



• • • **Preventing  
Sexual  
Exploitation:**

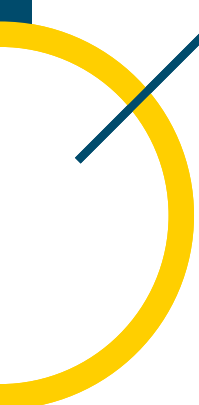
**A Practical  
Guide to the  
Private Sector**

## Acknowledgment

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**Preventing Sexual Exploitation:  
A Practical Guide to  
the Private Sector**

**Specialized Note  
on the History and  
Experience of  
Childhood Brasil**



**Guidelines for  
the Agribusiness  
Sector**

**Guidelines for  
the Tourism  
Sector**



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## Childhood Brasil

The **World Childhood Foundation (Childhood)** was established in 1999 by Queen Silvia of Sweden and has offices in four countries: Germany, Brazil, the United States and Sweden. In Brazil, the organization aims to ensure that issues related to sexual abuse and the exploitation of children and adolescents are included in the agenda of public policies, the private sector and civil society by providing information, solutions, and strategies to the different spheres of society.

**Childhood Brasil's** work is based on the principle that federal entities, families, the private sector, and civil society organizations in general are responsible for protecting the rights of children and adolescents. Fighting sexual exploitation, therefore, requires the development of intersectoral strategies and policies.

**Childhood Brasil** has been working in partnership with the private sector since 2005 offering advice and encouraging productive sectors not to allow any type of sexual violence against children and adolescents to take place as a result of their business or in their value chains. The work done within the context of large infrastructure projects began in 2007 and the organization has since then been gaining experience that has helped evolve the methodology for preventing and fighting sexual exploitation against children and adolescents within the scope of

development projects.

This methodology has been implemented in different regions by companies of various sizes, consolidating a method that is tested for and adaptable to different realities. The partnership with **IDB Invest Childhood Brasil** has enabled the methodology and the steps of this strategy to inspire other productive sectors to adopt measures to protect children and adolescents from sexual exploitation in their businesses.

Sexual violence causes harmful and long-lasting effects on the physical and mental health of its victims. Although several international regulations<sup>1</sup> establish the role of companies in preventing, protecting, and remedying harm done against children and adolescents within the scope of their business undertakings, most lack knowledge and information on how to implement these types of measures. The purpose of this Guide is to fill this gap by offering a consolidated path for companies interested in protecting children and adolescents.

**Childhood** hopes this Guide will inspire and guide more organizations to come together to foster childhood and adolescence free of sexual exploitation. ●

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<sup>1</sup> UN Human Rights Council. (2011). Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Available at: [https://www.ohchr.org/documents/publications/guidingprinciplesbusinessshr\\_en.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/documents/publications/guidingprinciplesbusinessshr_en.pdf)



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## IDB Invest

**IDB Invest** considers the social sustainability of the activities it supports as key to achieving positive development results. Sensible management of social risks and impacts is good business practice and can help improve the sustainability of companies and projects by fostering a good relationship with the surrounding communities and contributing to the development of a positive reputation while helping to build a beneficial legacy in the region.

The **Environmental and Social Sustainability Policy of IDB Invest**<sup>2</sup> (the Sustainability Policy) includes a commitment to respect human rights, gender equality and the protection of vulnerable groups, which are also present in the content of the Performance Standards (PS) of the International Finance Corporation (IFC)<sup>3</sup> referenced in the Sustainability Policy.

**IDB Invest** is committed with identifying, preventing and mitigating gender risks, sexual exploitation risks and human trafficking risks, especially for vulnerable groups. The development of measures to prevent and address the risks of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and other vulnerable groups, including women, LGBTQI+ people, Afro-descendants, and Indigenous Populations, within the context of private sector business is aligned with the fundamental commitments of **IDB Invest** and its Sustainability Policy.

