

- Reactivation and/or strengthening of the Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children (BCPCs) including budget allocation for CP/OSAEC plans, programs and activities.
- Increased awareness and knowledge of teachers, parents, BCPC members on how to protect children from OSAEC and how to handle OSAEC-related cases.
- Enhanced knowledge and skills of Child Protection Focals in schools on how to protect children from OSAEC.
- Better equipped BCPC office spaces due to equipment provided by SKPH.

EOPO4 – Evidence-informed development of OSAEC laws and policies by the Philippine Government

EOPO 4 embodies the collective responsibility of the SKPH Consortium in modernizing the legal and policy framework to address online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC). Although the program's TOC does not explicitly trace a causal pathway linking this outcome with the other three EOPOs, the tangible outputs documented in the Results Matrix speak for themselves. As of December 2024, all five targeted outputs—laws and policies passed or adopted by the Philippine Government—have been achieved through coordinated efforts by SKPH. Based on the program reports and interviews with key informants from the PCC, PIT and national government partners, the SKPH has significantly contributed to the development of the following laws and policies:

i. **Republic Act 11930 (Anti-OSAEC and Anti-CSAEM Act):**

   SKPH, in collaboration with UNICEF and the Child Rights Network, produced a policy paper that pinpointed gaps in existing child protection laws. This evidence base formed the foundation for a draft bill that was substantially adopted by Congress. The Consortium leveraged its technical credibility and extensive network to convene technical discussions among civil society organizations (CSOs) and provided legislative staff with key research and advocacy materials—such as the 2019 Philippine Kids Online Survey, the 2021 National Study on Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children, and the 2022 Disrupting Harm Study. Salient provisions incorporated into the law include:
   - The introduction of new terminologies (OSAEC and CSAEM)
   - Provisions for reasonable accommodations for children with disabilities
   - An exemption to the Anti-Wire Tapping Act
   - The creation of a safe harbor exception and an OSAEC Offender Registry

This legislative milestone not only marked a breakthrough in the country's fight against OSAEC but also positioned the Philippines as one of the first in the Asia-Pacific region to institutionalize a multi-stakeholder approach to child protection.

ii. **Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 11930:**

SKPH's technical assistance extended to the development of the IRR. Through a series of consultations with children, youth, and private sector stakeholders, SKPH contributed to:

- Defining the functions of the National Coordinating Center Against OSAEC-CSAEM
- Developing a costed, multi-year strategic action plan for this center
- Crafting disability-inclusive, gender-responsive, and child-sensitive guidelines for conducting OSAEC and CSAEM rescue operations and investigations

Notably, bilateral consultations with the NCC – OSAEC-CSAEM Secretariat and a gender-diverse group of children (145 females and 110 males) informed the inclusion of provisions for sensitive reporting mechanisms (e.g., ensuring same-sex personnel handle statements and separate processing centers for boys, girls, and LGBTQA groups) and establishing a unified referral pathway for comprehensive aftercare services.

iii. Child Protection Policy Enhancements:

- **Department of Education (DepEd):** Under UNICEF's leadership, SKPH provided technical assistance to enhance DepEd's Child Protection Policy. This involved developing and pilot-testing a Social Behaviour Change (SBC) Strategy—created in consultation with students and Child Protection Committees in two Southern Luzon schools—that is expected to transform behaviours among teachers, non-teaching staff, parents, and students toward more robust protection against OSAEC.
- **Philippine National Police (PNP):** Beyond assisting in the drafting of a dedicated child protection policy, SKPH supported its implementation through ongoing technical support. A key intervention was the development of Outcome-Based Education Training (OBET), which effectively cascaded child protection competencies across multiple PNP units. SKPH's collaboration also extended to developing and disseminating PNP Memorandum Circular No. 2021-081, which outlines procedures to ensure the safety of children in police custody.

iv. **Costed Implementation Plan for DICT's Child Online Safeguarding Policy (COSP):** SKPH assisted the Department of Information and Communication Technology in formulating a draft Costed Implementation Plan (CIP) to support the operationalization of the COSP. The completed draft CIP is currently under review by DICT.

SKPH's efforts have not only reformed national laws but also spurred critical capacity-building and advocacy interventions at the community level. The program's legislative work was complemented by:

- **Robust Advocacy and Lobbying:** SKPH's active participation in congressional hearings, technical working groups, and direct consultations

with legislative champions was widely recognized by national government partners, PCC, and PIT. This collective effort is highlighted in the 2022 Annual Report as a major achievement.

- **Bridging Policy Gaps:** Prior to RA 11930, prosecutions relied on outdated legal instruments (e.g., RA 9775, RA 9208, and RA 10175). The new law and its accompanying regulations now provide a modern, comprehensive framework.
- **Capacity Building and Community Engagement:** Extensive training initiatives—ranging from trauma-informed care to Filipino Sign Language—enhanced the skills of law enforcement, educators, and community workers. These trainings have not only increased awareness but have also empowered parents and advocacy groups to demand stronger child protection measures.
- **Local Government and Enforcement Innovations:** At the sub-national level, SKPH's interventions have catalysed the adoption of local ordinances (e.g., the Anti-OSAEC Ordinance in Cagayan de Oro with an allocated PHP3 million budget) and the establishment of multidisciplinary task forces in cities such as Iligan, further strengthening the legal and operational response to OSAEC.

While the absence of a clearly delineated causal pathway in the program's TOC presents an evaluative challenge, the tangible outputs and policy reforms achieved under EOPO 4 are undeniable. Despite challenges such as initial program delays, the COVID-19 pandemic, and setbacks in delivering key research, stakeholders uniformly attest that SKPH's contributions have been pivotal in overhauling the legal and regulatory landscape for child protection in the Philippines. These achievements not only provide a robust foundation for ongoing efforts to combat OSAEC but also position the Philippines as a regional leader in employing evidence-informed, multi-stakeholder strategies for child safety.

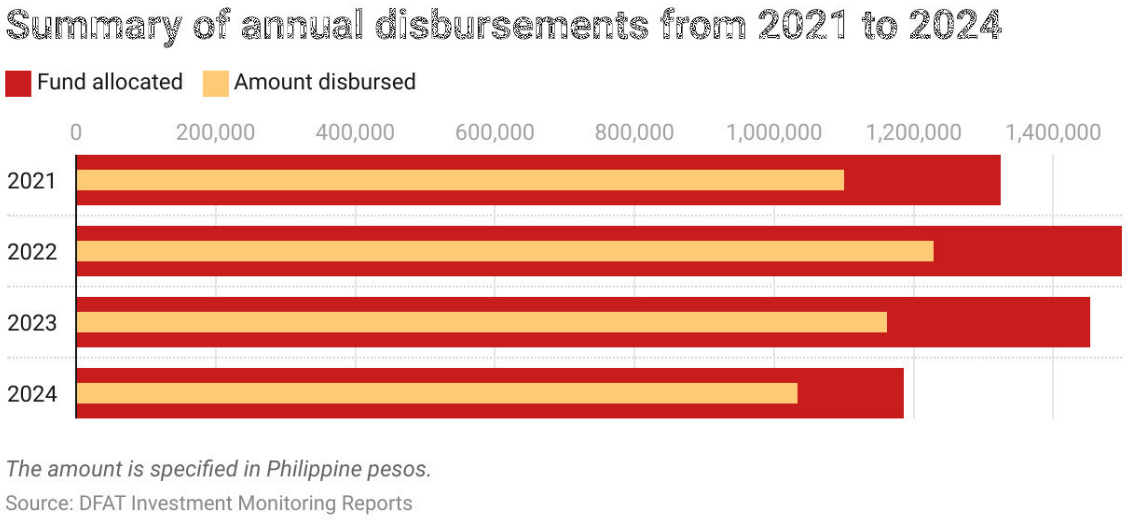
2.2 To what extent has SKPH been efficient in implementing its activities to attain its EOPOs and management of resources (KRQ2)?

The SKPH program may be viewed as efficient in utilizing DFAT resources to deliver its intended outputs and outcomes within the program timeframe. Based on data gathered from annual progress reports and IMRs, the program has efficiently used its allocated budget with annual utilization rate averaging over 80% despite the procedural delays in the transfer funds from UNICEF Philippines to TAF and SCP and the operational challenges brought about by the COVID-19 crisis during the early stages of program implementation (see Table 3 below). Key review informants partly attribute the program's high budget utilization rate to the financial management mechanism adopted by the Consortium and DFAT. Under the consortium modality, UNICEF received annual funding from DFAT and then allocated it to TAF and SCP through Partnership Agreements. According to key informants from DFAT, this modality reduced administrative costs and allowed more flexibility in the management of resources. As noted above, procedural delays in the transfer of funds from UNICEF Philippines to the consortium partners were encountered in the initial stages of SKPH implementation but these were eventually addressed as TAF and SCP gained familiarity with UNICEF's financial systems and procedures.

Table 5. Summary of annual disbursements from 2021 to 2024

Year	Fund allocated	Amount disbursed	% Spent
2021	1,324,807	1,099,590	83
2022	1,498,644	1,228,888	82
2023	1,453,258	1,162,606	80
2024	1,187,083	1,033,955	87

Source: IMRs, 2021-2024



The amount is specified in Philippine pesos.

Source: DFAT Investment Monitoring Reports

Mobility restrictions and travel bans associated with the pandemic have delayed some program activities such as capacity building of stakeholders in target communities. However, targeted outputs were still achieved mainly due to appropriate measures taken by DFAT and the Consortium such as the development of a business continuity plan aimed at responding quickly to emerging challenges and opportunities and re-programming of unspent budget to the succeeding period. Despite the delay in the commencement of the Social Norms Study (SNS) brought about by the pandemic and some procurement issues, the SNS was finally completed in early 2024. The study was intended to inform GEDSI oriented interventions for targeted groups and communities. In addition, according to the 2022 IMR, the delay in the implementation of the study (and the youth engagement plan) represents about 40% of targets not met in Year 3.