In this publication, **IDB Invest** aims to disseminate the risk prevention methodology for sexual exploitation of children and adolescents developed by **Childhood Brasil** and broaden the recommendation to include aspects of management and prevention of other vulnerable groups within the context of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

**IDB Invest** believes that the dissemination of knowledge tools helps prevent and mitigate risks related to the negative social impacts that may be associated with development projects and, as such, helps increase the protection of the rights of children and adolescents, women, LGBTQI+ people, and other vulnerable groups. ●

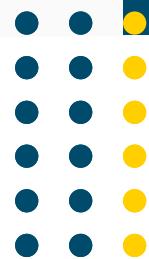
<sup>2</sup> The Sustainability Policy is available at [https://idbinvest.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/idb\\_invest\\_sustainability\\_policy\\_2020\\_EN.pdf?\\_ga=2.105690624.2054575350.1620653833592729906.1607355044](https://idbinvest.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/idb_invest_sustainability_policy_2020_EN.pdf?_ga=2.105690624.2054575350.1620653833592729906.1607355044).

<sup>3</sup> The Performance Standards of IFC are available at: [https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/Topics\\_Ext\\_Content/IFC\\_External\\_Corporate\\_Site/Sustainability-At-IFC/Policies-Standards/Performance-Standards](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/Topics_Ext_Content/IFC_External_Corporate_Site/Sustainability-At-IFC/Policies-Standards/Performance-Standards)

## Acronyms

<b>CDC</b>	CDC Group plc
<b>CEO</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>CIM</b>	Inter-American Commission of Women
<b>CONANDA</b>	Brazilian National Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents
<b>DAI</b>	Direct Area of Influence
<b>DDPA</b>	Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
<b>DSD</b>	Daily Safety Dialogue
<b>EBRD</b>	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
<b>ECA</b>	Child and Adolescent Statute of Brazil
<b>ECLAC</b>	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>FGV</b>	Getulio Vargas Foundation
<b>GAP</b>	Growth Acceleration Program
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>GDHeH</b>	Research Group on Human Rights and Business at the Getulio Vargas Law Foundation
<b>GVCes</b>	Center for Sustainability Studies at the Getulio Vargas Foundation
<b>HDI</b>	Human Development Index
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Viruses

<b>IFC</b>	International Finance Corporation
<b>ILO</b>	International Labor Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>IP</b>	Indigenous Populations
<b>LAC</b>	Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>LGBTQI+</b>	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and other sexual and gender minorities
<b>OAS</b>	Organization of American States
<b>PAHO</b>	Pan American Health Organization
<b>PS</b>	IFC Performance Standards
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>STI</b>	Sexually Transmitted Infections
<b>SVACA</b>	Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNGA</b>	United Nations General Assembly
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>VACA</b>	Violence Against Children and Adolescents
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WTO</b>	World Tourism Organization





## Glossary

### Children and Adolescents

A child is considered to be a person below the age of 18 unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.<sup>4</sup>

In Brazil, children are all those up to the age of 12 and adolescents are all those from 12 to 18 years of age.

### Femicide or Femicide

Femicide is generally understood to involve intentional murder of women because they are women, but broader definitions include any killings of women or girls. Femicide is usually perpetrated by men, but sometimes female family members may be involved. Femicide differs from male homicide in specific ways. For example, most cases of femicide are committed by partners or ex-partners, and involve ongoing abuse in the home, threats or intimidation, sexual violence, or situations where women have less power or fewer resources than their partner.<sup>5</sup>

The term may vary according to different national laws and may be called femicide, femicide or aggravated homicide due to gender.<sup>6</sup>

### Gender

The social roles, attributes, opportunities and relationships that a given society considers appropriate for men and women.<sup>7</sup> In other words, the concept of gender is linked to social constructs not to natural characteristics.

### Gender Violence

Refers to violence against people because of their sex or gender or that affects people of a particular sex or gender disproportionately.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>4</sup> UNGA. (1989). Convention on the Rights of Children. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> ECLAC. (2018). Technical Note and Sources CEPALSTAT. Available at: [https://estadisticas.cepal.org/cepalstat/tabulador/SisGen\\_MuestraFicha\\_puntual.asp?id\\_aplicacion=17&id\\_estudio=222&indicador=2780&idoma=i](https://estadisticas.cepal.org/cepalstat/tabulador/SisGen_MuestraFicha_puntual.asp?id_aplicacion=17&id_estudio=222&indicador=2780&idoma=i).

<sup>7</sup> IFC, EBRD & CDC. (2020). Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Harassment: Emerging Good Practice for the Private Sector. Available at: [https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/f1645167-7eff-439b-922b-7656c75320ab/GPN\\_AddressingGBVH\\_July2020.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=nddokiS](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/f1645167-7eff-439b-922b-7656c75320ab/GPN_AddressingGBVH_July2020.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=nddokiS).

<sup>8</sup> ILO (2019). Convention Concerning the Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work. Available at: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms\\_711570.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_711570.pdf)



## Human Trafficking

Human trafficking means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organ.<sup>9</sup>

## Indigenous Peoples

IP is used hereby to refer to a specific social and cultural group that possesses a set of characteristics to varying degrees, including self-identification as members of a distinct indigenous cultural group and recognition of this identity by others, collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories, customary cultural, economic, social, or political institutions that are separate from those in the mainstream society or culture, and/or a specific language or dialect.<sup>10</sup> In some countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, it has a legal meaning related to a particular group or groups recognized as indigenous by the government.

## Pedophilia

The social concept of pedophilia is defined by an adult's erotic attraction to children. This attraction may reside in the realm of fantasy or may materialize through sexual acts with children. As such, there are many pedophiles around the world who do not commit sexual violence. Therefore, one cannot say that every pedophile is a sex offender, and the opposite is also not true.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>9</sup> UNGA. (2002). UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish the Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/protocoltraffickinginpersons.aspx>

<sup>10</sup> IFC (2012). Performance Standard 7 (PS 7).

<sup>11</sup> Childhood Brasil (2020). Guia de Referência: Construindo uma Cultura de Prevenção à Violência Sexual.

**Prostitution**

Prostitution refers to the act of performing sexual intercourse in return for monetary payments. The practice, if performed by adults, may be carried out with the consent of all involved and does not necessarily constitute sexual exploitation. Laws regarding prostitution vary greatly from country to country and it can be considered illegal, legal, or legal under some specific conditions. In any situation, the involvement of children and adolescents in sexual commercial activities is considered illegal and is characterized as sexual exploitation.

**Sex**

Sex refers to external physical differences that are used as markers upon which a male or female sex is assigned at birth.<sup>12</sup>

**Sexual Abuse of Children and Adolescents<sup>13</sup>**

Sexual abuse is described as any situation in which a child or adolescent is used for sexual gratification by another person, usually older. The power imbalance between the abuser and the abused is what most characterizes this situation. Although sexual abuse is usually perpetrated by older people, there have been recurring reports of abusive situations between people of the same age. In this case, the asymmetry is established by forms of power rather than age.

**Sexual Exploitation**

Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including but not limited to threatening or profiting financially, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another person.<sup>14</sup>

**Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents**

Sexual exploitation is characterized by the sexual relationship of a child or adolescent with adults, in return for payment in cash or any other benefit (favors, drugs, food, a night's sleep or gifts).

<sup>12</sup> IFC, EBRD & CDC. (2020). Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Harassment: Emerging Good Practice for the Private Sector. Available at: [https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/f1645167-7eff-439b-922b-7656c75320ab/GPN\\_AddressingGBVH\\_July2020.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=nddokiS](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/f1645167-7eff-439b-922b-7656c75320ab/GPN_AddressingGBVH_July2020.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=nddokiS).

<sup>13</sup> Some terms may have specific definitions when referring to children and adolescents, given the framework for action and the need for alignment with certain legal regulations. When a term can be interpreted in two different ways, both interpretations will be described.