Partnership with the private sector likewise contributed to program efficiency. Guided by the Consortium's private sector engagement strategy, the program leveraged the expertise and resources of private companies and corporate foundations in addressing OSAEC through financial contributions to support key SKPH activities,

public awareness and advocacy campaigns, capacity building and training, policy advocacy, among others. The 2022 APR highlighted the support provided to UNICEF by two leading telecommunications companies in the country. PLDT/Smart Telecom provided computers to local communities to support the delivery of online learning activities and facilitate reporting of child abuse cases while Globe Telecom helped in the development of the adolescent engagement strategy as well as in the dissemination of the Digital Thumbprint Program on child online safety.

In terms of fundraising, the program succeeded in securing donations from big private companies during the first two years of implementing the SKPH private sector engagement strategy. The MTR in 2022 reported that the program raised about AUD390,000 from the private sector, more than half of which was generated through the SKPH partnership with the Australia-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (ANZCHAM). Brokered by DFAT with the support from Austrade, this partnership was able to raise funds from Australian companies that were used to establish child-friendly spaces and provide equipment to support the LCPCs in the performance of their OSAEC-related functions. From 2023 onwards, however, this review noted a decreasing trend in the amount of funds raised from the private sector. The 2023 and 2024 APRs reported challenges encountered in raising private sector contributions such as the global economic slowdown brought about by the Russia-Ukraine conflict and shift in private sector support towards climate change and education. The lack of program staff dedicated to private sector engagement was also a challenge raised by some key informants as evidenced by the slow response to proposals of support from the private sector, and inadequate reporting of private sector contributions from 2022 onwards.

Table 6: Total annual private sector contributions, in AUD

Year	2020-2021	2022	2023	2024
Amount	390,000	97,980	68,456	No data

Source: APRs, IMRs and 2022 MTR

Furthermore, governance arrangements have greatly contributed to the efficiency of the program. In line with the SKPH Investment Design, a Program Coordination Committee (PCC) composed of DFAT Manila (led by the Counsellor for Development and supported by the Governance Team), AFP and the three Consortium partners (UNICEF, SCP and TAF) was established to provide strategic program direction and approve annual work plans. Day-to-day operational, technical and administrative support requirements are being provided by the Program Implementation Team (PIT) composed of the program staff of consortium partners, AFP and DFAT. Meeting on a regular basis, the PIT has played a very important role in the timely and efficient delivery of program outputs as well as in resolving day-to-day program implementation issues.

The review also noted that the SKPH allocated resources for the development of knowledge products aimed at informing the formulation of policies and practices in combating OSAEC. Upon examination of the SKPH official website, however, the

review team observed that the website did not contain some of the knowledge products generated by the program. In particular, key outputs associated with the program such as the Social Norms Study, Anti-OSAEC Law and its IRR, training modules on OSAEC and related training resource materials could not be found in the website[2]. In this regard, the SKPH may need to update the SKPH website as a central hub for IEC materials, training modules, and research outputs to ensure that the program's assets remain accessible after closure.

2.3 What is the likelihood that gains achieved by SKPH will be sustained after the program has ended (KRQ3)?

Key informants from the national level cited that sustainability of the SKPH program is likely considering that it has put in place measures that will ensure continuity of the benefits beyond program completion in 2025. Key to program sustainability is the adoption of policies and laws that address OSAEC by the Philippine Government. The passage of Republic Act 11930 or the Anti-OSAEC and Anti-CSAEM Law solidifies the sustainability of the gains of the SKPH program in the Philippines. This law ensures that vital protections and measures are firmly embedded in the legal framework, allowing the SKPH program to continue making a lasting impact on the safety and well-being of children across the country.

As a strategy to ensure sustainability of the program, the Consortium worked closely with government agencies that have key responsibilities in child protection in developing OSAEC-related laws and policies including the Congress of the Philippines, Supreme Court, and relevant departments in the executive branch such as CWC, DepEd, DICT, DILG, DSWD, PNP, among others. Key review informants view this strategy to have promoted a great deal of ownership of the policies and laws by these government agencies. Apart from the adoption and ownership of the policies and laws that address OSAEC by government agencies, key review informants have identified the following important factors that will facilitate the continuity of the gains achieved by SKPH beyond 2025:

- Enhanced awareness, knowledge and skills of program stakeholders – the awareness raising and capacity building interventions conducted among key stakeholders involved in child protection at the national and sub-national level are key to the continuity of gains achieved by SKPH in influencing behaviour and adoption of policy reforms in support of OSAEC. Majority of the local service providers who received training under SKPH are committed to share their learnings to their peers and are continuing their advocacy against OSAEC in their communities.
- Strengthened institutional mechanisms at national and sub-national level – the creation of the NCC-OSAEC-CSAEM under the Anti-OSAEC Law is expected to strengthen the coordination and monitoring of policies, plans and programs of member agencies (e.g., DOJ, DILG, DSWD, etc.) aimed at combating

[2] Except for the PNP training modules which is contained in a PNP - exclusive Aleng Pulis website

OSAEC. Likewise, efforts to strengthen child protection mechanisms at the local level including the passage of anti-OSAEC ordinances, the reactivation and strengthening of LCPCs, and establishment of Multi-Disciplinary Teams to combat OSAEC will contribute to the continuity of child protection efforts initiated by SKPH in target OSAEC hotspots including advocacy, awareness raising and prevention campaigns against OSAEC.

- Knowledge developed and accumulated under the program – as part of the program strategy, SKPH supported the conduct of research and studies aimed at understanding OSAEC. and developing effective policies and interventions to prevent OSAEC. Moving forward, findings and lessons from these studies will be useful in developing and re-calibrating policies and interventions designed to prevent OSAEC. For instance, UNICEF is developing a Social and Behaviour Change Strategy and Toolkit to be endorsed for adoption by the NCC-OSAEC-CSAEM based on the findings and recommendations of the Social Norms Study.
- Partnerships forged among government and non-government actors – the consortium and other partnerships (e.g., Ad-hoc Working Group on OSAEC, etc) established during the program are expected to continue their advocacy against OSAEC. Key to the continuity of these partnerships is the recognition among stakeholders that the OSAEC issue is complex and multifaceted such that a collective and unified effort is needed to reduce the prevalence of OSAEC in the country.
- Continuing support to key SKPH interventions by the Australian Government and SKPH Consortium members – in line with the MTR recommendations, DFAT has embedded some legacy child protection activities of SKPH (e.g., capacity building of family court judges) under the Fostering Advancement of Inclusive and Rights-based (FAIR) Justice Program currently being implemented with Supreme Court. Key Post officials interviewed during this review affirmed Australia's commitment to sustain the gains achieved by SKPH through the integration of child protection initiatives in ongoing and future DFAT investments in the Philippines including programs addressing climate change and disaster risk reduction as these issues often exacerbate vulnerabilities among children. On the other hand, Consortium members such as UNICEF are expected to continue working with NCC-OSAEC-OSAEM to implement the Multi-year Strategic Plan while strengthening child protection systems building on models that were developed under SKPH.
- Issuance of Executive Order (EO) No. 67 - President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in April 2024 called for intensified efforts against OSAEC, including increased law enforcement activities and a holistic approach to combat the crime. The EO established the Presidential Office for Child Protection tasked with enhancing existing institutional and legal frameworks for child protection, with a particular emphasis on safeguarding children from OSAEC. Apart from supporting the SKPH objectives, the EO will help raise public awareness about the risks and impact of OSAEC and support the creation of an enabling environment that prioritizes child protection, both online and offline.

As noted above, SKPH interventions have good prospects for sustainability at the national level. However, the continuity of the program at the sub-national level is highly dependent on the commitment of the LGUs to support the local plans and

programs to prevent OSAEC. Leadership transitions after every local election can result in shifts in local priorities and changes in the composition of LCPCs thereby affecting the continuity of child protection and anti-OSAEC initiatives.

To ensure that the gains achieved by the program are continued long after the program ends in 2025, the Consortium needs to formulate a transition document that outlines how capacities built during SKPH (e.g., in advocacy, capacity building, private sector engagement and MEL) will be sustained by local actors and future programs. Moreover, the Consortium needs to continue working closely with government partners to ensure that the legal reforms (e.g., RA 11930, its IRR, and EO No. 67) are on-track to being fully operationalised and integrated into existing institutional frameworks, particularly in the judiciary and local government units.

2.4 What lessons can be learned from SKPH (KRQ4)?

The Consortium model has emerged as a best practice in collaborative problem-solving, advocacy, education, and policy development to protect Filipino children from online harm. This approach enables diverse organizations to pool their expertise and leverage their comparative advantages to address various aspects of OSAEC more effectively. While establishing a consortium requires time and effort, the benefits outweigh the challenges as it fosters a coordinated and holistic response.

The consortium approach is not without challenges. These risks were managed and obstacles were addressed efficiently through collaboration, open discussions, and trust among consortium members. One key learning from this model is the necessity of having a dedicated lead organization responsible for leadership, coordination, and overall management of the consortium. In this case, UNICEF serves as the contractual partner and lead. The lead organization plays a pivotal role in funding disbursement, reporting, and ensuring that all partners remain aligned with the shared objectives.

To further enhance the effectiveness of the Consortium, structured learning sessions have been incorporated, including DFAT hand holding sessions and GEDSI learning sessions. These capacity-building initiatives have strengthened the Consortium's ability to integrate inclusive and equitable approaches in its work.