<sup>14</sup> WHO (2017). WHO Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Prevention and Response. Policy and Procedures. March 2017. Available at: [https://www.who.int/about/ethics/sexual-exploitation\\_abuse-prevention\\_response\\_policy.pdf](https://www.who.int/about/ethics/sexual-exploitation_abuse-prevention_response_policy.pdf)

**Sexual Violence**

Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic or otherwise directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work.<sup>15</sup>

**Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents (SVACA)**

Sexual violence presupposes the abuse of power whereby children and adolescents are used for adult sexual gratification by being induced or forced to practice sexual acts. Sexual violence may be understood as a form of abuse, as well as of exploitation. These denominations are used here to differentiate between violence when money or material gain (exploitation) has been exchanged or when not, what constitutes the abuse.

**Transgender**

An umbrella term used to describe a wide range of identities whose appearance and characteristics are perceived as gender atypical – including transsexual people, cross-dressers (sometimes referred to as “transvestites”), and people who identify as a third gender.<sup>16</sup>

**Violence Against Children and Adolescents (VACA)**

Violence against children and adolescents is every act or omission committed by parents, relatives, other people and institutions capable of causing physical, sexual, and/or psychological harm to the victim. It implies, on the one hand, a transgression in the power/duty of protection of the adult and of society in general, and, on the other hand, an objectification of childhood. In other words, a denial of the right of children and adolescents to be treated as entities and people in special conditions of growth and development.<sup>17</sup>

**Vulnerable Groups**

The vulnerable status of different groups may be related to race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property or other status. Factors such as gender, age, ethnicity, culture, literacy, state of health, disability, poverty or economic disadvantage, and dependence on unique natural resource are also considered and may characterize the vulnerability of a particular group or individual.

<sup>15</sup> WHO. (2012). Understanding and addressing violence against women: Sexual Violence. Available at: [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/77434/WHO\\_RHR\\_12.37\\_eng.pdf?sequence=1](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/77434/WHO_RHR_12.37_eng.pdf?sequence=1)

<sup>16</sup> Free & Equal United Nations (N.d.). Definitions. <https://www.unfe.org/definitions/>

<sup>17</sup> Faleiros, V. P. and Faleiros, E. T. S. (2008). Escola que protege: enfrentando a violência contra crianças e Adolescentes. Brasília, MEC/UNESCO. Available at: [http://portal.mec.gov.br/secad/arquivos/pdf/escaprote\\_eletronico.pdf](http://portal.mec.gov.br/secad/arquivos/pdf/escaprote_eletronico.pdf)

# I. Introduction

<sup>18</sup> World Bank (2017). Working Together to Prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: Recommendations for World Bank Investment Projects. Available at: <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/482251502095751999/pdf/117972-WP-PUBLIC-recommendations.pdf>.

<sup>19</sup> This tends to be the pattern in large undertakings, infrastructure projects or other development projects, in which the construction period is the stage that requires the largest number of workers compared to the operation period, which requires a much smaller number of workers. However, this may vary according to the type of project/enterprise. Mining complexes, for example, may require a large number of workers at the closing and dismantling stage. In addition, enterprises of other kinds, for example port complexes, although they have a reduced number of local workers during operation compared to the construction period, still require a significant number of worker and cargo flows, which may generate a continued level of risk related to sexual exploitation.

Large developmental projects have the potential to contribute positively to local economic and social well-being, creating jobs and financial benefits, and indirectly, expanding the sources of medium-term growth in the regions where they are located. However, the existing evidence has shown that risks to particular populations may exist in the implementation and operation of these projects. For example, sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and other vulnerable groups may occur or increase due primarily to certain factors, such as a significant migration of workers to the municipalities and the existing characteristics of local vulnerability.<sup>18</sup>

The period of greatest risk for sexual exploitation tends to occur

during construction, when a large number of workers are brought in.<sup>19</sup> Typically, these workers are mostly male, non-residents, with no affective or family ties to the city where they are staying. The characteristics of the construction site where the project is based may increase or reduce these risk factors. The preexistence of vulnerability of children and adolescents, and of other groups, such as women, the indigenous population, and the LGBTQI+ population, associated with fragile public policies and institutions that protect human rights, make some groups more susceptible to the risk of sexual exploitation. Weakened public institutions and those with little capacity for mobilization may have difficulty in responding effectively to the new challenges presented by the project under development.