The Covid - 19 pandemic has shifted interactions online. However, technology-based training can only go so far. There are nuances in training that require face to face interaction. This was pointed out particularly in the trainings for the Philippine National Police. On the visit to Australia by members of the PNP, it was noted that a more structured agenda to optimize the PNP delegation's time and learnings should have been included in their program.

Considering the prevalence of the OSAEC, the program's reach has not been as extensive. At the onset, the program identified areas for implementation. Key informants have raised the concern that a lot of areas have not been reached in terms of advocacy and training. The need to nurture and build on the gains of SKPH

needs to be pursued especially in the implementation of the policies that support the effectiveness of the RA 11930.

One of the program stakeholders working with the police and justice system in general raised concerns about the bureaucratic hurdles in the Philippine justice system. She highlighted the challenges in securing Warrants to Search, Seize, and Examine Computer Data (WSSECD), particularly in relation to probable cause and personal knowledge, even when there is clear evidence of child abuse material. Challenges were also noted in relation to information sharing with international partners, despite existing legal frameworks for international cooperation under RA 11930, although there are improvements with internal mechanisms to allow this to occur more freely and more often. She emphasized the lack of shared databases and the independent functioning of organizations, stressing the need for greater collaboration among prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement.

Transparency and open dialogues among program implementation team members paved the ground for a success in program outcome delivery. Risks and Challenges were analysed, solutions were co-created and trust building was always a feature that was mentioned in the responses to questions on addressing risks and problems that have been encountered.

2.5 To what extent has SKPH supported GEDSI (KRQ5)?

The review team found a clear reference to GEDSI in the Investment Design document. Specifically, the program has committed to contribute to enhanced child protection system to address online sexual abuse and exploitation of children, engaging and empowering children, and assessing their intersecting needs with income education, gender disability and cultural identity.

An elaboration of the GEDSI strategy can also be found in the Manual of Operations that provided specific guidance to utilize gender, disability and socially sensitive responsive approaches across its activities, advocacy and partnerships. GEDSI is also identified as a cross-cutting theme in the TOC. Program risk register cautions a potential risk event that GEDSI integration may be ineffective or does not contribute to program outcomes, with potential risk sources coming from partners having unequal capacity and commitment to integrate GEDSI in programming, inadequate reflection in the M&E framework and work plans. The MTR found that SKPH was able to contribute to key GEDSI considerations into advocacy and training materials as well as policies and laws.

SKPH's capacity-building initiatives incorporated GEDSI in multiple dimensions. Training modules for law enforcement, educators, and community workers were designed not only to enhance technical skills in addressing OSAEC but also to integrate gender-sensitive approaches and stress debriefings, which were particularly valued by local child protection actors and PNP officials. Knowledge products such as the Benchbook for Family Courts containing the IRR of the Family Courts Act and the IRR on the Anti-OSAEC law provide an example of promoting best practice and consistency in judicial decision making and court experiences for women and child victims.

The program's communication strategy, developed in collaboration with TBWA using its Disruption Framework, consistently foregrounded GEDSI. Award-winning multimedia campaigns—including the TOYS video and the "SaferKidsPH: Dress" initiative—employed subtitles (albeit limited to English) to make content more accessible and to highlight the long-term and generational impact of OSAEC on girls, boys, and families.

Recognizing the importance of digital channels in broadening outreach, SKPH made efforts to improve its online presence. The review team's assessment of the SKPH and Aleng Pulis Cybersquad websites revealed accessibility scores of 66% and 60%, respectively, with noted issues affecting users with low vision, color blindness, or mobility challenges. Moreover, while early annual reports demonstrated inconsistent data disaggregation—especially regarding gender and disability—the latter phase (2023–2024) showed marked improvements. Nonetheless, the review team noted that dedicated resources for GEDSI could have enhanced rigor in reporting and efforts to improve the welfare of vulnerable groups, particularly children with disabilities, were adequately pursued.

Central to the GEDSI approach is the active involvement of children in shaping policy and advocacy. The convening of the AngelNet Summit, themed "AlengPulis Cybersquad and the Angel Network, Magkasama sa Online Kaligtasan," provided a unique platform for children-led initiatives and participation. The co-design of interventions—such as the Aleng Pulis and the CyberSquad—demonstrates how SKPH harnessed children's input to influence program design and policy dialogue, reinforcing the notion that children's rights and voices are integral to effective child protection. Despite these efforts, the review highlighted that children with disabilities were underrepresented, limiting the diversity of perspectives in the program's feedback loops. Nonetheless, the program successfully ensured that children's voices were integrated into key interventions and policy dialogues.

SKPH made significant strides in promoting disability inclusion. The program's partnership with organizations like Deaf and Terp facilitated the provision of Basic Filipino Sign Language training for child protection frontliners, ensuring that guidance counsellors, social workers, and local police could better serve children with hearing impairments. In addition, the development and distribution of printed materials during these trainings—despite requests for more resources—underscored the program's commitment to accessible communication. Complementing these efforts, the Consortium released a Remote Counselling Manual tailored for survivors aged 15 and above. Developed by the De La Salle University Social Development Research Center during the COVID-19 pandemic, this trauma-informed, culturally appropriate resource addresses the specific needs of OSAEC survivors, highlighting the importance of high-quality, accessible aftercare services. Although aftercare was not originally part of the program's deliverables, gaps observed during the FGDs—such as insufficient follow-up with victims—point to an area requiring further attention.

Despite uneven implementation of GEDSI during the first half of SKPH, the review team identified several robust models of GEDSI analysis and reporting that can be replicated in future initiatives. The integration of GEDSI into policy development—evidenced by the inclusion of child safeguarding and reasonable accommodation

provisions in the Anti-OSAEC Law—and the evolving capacity-building and data reporting mechanisms serve as valuable benchmarks. These lessons underscore the need for future programs, including potential DFAT investments in the Philippines, to allocate dedicated resources for systematic GEDSI integration from the outset.

2.6 Has MELF met DFAT's standards for accountability, lesson learning and adaptive management (KRQ6)?

Guided by the SKPH Investment Design Document, the SKPH Consortium developed a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MELF) including a Theory of Change (TOC) and a Results Matrix (RM) at the outset of the program. However, the MELF fell short of DFAT's MEL standards in terms of supporting program management and promoting program learning. Recognizing the inadequacies of the MELF, a TOC review was conducted in November 2020 while an evaluability assessment was done in March 2021. The TOC review noted the need to have more specific, realistic, and coherent statements on desired outcomes, and clarity on how these can be achieved, measured and attributed to SKPH. The evaluability assessment, on the other hand, found the need to: (i) identify outcome indicators for Components 1 and 2, (ii) enhance the learning focus of the M&E system by including reflections on how and why change is happening, and (iii) assess the extent to which the program is on track to realize its end-of-program outcomes (EOPOs).

Subsequently, the TOC and RM were revised to include a fourth EOPO, i.e., evidence-informed development of OSAEC policy and laws by the Philippine Government. However, changes made in the TOC and RM were inadequate such that the 2022 IMR and the SKPH Mid-term Review (MTR) still noted the need to refine the M&E framework. Specifically, the MTR recommended the "development of a simple, fit-for-purpose MELF that incorporates learning and reflection, context, partnership and risk monitoring, and evaluative activities to help capture and articulate the SKPH story." The MTR further noted the need to contract a part-time MEL expert with a strong GEDSI background to support the strengthening of the MEL framework.

Under the leadership of DFAT and UNICEF, revisions were made in the RM by rephrasing indicator statements and targets, embedding GEDSI indicators, identifying appropriate means of verification and applying GEDSI analysis. Instead of contracting a part-time MEL expert, the program relied on the technical support from UNICEF's M&E specialist in the conduct of a workshop to review and revise the MELF in compliance with the MTR recommendations. While these revisions resulted in a more robust reporting of program performance from 2023 onwards, this completion review noted the following inadequacies of the MELF of SKPH some of which have been raised during the MTR in 2023:

- Inability of the TOC to explain the expected change pathways implied by the RM.
- Lack of indicators for the EOPOs against which robust judgments on program effectiveness can be made.

- Reliance on numerical indicators and targets with little attention given to the qualitative dimensions of outcomes which could help explain why results are achieved or not being achieved.
- Other inadequacies of the RM largely stemming from the lack of a clear TOC such as failure to capture key program interventions which have contributed to achievement of outcomes (e.g., outputs arising from advocacy and communications campaigns done at early stages of SKPH implementation are not found in the revised RM versions), and weak causality between outputs and outcomes arising from inappropriate output statements (e.g., outputs stated as outcomes under Component 4).

Despite the inadequacies of the SKPH MELF, the Consortium was able to generate annual progress reports which DFAT found to be useful in program management including the preparation of annual IMRs and steering the discussions during PCC meetings. In the absence of indicators for the EOPOs, this review based its judgments on effectiveness on the achievement of intermediate outcomes which directly contribute to the EOPOs as implied by the TOC. It is worth noting that these reports provided substantial information on program accomplishments including the status of financial resources which proved very useful in the conduct of this review. These reports, however, could have been made more impactful if short narratives about positive qualitative changes brought about by the program on its target clients are highlighted when reporting results per outcome.

2.7 What were the risks managed in line with DFAT's policy on Managing Risks in the program (KRQ7)?

To ensure that the investment is not exposed to any major risk that may adversely affect the reputation and integrity of Australia's aid investment, the DFAT Governance Team has actively managed the risks identified during the design and implementation phases of the program. Apart from embedding risk management in program documents such as investment design document, manual of operations and annual program reports, SKPH has a Risk Register that is being updated by DFAT in collaboration with Consortium members. Current and emerging risks including their mitigation measures are continuously discussed among consortium members in governance meetings.

Sound risk management examples gathered from the interviews with PIT members include the successful resolution of issues related to the Protect the Children Project (PCP) of Save the Children Australia and pro-active responses to the change in leadership arising from the Barangay Elections. To resolve the issue related to the PCP, DFAT led a series of discussions among the consortium members to agree on program demarcations around areas of program implementation, communication, branding and private sector engagement with SCP committing to provide regular updates to the PCC on the status of PCP implementation. While the program recognized the PCP as a potential risk, the review team is of the opinion that this situation should be appreciated as a complementation of resources and efforts. Negative effects of the leadership changes at the barangay level, on the other hand, were mitigated by maintaining good relationships with permanent technical staff in

the LGUs and conducting courtesy meetings with newly elected Barangay Councils to secure program buy-in.

Considering the evolving nature of OSAEC, the Consortium has consistently identified its contact and work with the children which could result in unintended negative impacts as the top risk for the program. As a risk mitigation measure, SKPH is guided by child protection and safeguarding and PSEAH policies in all its program activities that may involve contact or work with children.

Transitions in personnel for the program, turnover of personnel trained on OSAEC, transitions in national and local government offices were also identified as both risks in the implementation of the program and challenges encountered by the consortium members. Turnover of personnel is a reality and a feature of all programs particularly in capacity building activities. In cases of turnover of trained personnel, the program investment can be recouped by forming a pool of resource persons that can be tapped to cascade learning to the succeeding personnel who require training. In addition, knowledge management of training and other resource material through the official websites of SKPH and Aleng Pulis can fill in the gaps created when trained personnel leave their posts and move on to perform other functions in the organization.

Overall, program risks were managed in accordance with DFAT's policy on managing risks by embedding risk management in program documents, regularly updating the program's Risk Register and formulating measures to address current and emerging risks in close consultation with DFAT and Consortium partners.

3 Overall Assessment and Recommendations

3.1 Overall assessment

Overall, SKPH has been highly effective in achieving its intended outcomes thereby contributing to the enhancement of the child protection system to address OSAEC in the country. The program's interventions have led to improved online safety practices among children, parents, educators, and private sector actors. Significant policy milestones include the passage of Republic Act 11930 (the Anti-OSAEC and Anti-CSAEM Act) and the development of supporting regulations, which have strengthened the country's approach to combating OSAEC. Additionally, capacity-building initiatives have enhanced the skills and coordination of law enforcement, judicial bodies, and local government units.

The program has demonstrated efficient use of resources, maintaining an annual budget utilization rate exceeding 80% despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and initial fund transfer delays. Adaptive measures, such as a business continuity plan and reallocation of unspent funds, ensured that key outputs were delivered on schedule. Collaboration with private sector partners further leveraged additional resources and expertise, although later stages of the program experienced a decline in private sector contributions.

Sustainability prospects are strong at the national level, bolstered by the institutionalization of new laws and policies and the establishment of coordinating mechanisms such as the National Coordinating Center Against OSAEC-CSAEM. Continued government ownership, combined with the capacity-building of local stakeholders and strengthened partnerships, is expected to preserve the gains achieved by SKPH. Nonetheless, sustaining these outcomes at the sub-national level will require ongoing commitment from local government units to institutionalize child protection in local policies and programs amid potential shifts in leadership and priorities.

The consortium model proved effective in fostering collaboration across government, civil society, and private sector partners, although challenges related to coordination, knowledge management, and comprehensive data collection were noted. The program's efforts to mainstream GEDSI are evident in training materials, advocacy campaigns, and policy development, yet gaps remain in systematic data disaggregation and resource allocation for these areas. Future initiatives would benefit from enhanced knowledge-sharing platforms, more targeted private sector engagement, and well-resourced and robust mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation.

The SKPH program has made a significant and lasting impact on enhancing the Philippines' child protection framework against OSAEC. Through strategic interventions in behaviour change, policy reform, and capacity building, the program has not only achieved its primary outcomes but also established a strong foundation for the continued safeguarding of children. The lessons and innovations identified in this review offer valuable insights for future DFAT investments and similar child protection initiatives.

3.2 Recommendations

1. Prioritise the finalisation and dissemination of a knowledge repository that captures key lessons, best practices, and successful GEDSI integration (including quantitative and qualitative evidence). Update the SKPH website as a central hub for IEC materials, training modules, and research outputs to ensure that the program's assets remain accessible after closure.

2. Continue working closely with government partners to ensure that the legal reforms (e.g., Republic Act 11930, its IRR, and Executive Order No. 67) are on-track to being fully operationalised and integrated into existing institutional frameworks, particularly in the judiciary and local government units. Facilitate final consultations or briefings with key stakeholders to confirm continued government ownership and to document transition plans.

3. Design and execute a final wrap-up event to publicly showcase SKPH's achievements, share success stories, and highlight key recommendations for future DFAT investments.

4. Develop a transition document that outlines how capacities built during SKPH (e.g. in advocacy, capacity building, private sector engagement and MEL) will be sustained by local actors and future programs.

1. Development programs are designed on the basis of a program logic which provides the foundation for monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL). The SKPH program is no exception. Building on the experience of SKPH, future iterations of the program or upcoming Australian programs/investments (in other sectors or thematic areas) need to develop a fit-for-purpose, simple and realistic MELF that is founded on a clear program logic. Given the nature, scale and complexity of the OSAEC issue, such MELF should be able to generate information needed to support program management and promote learning especially in relation to OSAEC threats and drivers and effective approaches towards strengthening the child protection system in the Philippines. Allocating resources for MEL and GEDSI also need to be considered in programs addressing complex, evolving and multi-dimensional issues such as OSAEC, and in ensuring sufficient analysis, identification and implementation, and reporting of gender, disability, and social inclusion activities. In addition, the feasibility of conducting a longitudinal cohort study in future programming to track efficiency as well as the medium / long-term impact of interventions may need to be explored.

Annexes

Annex 1 - Terms of Reference

Program Overview

The 'Enhancing Child Protection System to Keep Filipino Children Safe Online' program (SaferKidsPH or 'SKPH') is an Australian Government initiative which aims to enhance the country's child protection system to address online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC). It has a budget of AUD $8 million over six years (2019-25).

The program is implemented through a consortium mechanism with grants coursed through UNICEF Philippines (AUD $7.5 million) as lead, The Asia Foundation (TAF) and Save the Children Philippines (SCP). Supplemental funding worth AUD $500,000 was also provided to the Australian Federal Police (AFP) to help develop a 'Child Exploitation Plan for the Philippines'. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) Governance team based in the Australian Embassy Manila manages SKPH through a Program Coordinating Committee (PCC) and a Program Implementation Team (PIT).

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. In response, SKPH intensified its public awareness campaign on child online safety, support to reporting, referral and rescue mechanisms, and policy enhancements. With support from SKPH, the AFP works with domestic and foreign law enforcement through the Philippine Internet Crime against Children Centre (PICACC) to undertake joint investigations, rescues, and arrests.

Nearing its completion, SKPH envisions to achieve four end of program outcomes (EOPOs):

1. Positive behaviours adopted 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 OSAEC hotspots.
4. Evidence-informed development of OSAEC policy and laws by Philippine Government.

These outcomes are pursued through a set of inter-linked and mutually reinforcing interventions ranging from national and subnational advocacy, research, policy dialogue, technical assistance, and capacity building, including mentoring and coaching with focus on the Philippine National Capital Region, and provincial cities of Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, and Angeles as hotspots. The program is delivered through strategic collaborations with government, civil society, private sector, and like-minded donors. It engages communities, families, and children. Key approaches applied by the program include employing adaptive and flexible strategies; promoting

innovation and sustainability; mainstreaming gender, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI), and engaging private sector including Australian businesses operating in the country.

SKPH underwent a midterm review (MTR) from October to December 2022 which was published along with the management response in April 2023. The MTR found that the program has made substantial progress in combatting OSAEC in terms of achieving its intermediate outcomes. There has been improved knowledge and awareness of OSAEC nationally and in target areas. In addition, SKPH utilised its GEDSI strategy in engaging with relevant sectors to inform advocacy messaging and inclusion of gender-sensitive, disability and inclusive provisions in laws and policies which contributed to the improvement of the policies and legal frameworks of the country. Overall, the MTR suggested that the program is performing well, but there is room for improvement in program implementation and management.

The management response to the MTR included: enhancing the monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) framework with consistent GEDSI analysis of the whole program; revisiting the private sector engagement strategy to improve ways of working with the private sector; ensuring that the SKPH's sustainability plan given the current landscape in the child protection space; and continuing internal discussion within DFAT on the future of the program including possible embedding aspects of the program into existing or future DFAT investments in relation to law and justice, social protection, and education.

With the program being envisaged to end by 2025, this completion review will help inform existing and future DFAT developmental programs by assessing program effectiveness, sustainability of gains achieved, and capturin\g lessons and innovations.

Objective of the Assignment

The primary objective of the completion review is to assess the effectiveness of SKPH in influencing behaviour, as well as contributing to policy enhancements in combatting OSAEC.

The other areas that the completion review will assess are:

- The likelihood of sustaining the gains achieved after completion of the program
- Lessons and innovations

The completion report will be primarily used by the Australian Embassy, particularly the Development, Economic and Political Sections, and the Australian Federal Police (AFP). The report will be shared to the SKPH consortium partners (UNICEF, The Asia Foundation, and Save the Children Philippines), and relevant DFAT Canberra areas (Philippines Section; Human and Environmental Safeguards Section; Gender Equality Branch; Development Performance and Advisory Services Branch; Disability, Indigenous and Social Inclusion Section; Business Partnerships and Carbon Market Section). The completion review, along with its associated management response, will be published in the DFAT website.