The experience and methodology in this publication are based on **Childhood Brasil's** work protecting children and adolescents from sexual exploitation with the help of companies from the infrastructure, logistics, paper and pulp, port operations, and hotel chain sectors in Brazil, applied in partnership with the private sector. The methodology in this Guide is intended to be used in the context of infrastructure projects and industrial and manufacturing facilities.

See [Chapter V: Methodology for Preventing Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Private Sector Projects](#). For further information on the experience of **Childhood Brasil** and development of the methodology, please see:

[Specialized Note on the History and Experience of Childhood Brasil.](#)

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With this in mind, it is essential for companies to have a strong commitment in place to fight sexual exploitation and to know the role they can play in the areas where they operate. This Guide provides

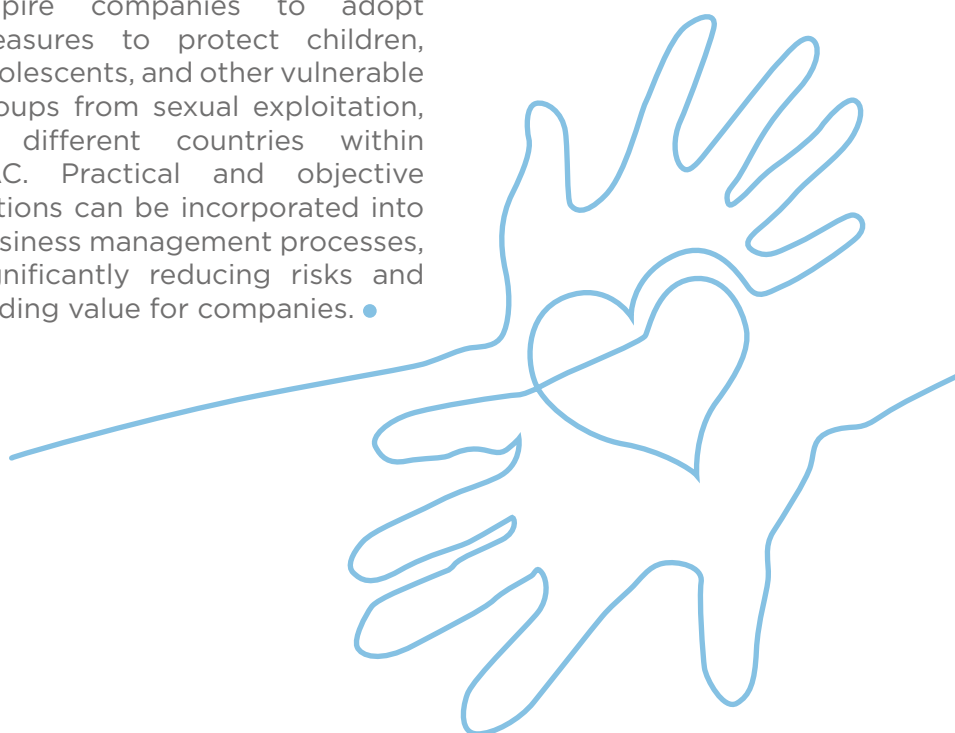
a methodology that aims to guide companies on identifying and mitigate such risks and to contribute to the protection of children and adolescents and other vulnerable groups against sexual exploitation.

In order to encompass the protection of other vulnerable groups, such as women, LGBTQI+ people, Afro-descendants, and Indigenous People, and to implement the methodology within LAC, **IDB Invest** offered specific recommendations and additional information, which are not part of the framework already tested by **Childhood Brasil**.

See [Chapter VI: Guidelines for Applying the Methodology with Other Vulnerable Groups in Latin America and the Caribbean](#). For further information on sector briefings, please see: [Guidelines for the Agribusiness Sector](#) [Guidelines for the Tourism Sector](#).