Scope of the Assignment

A review team composed of two (2) consultants will be hired to perform the following activities and task:

1. A **Review Plan** with methodology and timetable for undertaking the completion review. The review plan should incorporate key questions (under *Other Details)* to be finalised by the consultant together with the Embassy Governance team.
2. Prepare and present an **Aide Memoire** to relevant Australian Embassy staff and senior leadership. Present a version of the memoire to the SKPH consortium and AFP for feedback.
3. A **Draft report** and relevant annexes in accordance with the DFAT monitoring, evaluation and learning standards (Standards 9 and 10), and the DFAT accessibility standards.
4. Submit **Final Report** to the Australian Embassy's Governance team.

Duration, Phasing and Reporting Requirements

The completion review is planned to take place from September to December 2024 (up to 60 input days). The review will include preparation of a review plan, a combination of remote and face-to-face interviews and meetings, field data validation visits to program areas, data and document analysis, and preparation of aide memoire presentation to present to relevant Australian Embassy staff and senior leadership, and where appropriate, with the SKPH consortium as well.

The conduct of the completion review should be aligned with DFAT's Ethical Research and Evaluation Guidance, Monitoring and Evaluation Policy Guidelines and Safeguarding Standards which will be included in the key reference documents.

Specification/ Qualifications Requirements

The review team will be engaged to conduct the completion review for a period of up to 60 input days (30 days each team member). The consultants are expected to possess the following qualifications:

Team Leader and GEDSI Specialist

- At least 10 years of experience in international development sector specifically on gender equality, disability and inclusion in the Philippines
- Strong background in gender equality, women's economic empowerment, disability inclusion, and social inclusion programs
- Familiarity with the child protection space and inclusions issues including working with organisations representing marginalised sectors.
- Demonstrated analytical, report writing, quality assurance skills and verbal communication skills to articulate findings to stakeholders in a cross-cultural setting.
- Familiarity with DFAT's International Development Programming guide and standards is an advantage.

Design and M&E Specialist

- At least 10 years of experience in evaluating complex investments and implementation modalities.
- Strong background in program management and monitoring and evaluation frameworks and methodologies.
- Familiarity with the governance systems and political economic analysis in the Philippines.
- Demonstrated strong analytical, report writing, quality assurance skills and verbal communication skills to articulate findings to stakeholders in a cross-cultural setting.
- Familiarity with DFAT's International Development Programming guide and standards is an advantage.

Key Reference Documents

The Embassy Governance team will provide the following relevant documents to the consultant upon acceptance of the engagement:

- Investment Design Document October 2018
- SKPH Midterm Review Final Report (MTR) and management response
- SKPH Social Norms Study and SKPH Baseline Study in Quezon City and Angeles City
- UNICEF Annual Program Reports from 2019 – 2020 to 2023 – 2024
- DFAT Development Evaluation Policy and DFAT Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Standards
- SKPH's Investment Monitoring Reports (from 2021 to 2024)
- UNICEF's Partner Performance Assessments (from 2020 to 2024)
- SKPH's Risk Registers (from 2022 to 2024)
- DFAT Ethical Research and Evaluation Guidance
- DFAT Practise Note – Localisation
- Updated SKPH Manual of Operations 2021

Other Details:

Key Questions

The review team will be guided by the following key questions in the conduct of the completion review. The key questions which will be expanded and form part of the Review Plan to be finalized by the consultant together with the Embassy Governance team.

1. How effective was SKPH in influencing behaviour and introducing and contributing to programming, process, and policy enhancements to combat OSAEC?
    a. To what extent have stakeholders demonstrated changes in behaviour because of program interventions?
    b. How did SKPH contribute to improving child protection policies and processes of law enforcement and the judiciary in relation to OSAEC cases?

    c. How did the program contribute to developing policy and laws to combat OSAEC at the national level?
    d. How do achieved outcomes compare to pre-program levels and what evidence exists to support this?
2. To what extent has SKPH been efficient in implementing its activities to attain its end of program outcomes (EOPOs) and management of resources:
    a. How efficiently has the program managed its resources including funding, personnel, and time to achieve its desired outcomes?
    b. How appropriate was the program's governance arrangements, modality, partnerships, and operational processes in achieving its desired outcomes?
    c. How did the program adapt to new development and changing environments? What measures have been implemented to stay abreast of these developments?
3. What is the likelihood that gains achieved by SKPH will be sustained after the program has ended?
    a. What measures have been put in place to ensure that gains in child protection are sustained even beyond the SKPH implementation period?
    b. What partnerships and collaborations have been established by the program to support sustainability efforts in child protection?
    c. How can other existing programs of the Australian Embassy, such as in cyber security, law and justice, human trafficking, education, and social protection, build on the achievements and/or continue some of the activities of SKPH?
    d. What are the possible risks, challenges, and opportunities that should be considered by the Australian Embassy with the completion of this investment in the Philippines?
4. What are the lessons we can learn from SKPH?
    a. What lessons and innovations have emerged regarding the integration of GEDSI considerations and innovations?
    b. What feedback has been gathered from private sector partners regarding their engagement with the program?
    c. How has the program contributed to improving subnational mechanisms to combat OSAEC?
    d. What lessons have emerged on the multi-stakeholder partnership approach?

Annex 2 - SKPH Completion Review Design Matrix (Final Version)

Key review questions/ additional key questions	**Review sub-questions/** additional sub-questions	**Data sources**	**Data Collection Method**
Effectiveness 1. How effective was SKPH in achieving its end of program outcomes (e.g., influencing behaviour and introducing and contributing to programming, process, and policy enhancement to combat OSAEC)?	1.1 To what extent have stakeholders demonstrated changes in behaviour because of program interventions (EOP1)? 1.2 How did SKPH contribute to improving child protection policies and processes of law enforcement and the judiciary in relation to OSAEC cases (EOP2)? 1.3 How did SKPH contribute to improving service delivery for OSEC prevention and protection of children in OSAEC hotspots (EOP3)? 1.4 How did the program contribute to developing policy and laws to combat OSAEC (EOP4)? 1.5 How do achieved outcomes compare to pre-program levels and what evidence exists to support this? 1.6 What are the factors that have contributed or hindered the achievement of SKPH end of program outcomes? 1.7 How did the SKPH intermediate outcomes and outputs contribute to the achievement of end of program outcomes? 1.8 Are there other program outcomes or results that are not reflected in the SKPH Theory of Change that were observed? What factors contributed to the generation of these outcomes/results?	SKPH program reports, key informants from DFAT Manila Post, AFP, consortium members and government partners at national and sub-national level	Document review, key informant interview, focus group discussion, direct observation
Efficiency 2. To what extent has SKPH been efficient in implementing its activities to attain its end of program	2.1 How efficient has the program managed its resources including funding, personnel, and time to achieve its desired outcomes? If challenges were encountered, how were these challenges addressed?	SKPH program reports, key informants from DFAT Manila Post, AFP, consortium members and	Document review, key informant interview, focus group discussion,

Key review questions/ additional key questions	**Review sub-questions/** additional sub-questions	**Data sources**	**Data Collection Method**
outcomes and management of resources?	2.2 How appropriate was the program's governance arrangements, modality, partnerships, and operational processes in achieving its desired outcomes? If challenges were encountered, how were these challenges addressed? 2.3 Were program activities implemented as planned or within the approved budget and timeframe? If challenges were encountered, how were these challenges addressed? 2.4 How did the program adapt to new development and changing environments? What measures have been implemented to stay abreast of these developments? 2.5 To what extent has COVID 19 impacted on efficiency of the program towards achieving its desired outcomes?	government partners at national and sub-national level	direct observation
Sustainability 3. What is the likelihood that gains achieved by SKPH will be sustained after the program has ended?	3.1 What measures have been put in place to ensure that gains in child protection are sustained even beyond the SKPH implementation period? Are technical, organizational, and financial capacities adequate to ensure continuity of program activities? Are policies in place to sustain the gains of SKPH beyond the program implementation period? 3.2 What partnerships and collaborations have been established by the program to support sustainability efforts in child protection? 3.3 How can other existing programs of the Australian Embassy, such as in cyber security, law and justice, human trafficking, education and social protection, build on	SKPH program reports, key informants from DFAT Manila Post, AFP, consortium members and government partners at national and sub-national level	Document review, key informant interview, focus group discussion

Key review questions/ additional key questions	Review sub-questions/ additional sub-questions	Data sources	Data Collection Method
	the achievements and/or continue some of the activities of the SKPH? 3.4 What are the possible risks, challenges and opportunities that should be considered by the Australian Embassy with the completion of the SKPH program?		
Lessons Learned 4. What are the lessons to be learned from SKPH?	4.1 What lessons and innovations have emerged regarding integration of GEDSI considerations and innovations? 4.2 What feedback has been gathered from private sector partners regarding their engagement with the program? 4.3 How has the program contributed to improving sub-national mechanisms to combat OSAEC? 4.4 What lessons have emerged on the multi-stakeholder partnership approach?	SKPH program reports, key informants from DFAT Manila Post, AFP, consortium members and government partners at national and sub-national level	Document review, key informant interview, focus group discussion
Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) 5. To what extent has SKPH supported GEDSI and made a difference to gender equality, disability and social inclusion especially among children exposed to OSAEC?	5.1 To what extent have GEDSI issues been front and center of SKPH program design and implementation? 5.2 What were the barriers and constraints to GEDSI prioritization and integration? How were these barriers and constraints addressed?	SKPH program reports, key informants from DFAT Manila Post, AFP, consortium members and government partners at national and sub-national level	Document review, key informant interview, focus group discussion
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MELF) 6. Has the MELF met DFAT's needs for both accountability and for lesson learning and adaptive management?	6.1 Did the MELF meet DFAT's M&E standards? 6.2 To what extent has the program MELF delivered accurate, relevant and timely data regarding the programs intended outcomes? 6.3 If challenges were observed in the design and implementation	SKPH program reports, key informants from DFAT Manila Post, consortium members	Document review, key informant interview, focus group discussion