We hope that this Guide can inspire companies to adopt measures to protect children, adolescents, and other vulnerable groups from sexual exploitation, in different countries within LAC. Practical and objective actions can be incorporated into business management processes, significantly reducing risks and adding value for companies. ●



**Box 1**

**Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and the Sustainable Development Goals**

The fight against sexual exploitation is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The private sector plays a key role in the SDGs, either in terms of the alignment of its activities with the global sustainability agenda, as well as due to its ability to influence its stakeholders and the context in which it operates, which helps to drive behavioral changes.<sup>20</sup> The specific goals related to the subject are:

**Target 5.2**



Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

**Target 8.7**



Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern-day slavery and human trafficking and ensure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor,<sup>21</sup> including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms.

**Target 16.2**



End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

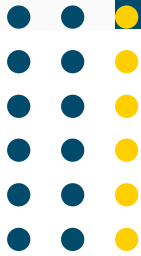
<sup>20</sup> For more information about the private sector's commitment to the SDGs, go to <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/our-work/sustainable-development>.

<sup>21</sup> According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), the worst forms of child labor include: "use, demand or offer of children for purposes of prostitution", and "work which, by its nature or the circumstances under which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children" (ILO Convention no. 182(3)). For more information, go to: [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEX-PUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C182](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEX-PUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C182).

## II. Scope

This Guide consists of presenting a methodology for the prevention and mitigation of sexual exploitation risks of children and adolescents within the context of infrastructure projects and industrial units. Additional recommendations provide orientations for other vulnerable groups, such as women, LGBTQI+ people, Afro-descendants and IP, and provide guidance for the agribusiness and tourism sector. This document does not address the prevention of sexual exploitation risks in other sectors or in other contexts that are not related to private sector projects.

This Guide focuses on risk factors related to sexual exploitation; therefore, it does not intend to address violence against children and adolescents, gender-based violence, discrimination against LGBTQI+ people nor racial discrimination or discrimination against Indigenous Peoples in a broader context. Similarly, it does not address risks related to human trafficking and forced labor other than for sexual exploitation, and which are not related within the context of risks associated with projects in the aforementioned sectors. ●





## III. Why is the company's commitment so important?

Companies that disclose and implement their commitment to protect children, adolescents and other vulnerable groups generate a better operating environment, with lower risks for the business

and greater profitability, stability, and recognition.<sup>22</sup> Investing in this issue leads to a positive local development and improves the quality of the relationship with the territory and the community. ●

### Box 2

#### Benefits for companies that undertake the commitment to protect children, adolescents, and vulnerable groups:

1

##### LOWER RISK OF LAWSUITS

When company-related human rights violations occur in an area, the risk of legal action rises. Investing in the protection of children, adolescents, and vulnerable groups reduces the likelihood of legal risks of this nature from occurring.

2

##### GREATER PROFITABILITY AND OPERATION EFFICIENCY

Cases of human rights violations can cause shutdowns or protests from local communities or inspection agents, which causes delays and downtime in operations. Investing in prevention is essential so that violations do not occur. In addition, promoting actions that clarify the role of each entity in the territory helps reduce the number of specific demands made from the company about children and adolescents, which enables the company to respond to them more efficiently.

3

##### MORE FAVORABLE OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

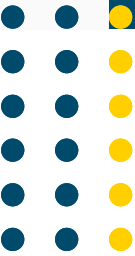
When the company works to strengthen the local system of protection for children, adolescents, and vulnerable groups, the territory becomes more independent from the company and its investments. Strengthening the local institutional capacity makes it easier to identify and invest in public policies and measures to protect vulnerable groups, which could help the community deal better with the changes occurring in the territory and take advantage of future development opportunities.

<sup>22</sup> GVces (2013). Geração de Valor Compartilhado a Partir da Proteção Integral de Crianças e Adolescentes: uma proposta de diretrizes empresariais no contexto de grandes empreendimentos 2012/2013.

4

**BETTER PUBLIC IMAGE, MORE SECURE POSITIVE REPUTATION:**

By investing in the protection of children, adolescents, and vulnerable groups, the company reduces image risks, generating external recognition as a protagonist in actions related to respect and care for human rights. This positive image helps establish a “social license to operate” and creates a positive relationship with the territory.



## IV. Vulnerable Groups and Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation is defined by sexually motivated abuse of a person's position of power, which includes some form of reward, either financial or otherwise, such as a favor or a benefit. Sexual exploitation may occur through a direct relationship between the abuser and the victim, but it can also occur through a mediator, such as an enabler or the owner of an establishment linked to the sex market. In the case of adults, it is important to point out that voluntary prostitution is not classified as sexual exploitation in many countries. On the other hand, the voluntary nature is not applicable when the victim is a child or adolescent or when the person's full ability to choose is impaired for some other reason.

Regardless of the presence of a third party, sexual exploitation will always occur in a situation of inequality, in which the victim is in a position of vulnerability in relation to the aggressor. This vulnerability may be conditioned to several factors such as age, gender, race or socioeconomic conditions. There is often a combination of more than one factor, which makes the person

even more vulnerable and face particular challenges.<sup>23</sup>

The following sections will address the sexual exploitation of vulnerable groups in more detail taking into consideration, among other factors, the different characteristics of this violence when perpetrated against children and adolescents and other vulnerable groups, such as women, LGBTQI+ people, Afro-descendants, and Indigenous People.

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### SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Childhood and adolescence are important stages of human development, characterized by

<sup>23</sup> For example, LGBTQI + women will face certain types of challenges and discrimination that will not be faced by non-LGBTQI women or male LGBTQI+. Intersectionality should consider multiple factors, such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation and gender identity and, in general, it will compose a subgroup with specific challenges and demands.

**Childhood is the stage of life when we need the most protection. A child depends on its family for survival. Adolescence is the period between childhood and adulthood. The adolescent requires protection, guidance, and help to become a healthy and responsible adult.**