Key review questions/ additional key questions	**Review sub-questions/** additional sub-questions	**Data sources**	**Data Collection Method**
	of MELF, how were these challenges addressed?		
Risk Management and Safeguards 7. Were the SKPH risk and safeguards framework	7.1 How robust and comprehensive is the SKPH risk and safeguards framework? 7.2 Has the risk and safeguards framework been assessed and updated? 7.3 What actions were taken to ensure that risks and safeguards are managed in accordance with DFAT's policies?	SKPH program reports, key informants from DFAT Manila Post, consortium members	Document review, key informant interview, focus group discussion

ANNEX 3 – List of Documents Reviewed

1. DFAT Development Evaluation Policy
2. DFAT Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Standards
3. DFAT Ethical Research and Evaluation Guidance
4. DFAT Accessibility Guidelines
5. SKPH Investment Design Document October 2018
6. Updated SKPH Manual of Operations 2021
7. DFAT Investment Monitoring Report 2020-2021
8. DFAT Investment Monitoring Report 2021-2022
9. DFAT Investment Monitoring Report 2022-2023
10. DFAT Investment Monitoring Report 2023-2024
11. SKPH Annual Progress Report 2019-2020
12. SKPH Annual Progress Report 2020-2021
13. SKPH Annual Progress Report 2021-2022
14. SKPH Annual Progress Report 2022-2023
15. SKPH Annual Progress Report 2023-2024
16. UNICEF's Partner Performance Assessments (from 2020 to 2024)
17. SKPH Risk Register, 2024
18. SKPH Mid-term Review (MTR) Final Report and Management Response
19. Case Study and Partnership Review August 2021
20. SaferKidsPH MEAL Framework
21. Revised SaferKidsPH Results Framework
22. Revised SKPH Theory of Change
23. PNP Child Protection Policy
24. DepEd Child Protection Policy
25. UNIPH-2021-National Study on OSAEC
26. UNIPH-2021-Philippine Kids Online
27. SaferKidsPH Baseline Study Reports for Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, Angeles and Quezon City
28. Republic Act 11930 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations

Annex 4 – Sample Interview Guide

KII Protocol: SKPH Program Implementation Team/DFAT Governance Team

INTRODUCTION

Good day. Thank you for sharing your precious time for this interview

As you know very well, this review is being conducted to objectively assess the effectiveness, efficiency and prospects for sustainability of the SKPH program. This review also aims to document valuable insights and lessons from the implementation of the SKPH and formulate recommendations to guide existing and future programs related to OSAEC in the Philippines.

Your participation in this interview is very valuable because of your involvement and familiarity with the implementation of the SKPH program. If you wish for your identity or some or all of your comments to be anonymous, please let us know and we will ensure that your name and identifying information or characteristics will not be associated with those comments.

CONSENT

The interview should take us about 1 to 1.5 hours.

Before we start with the interview, we are required to ask for your consent:

- You have the right to not participate, this is completely voluntary
- You have the right to stop at any point
- If there is anything you do not understand, please ask me to clarify
- You have the right to decline to answer any question
- The information you provide will only be used for this review and your responses will be protected.

Do we have your consent for an interview? YES ( ) NO ( )

Interviewee: _____

Organization: _____

Position: _____

GUIDE QUESTIONS

1. Can you please briefly describe your specific role in SKPH program implementation?
2. To what extent has the SKPH contributed towards achieving its end-of-program outcomes (EOPO)? Which program interventions (sub-outcomes or outputs) had the greatest contribution to the EOPO? What were the facilitating/promoting factors? Which program interventions (sub-outcomes or outputs) had the least

contribution to the EOPO? What were the hindering factors? What measures were taken to address these hindering factors?

3. Are there other program outcomes or results that are not reflected in the SKPH Theory of Change that were observed/achieved? What factors contributed to the generation of these outcomes/results?
4. To what extent has SKPH been efficient in implementing its program activities? Were the program activities implemented as you have originally planned? Did you encounter delays in the implementation of program activities? What were the major reasons for these delays? How did these delays affect your program targets?
5. DFAT has allocated a total of AUD8 million to the SKPH program. Was the SKPH funding allocation utilized as planned? If not, what deviations or changes were made from the original plan? What were the reasons for these changes?
6. Were there resource contributions from the consortium members that were mobilized in implementing the program? How about from the private sector? Which specific interventions were funded out of these resources?
7. How appropriate was the program's governance arrangements and processes? What do you think needs to be strengthened or improved in the future?
8. How did the program adapt to new developments and changing environment (e.g., COVID-19 pandemic, leadership changes resulting from local/national elections, etc.)? What measures were taken to cope with these developments?
9. To what extent has the program MELF delivered accurate, relevant and timely data regarding the programs intended outcomes? If challenges were observed in the design and implementation of MELF, how were these challenges addressed?
10. Do you think SKPH is making a difference in gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) especially among children exposed to OSAEC? What were the barriers and constraints to GEDSI prioritization and integration? How were these barriers and constraints addressed?
11. What are the prospects for sustainability of the gains achieved by SKPH? What measures have been put in place (at national and sub-national level) to ensure that gains in child protection are sustained even beyond the SKPH implementation period? What sustainability mechanisms have worked so far? What mechanisms are not working? What is the facilitating or hindering factors?
12. What were the major risks identified during the design and implementation of the program? How did DFAT and the consortium address/manage these risks?
13. What key lessons can be learned from the SKPH intervention in relation to the multi-stakeholder partnership approach, GEDSI integration, private sector engagement, sub-national mechanisms to combat OSAEC, etc.?
14. If SKPH could be re-designed or implemented differently, what changes or modifications would you propose to improve overall program effectiveness and sustainability?
15. Are there any other items you wish discussed?

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Thank you very much for sharing your thoughts about the program. Your inputs are certainly very helpful in achieving the objectives of this completion review. Once again, thank you very much.

Annex 5. List of Stakeholders Interviewed

INDIVIDUAL/GROUP INTERVIEWS

Name of informant	Agency
Dr. Moya Collett, Deputy Head of Mission Peter Adams, Development Counsellor	DFAT DFAT
Pablo Lucero, Portfolio Manager	DFAT
Garret Mauro Paris, Program Officer	DFAT
Ria Go Tian, Senior Program Officer	DFAT
Behzad Noubary, Deputy Resident Representative	UNICEF
Patricia Lim Ah Ken, Chief of Child Protection	UNICEF
Maria Michelle Quezon, SKPH Focal	UNICEF
Sam Chittick, Country Representative	TAF
Maria Roda Cisnero, SKPH Focal	TAF
Melanie Llana, Senior Manager, Child Rights Governance	SCP
April Anne Correa, Project Coordinator	SCP
Zaena Saripada, Community Development Officer	SCP
Daisy Beckinsale, Liaison Officer	AFP
Ma-ann Escobedo, Learner Rights and Protection Officer	DepEd
Herlyn Kristine P. Lazaro, Assistant Chief of the Women and Children Cybercrime Protection Unit	PNP-ACG
Micaela Limpo, WCCPU investigator	PNP-ACG

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Name of informant	Agency
Romcil Magtajas, ADAS II, Tambacan High School	DepEd
John Mark Suan, MAPEH teacher, Tambacan High School	DepEd

Name of informant	Agency
Christine Monding, Guidance designate, Tambacan Elementary School	DepEd
Casampia Goling, Guidance designate, Tambacan Elementary School	DepEd
Leny Maglasang, Teacher, Tambacan Elementary School	DepEd
Paulina Lamayan, Former barangay councilor/kagawad, Barangay Tambacan	BLGU
Niña Vilvos, BCPC Focal, Barangay Tubod	BLGU
Angelyn Fairley, VAWC Desk Officer, Barangay Tubod)	BLGU
John Perkin Sebua, Project development officer	DepEd
Beberly Bastasa, Barangay kawagad, Tambacan	BLGU
PCMS Paz Madrid, WCPD investigator, ICPO - ICPS 3	PNP-Iligan
PCpl Zeery Namatay, WCPD investigator, ICPS 6	PNP-Iligan
PCpl Yonah Salvedia, WCPD PNCO	PNP-Iligan
PEMS Arniemae Ardonia, WCPD investigator, PNP-ICPO	PNP-Iligan
PEMS Joe Anne Acosta (Senior investigator, PNCO, PNP CIDMU)	PNP-Iligan
PEMS Faye Pableu, Operation PNCO, PNP CIDMU	PNP-Iligan
Jennifer H. Hora, SWO IV, CSWD	LGU-Iligan
Evelyn Daug, DCW-II, CSWD	LGU-Iligan
Joanner Paula Bacalso, Child development teacher Nazareth)	BLGU
Virginia Enriquez, VAWC desk, Bgy Carmen)	BLGU
Corazon Rivero, Former BCPC	BLGU
Julieta Puasan, Teacher	DepEd
Susan Llarenas, BCPC focal person	BLGU
PMSg Sheila Ochigue, WCPD PWCO, Police Station 5	PNP-CDO
PMSg Barcy Gaabucatan, WCPD PWCO, Police Station 2	PNP-CDO

Name of informant	Agency
PMSg R Pulmones, WCPD investigator, PNP-PS1	PNP-CDO
Alvic Francisco, DepEd CDO child protection focal person	DepEd
Grashelle Labang, Philippine Island Kids social worker, Safer Kids PH project officer	PIKIFI
Virgelia Demata, Philippine Island Kids Executive Director	PIK
Arcelie Brigole, child protection focal, CSWD-CDO	LGU-CDO
Mark Rivera, guidance advocate, Mariano Marcos Memorial High School	DepEd-Manila
Elizabeth Nuñez (Child protection specialist, focal person for LRP, education program specialist, SDO Manila)	DepEd-Manila
Kathleen Valenzuela (Registered guidance counsellor, Jose Abad Santos HS	DepEd-Manila

Annex 6. SKPH Achievement based on the Results Matrix

Result	Indicator	Overall Target	Achieved as of Dec 2024	Progress
Outcome 1 Positive behaviours adopted towards protection of children from online abuse and exploitation	No indicators	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sub-Outcome 1.1 Children practice protective behaviours online	# of children in the community with improved behaviour online	420	480	Achieved (target exceeded)
Output 1.1.1 Children have improved knowledge about OSAEC and its impact, online safety, and reporting mechanisms	% of girls and boys aged 6-17 participated in the learning sessions in the target communities and schools who demonstrated an increased knowledge on child protection and OSAEC	70%	90%	Achieved (target exceeded)
Output 1.1.2 Adolescent-led organizations capacitated to engage in advocacy work on CP/OSAEC	16 (all target barangays)/organized adolescent-led group	8	8	Achieved
Sub-Outcome 1.2 Parents and caregivers demonstrate protective behaviours to ensure children's safety online and offline	# of parents/caregivers who participated in the learning sessions who demonstrated an increased knowledge on child protection and OSAEC	420	420	Achieved
Output 1.2.1 Parents and caregivers demonstrate protective behaviours to ensure children's safety online and offline	# of female and male parents/caregivers who participated in the learning sessions who demonstrated an increased knowledge on child protection and OSAEC	420	420	Achieved
Output 1.2.1 Parents and caregivers demonstrate protective behaviours to ensure children's safety online and offline	# of female and male parents/caregivers who passed the OSAEC E-course	1500	1500	Achieved
Output 1.2.2 Parent-led groups capacitated to engage in advocacy work for child	# of female and male parent/caregiver-led groups capacitated to initiate	16	16	Achieved

Result	Indicator	Overall Target	Achieved as of Dec 2024	Progress
protection-related ordinances or local issuances	CP/OSAEC activities in their communities			
Sub-outcome 1.3 Teachers and CPC members demonstrate protective behaviours towards preventing and protecting children from OSAEC	# of teachers in target schools practice online safety measures	400	400	Achieved
Sub-outcome 1.3 Teachers and CPC members demonstrate protective behaviours towards preventing and protecting children from OSAEC	# of schools that have functioning CPC based on the DepEd Child Protection Policy and other related issuances	20	20	Achieved
Sub-outcome 1.3 Teachers and CPC members demonstrate protective behaviours towards preventing and protecting children from OSAEC	% of child protection/OSAEC cases reported to school-based CPCs that received an appropriate response	100%	100%	Achieved
Output 1.3.1 Teachers and CPC members have improved knowledge on OSAEC and its impact, online safety, and reporting mechanisms	# of trained teachers who demonstrated increased knowledge on OSAEC	400	418	Achieved (target exceeded)
Output 1.3.2 Increased capacity of the CPC to report CP cases, including OSAEC	% of child protection / OSAEC cases reported to school-based CPCs	100	100	Achieved
Sub-outcome 1.4 Private Sector have adopted business practices that better protect children online	# of private sector companies that contributed to SKPH outcomes	16	16	Achieved
Output 1.4.1 Private Sector meaningfully engaged as partners in countering OSAEC and promoting Child Online Safeguarding (COS) through advocacy	Number of businesses have been oriented/trained on CRBP	5	5	Achieved
Output 1.4.1 Private Sector meaningfully engaged as partners in countering OSAEC	Number of businesses consulted or engaged in amending/drafting/passing	40	40	Achieved

Result	Indicator	Overall Target	Achieved as of Dec 2024	Progress
and promoting Child Online Safeguarding (COS) through advocacy	OSAEC relevant legislation or policy			
Output 1.4.1 Private Sector meaningfully engaged as partners in countering OSAEC and promoting Child Online Safeguarding (COS) through advocacy	Number of private sector companies or high net-worth individuals providing funding support on OSAEC to SKPH	5	5	Achieved
Sub-outcome 1.5 Increased public engagement on OSAEC prevention	Number of people reached in various media platforms	1 million	1 million	Achieved
Output 1.5.1 Thematic campaign to generate awareness on OSAEC prevention launched	Number of campaigns launched	5	5	Achieved
Outcome 2 Child protection policies and processes to address OSAEC referrals, inquiries and cases are strengthened in the judiciary and law enforcement agencies	No indicators	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sub-outcome 2.1 SC Committee on Family Courts and Juvenile Concerns (SC-FCJC) have adopted child-sensitive policies and processes	Existence of Bench Book for Family Courts	1	1	Achieved
Output 2.1.1 Increased capacity of FC judges to adjudicate OSAEC cases	Existence of FCA IRR	1	1	Achieved
Output 2.1.1 Increased capacity of FC judges to adjudicate OSAEC cases	Existence of a Road Map to the establishment of the SCCD and how the SSCD will be organized and implemented	1	1	Achieved

Result	Indicator	Overall Target	Achieved as of Dec 2024	Progress
Output 2.1.1 Increased capacity of FC judges to adjudicate OSAEC cases	Existence of Digital Bench Book for Family Courts with Accessibility Features uploaded at the PHILJA Learning Management System	1	1	Achieved
Sub-outcome 2.2 Law enforcement and relevant inter-agency councils (e.g., PNP, IACAT) have increased capacity to prevent and respond to OSAEC cases	Existence of complementary referral pathway among inter-agency council members	1	1	Achieved
Output 2.2.1 Law enforcement agencies have increased knowledge on the PNP Child Protection Policy	Existence of SMT Referral Guidelines in line with the PNP Child Protection Policy	1	1	Achieved
Output 2.2.2 Law enforcement agencies provide appropriate response and/or referrals of OSAEC reports	Enhanced PNP Social Media Team referral guidelines	1	1	Achieved
Output 2.2.2 Law enforcement agencies provide appropriate response and/or referrals of OSAEC reports	Existence of an Anti Cyber Crime Group Memorandum Order creating the Child Protection MDT Cybersquad	1	1	Achieved
Output 2.2.3 Increased messages on social media on OSAEC prevention, response and protection from law enforcement agencies	# of child online protection and safeguarding campaigns launched	6	6	Achieved
Output 2.2.4 Strengthened child protection protocols of IACACP and IACAT	Supported on the inclusion of strengthened case management standards in the OSAEC/CSAEM Law	1	1	Achieved
Output 2.2.4 Strengthened child protection protocols of IACACP and IACAT	Existence of disability accessibility features in the COSP Website	1	1	Achieved
Sub-outcome 2.3 Improved response protocols and services for victim-survivors of VAC including OSAEC	# of victim-survivors of VAC / OSAEC cases accessed services	100	100	Achieved

Result	Indicator	Overall Target	Achieved as of Dec 2024	Progress
Output 2.3.1 Enhanced case management protocol and other case management related cases	Existence of Therapeutic Module Manual on the Remote Counselling for OSAEC Survivors	1	1	Achieved
Output 2.3.1 Enhanced case management protocol and other case management related cases	Existence of DOJ Protocol Case Management Review (with insights on Opportunities and Guideline Notes via OSAEC IRR Implementation)	1	1	Achieved
Output 2.3.2 Increased capacity of service providers to respond to OSAEC cases	# of trained service providers to respond to OSAEC cases/Creation of functional NMMC One Stop shop	9	9	Achieved
Outcome 3 Enhanced expertise, systems and infrastructure of community-based mechanisms to detect prevent and respond to OSAEC in hotspots area	No indicator	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sub-outcome 3.1 Local Government Units and service providers are implementing programs, policies and mechanisms to prevent and address OSAEC	# of target LGUs with an ordinance or local executive issuance addressing child protection and OSAEC that includes provisions on child online safeguarding	3	3	Achieved
Sub-outcome 3.1 Local Government Units and service providers are implementing programs, policies and mechanisms to prevent and address OSAEC	# of target LGUs with guidelines and monitoring framework on reasonable accommodation for CWDs developed/issued	3	3	Achieved
Output 3.1.1 Increased LGU capacity to incorporate CP/OSAEC-related programs in policies, plans and budgets	# of trained service providers with increased capacity to respond to child protection and OSAEC cases	240	444	Achieved (target exceeded)

Result	Indicator	Overall Target	Achieved as of Dec 2024	Progress
Output 3.1.1 Increased LGU capacity to incorporate CP/OSAEC-related programs in policies, plans and budgets	# of LGUs with capacity to plan and cost CP/OSAEC-related programs/activities	2 cities, 3 BLGUs	2 cities, 3 BLGUs	Achieved
Output 3.1.2 Improved functionality of L/BCPCs or other child protection mechanisms	# of target LGUs with a functional LCPC or other child protection mechanisms in place	3	3	Achieved
Output 3.1.2 Improved functionality of L/BCPCs or other child protection mechanisms	# of target cities with an established reporting and referral mechanism for child protection and OSAEC	3	3	Achieved
Output 3.1.3 Increase in OSAEC-related PPAs and policies	# of barangays that have incorporated child protection/OSAEC related PPAs, including reasonable accommodation for CWDs, in their LDIPs	6	9	Achieved (target exceeded)
Output 3.1.3 Increase in OSAEC-related PPAs and policies	# of cities that have incorporated child protection/OSAEC related PPAs, including reasonable accommodation for CWDs, in their LDIPs	6	6	Achieved
Output 3.1.4 Service Providers (local social workers, police officers, barangay officials, MHPSS and health service providers, and other stakeholders) have improved knowledge on child protection, including OSAEC	# of trained service providers with increased capacity to respond to child protection and OSAEC cases	240	444	Achieved (target exceeded)
Outcome 4 Gender sensitive, disability and socially inclusive laws and policies enhancing child protection online are passed	No indicators	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sub-outcome 4.1 Evidence-informed development of	# of OSAEC-related policies /laws supported by the SKPH consortium	5	5	Achieved

Result	Indicator	Overall Target	Achieved as of Dec 2024	Progress
OSAEC policy and laws by Philippine Government				
Output 4.1.1 Existence of child protection policy for the PNP	Signed CP Policy	1	1	Achieved
Output 4.1.1 Existence of child protection policy for the PNP	Outcome-based education training module for PNP submitted	1	1	Achieved
Output 4.1.2 Enhanced Child Protection Policy of the DepEd	# of schools that have adopted the SBC toolkit on the child protection policy	2	2	Achieved
Output 4.1.3 Enacted OSAEC law	Passage of the anti OSAEC law	1	1	Achieved
Output 4.1.4 Signed IRR of RA 11930 (OSAEC law)	Signed IRR that is inclusive, gender-sensitive, and culture-sensitive	1	1	Achieved
Output 4.1.5 Existence of an implementation and dissemination plan for the COSP of the DICT	Costed Implementation Plan of Child Online Safeguarding Policy	1	1	Achieved

Annex 7 – GEDSI Notes

This annex presents a comprehensive review of how Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) considerations were integrated into the SaferKidsPH (SKPH) program. Drawing on primary and secondary data, including key informant interviews, field observations, annual reports, program documents, and partner consultations, this analysis examines the design, delivery, and outcomes of GEDSI-related interventions. It also reflects on practical lessons and sustainability implications for DFAT and its partners.

The annex is structured to support the findings and recommendations of the independent completion review, and to serve as a practical reference for future programming. It aims to highlight both areas of progress and areas where further effort and investment are needed to ensure that child protection systems in the Philippines remain inclusive, equitable, and accessible to all.

1. GEDSI Integration in Program Design and Strategy

From inception, SKPH committed to GEDSI as a cross-cutting priority embedded within its program logic. The Investment Design Document (IDD) and Manual of Operations articulated this clearly with specific reference to the intersection of vulnerabilities such as children facing marginalization due to gender, disability, income status, ethnicity, or geographic location.

The Theory of Change positioned GEDSI as foundational to achieving systemic change. Rather than creating standalone GEDSI activities, the approach emphasized mainstreaming inclusive practices into all four EOPOs. This included stakeholder consultation, gender-responsive planning, inclusive training curricula, and equity-focused MEL.

Risk analysis conducted early in the program recognised potential challenges in GEDSI implementation. Specifically, unequal GEDSI capacity among consortium partners, limited disaggregated data, and lack of dedicated GEDSI funding were identified as threats. The inclusion of GEDSI in the Risk Register, and the periodic discussion of GEDSI in PIT and PCC meetings, reflected a positive shift in governance culture.

The program also benefited from strong leadership within DFAT Post and from champions within the Consortium who pushed for better alignment of GEDSI commitments with daily operations. However, the absence of a dedicated GEDSI advisor or focal point across all partners limited more systematic integration, especially during the early phases of implementation.

4 Operationalization of GEDSI in Program Delivery

The practical implementation of GEDSI varied across consortium partners and geographic locations. Nonetheless, the review found evidence of both intentional planning and organic learning that led to tangible improvements in inclusive programming.

- *Training and Capacity Building*: GEDSI themes were embedded in most training modules, particularly for law enforcement and educators. Topics included gender-sensitive interviewing, disability-inclusive service delivery, stress debriefing for frontline staff, and child safeguarding principles. Feedback from local police and teachers suggested that these sessions shifted both attitudes and behaviours, particularly in responding to OSAEC disclosures.
- *Inclusive Legal and Policy Reform*: The Anti-OSAEC Law and its IRR included provisions for children with disabilities, gender-responsive referral mechanisms, and protection for LGBTQ+ children. The IRR of the Family Courts Act, developed with technical inputs from SKPH, provided detailed guidance on how to apply child and gender-sensitive principles during proceedings.
- *Community Engagement and SBC*: Localised awareness campaigns and school-based sessions featured age-appropriate, culturally sensitive messages. SKPH engaged parents, teachers, barangay officials, and religious leaders to challenge harmful norms and promote collective responsibility in protecting children online. However, materials were mostly available in English or Tagalog, limiting reach in linguistically diverse areas.
- *Digital Access and Accessibility Gaps*: While the program invested in online platforms (e.g., SKPH website, Aleng Pulis Cybersquad), accessibility assessments showed significant barriers for users with visual impairments or limited digital literacy. The websites had low color contrast, lacked screen-reader compatibility, and required multiple upgrades to comply with WCAG standards.
- *Data and Evidence Use*: Disaggregated reporting on gender and disability was limited in early program years. Improvements were noted from 2023 onward, particularly following MELF revisions. However, many partner reports still lacked intersectional analysis, and there was limited documentation of program impact on children from indigenous groups, LGBTQ+ youth, or those with disabilities.

5 Innovations in Inclusion, Participation, and Disability Access

SKPH introduced several practices that demonstrate how GEDSI integration can move from principle to practice:

- *Filipino Sign Language (FSL) Training*: In partnership with Deaf and Terp, SKPH trained police, social workers, and guidance counsellors on basic FSL. This was particularly well-received in cities like Iligan and Cagayan de Oro, where local government units expressed interest in sustaining the effort.
- *Remote Counselling Manual*: Developed during COVID-19, this manual provided guidance for trauma-informed online counselling. Though originally designed for adolescents aged 15 and above, many of its recommendations were applied to other settings. The manual emphasised accessible language, emotional safety, and cultural sensitivity.
- *Child-Led Initiatives*: The CyberSquad, AngelNet Summit, and school-based campaigns enabled children and youth to design and lead advocacy efforts.

Young people were consulted on policies such as the IRR of RA 11930 and participated in feedback loops for digital tools.
- *Resource Mobilisation and Equipment Support*: Inclusive learning and recovery spaces were supported in hotspots through donations of disability-friendly furniture, visual aids, and assistive devices. These were funded through private sector contributions facilitated by DFAT and ANZCHAM.

Despite these promising practices, the program's aftercare and follow-up systems remained lacking in sufficient resources. Survivors of OSAEC often faced complex reintegration needs, and there was no clear mechanism within SKPH to ensure that children with trauma, disabilities, or high-risk home environments received long-term support.

6 Reflections on GEDSI Monitoring, Reporting, and Learning

Monitoring and evaluation frameworks are key to understanding and improving GEDSI impact. The Mid-Term Review noted weaknesses in the original MELF, particularly in articulating how GEDSI would be tracked or reported. A revised MELF was introduced in late 2022 with embedded indicators for GEDSI under several intermediate outcomes.

Key strengths observed from this adjustment included:

- Disaggregated tracking of training participants by sex, age, and disability status.
- Incorporation of qualitative reflections in progress reports, such as community testimonials and frontline observations.
- Use of participatory feedback sessions with youth and community stakeholders to triangulate findings.

However, challenges persisted:

- Partners varied in their capacity to collect and analyse GEDSI-related data.
- There was no dedicated GEDSI focal person in the MEL team to synthesize cross-cutting findings.
- Disability remained poorly documented beyond sign language training, with minimal use of Washington Group Questions or similar validated tools.
- Gender analysis tended to focus on male/female binary without deeper attention to roles, power dynamics, or social norms.

The review finds that SKPH improved its GEDSI monitoring toward the end of the program. This also reinforces the need for future programs to invest in tools, staff capacity and reporting culture to generate meaningful insight and accountability.

7 Lessons and Implications for Future Programming

The experience of SKPH provides several practical insights for GEDSI integration in large-scale, multi-stakeholder child protection programs:

a. *Start with practical tools and consistent leadership:* GEDSI must be embedded not only in strategy but in operations. This includes budgeting for accessibility, adapting materials into local languages, and ensuring at least one GEDSI focal point per implementing partner.
b. *Listen to diverse voices early and often*: Participatory processes must intentionally include children with disabilities, LGBTQ+ youth, and indigenous communities. Tokenistic representation should be avoided by supporting capacity-building for meaningful engagement.
c. *Build inclusive systems, not just inclusive projects*: GEDSI elements in laws and training modules must translate into everyday practices in schools, police stations, and courts. This requires job aids, mentorship, and ongoing support—not just one-time workshops.
d. *Prioritise accessibility in communications and technology*: Website design, IEC materials, and learning platforms must comply with accessibility standards. Offline, print, and verbal options should be available to ensure equitable reach.
e. *Link aftercare to protection systems*: Support for survivors, particularly those with disabilities or psychosocial needs, must be planned from the outset. Future programs should invest in referral systems and inclusive rehabilitation pathways.

These lessons align with DFAT's broader focus on inclusive development and provide a foundation for more accountable, impactful programming. Future programs can build on this by adopting GEDSI not as a technical add-on, but as a central lens for design, delivery, and decision-making.