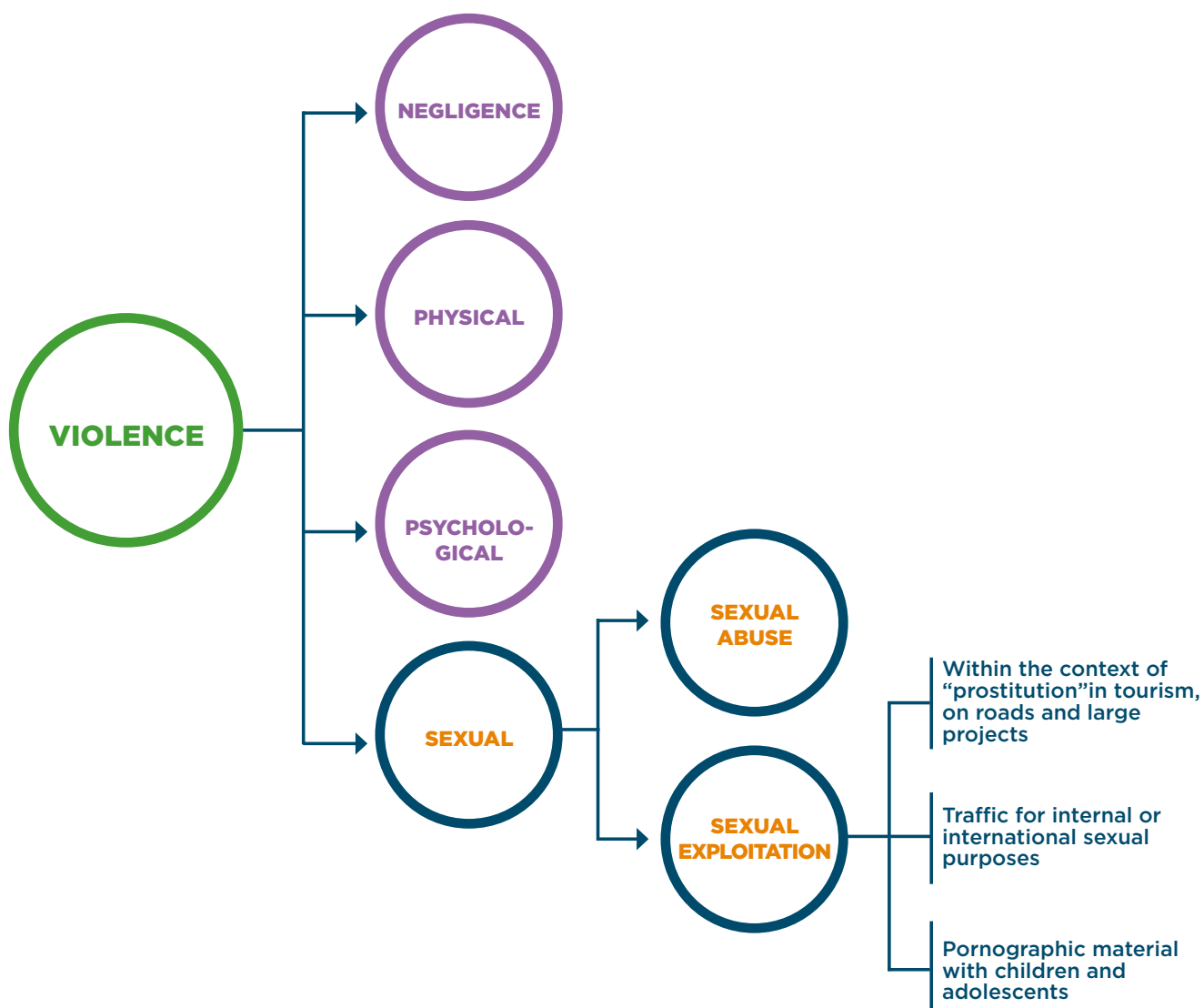
significant changes. These changes are influenced by environmental, social, and cultural stimuli and need to take place in a safe environment for the development to take place in a full and healthy way. The exposure of children and adolescents to circumstances where their integrity and rights are violated compromises their development and consequently their future.

Violence against children and adolescents can be outside the family, committed by a person

who is not from their immediate circle, or inside the family, committed by a family member or acquaintance. Although it has numerous classifications or specifications, violence against children and adolescents can be broken down into four primary forms: Physical, Sexual, Psychological and Neglect. The divisions of gender, race, ethnicity, and social inequality increase the degree of vulnerability to which some children and adolescents are exposed.



## Forms of violence Against Children and Adolescents



The term “prostitution” is used in this image for easier understanding of the topic, but sexual relations with children are considered sexual exploitation.



Sexual violence happens when children and adolescents are induced or forced into sexual practices. This kind of violence directly interferes with a healthy physical and emotional development, often causing irreparable damages. The main manifestations of sexual violence are sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

**Sexual abuse** occurs when a child or adolescent is used for sexual stimulation or satisfaction by an adult. It is usually accompanied by physical force, threat, or seduction. It can happen inside or outside the family circle and does not involve money or gratuity. Victims of sexual abuse are even

more vulnerable and exposed to sexual exploitation.

**Sexual exploitation** happens when there is compensation, in the format of money or benefits (food, gifts, even a car ride) in exchange for some form of sexual encounter with children and adolescents. Often this violence is facilitated by enablers, but it can also occur without the presence of a mediator. Sexual exploitation can also happen in the **context of trafficking for sexual exploitation and the production, reproduction and exhibition of sexual content material involving children and adolescents.**

**Box 3**

**Trafficking people for sexual exploitation** involves the enticement, abduction, exchange, transfer, and harboring of the person recruited for sexual exploitation. Trafficking for the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents is often disguised as modeling agencies, tourism, international work opportunities, and less often, as international adoption agencies. Many young girls in search of a change of lifestyle or new opportunities, embark on a journey to other regions within their own country or in a foreign country and find themselves forced into the market of sexual exploitation.

**Sexual content involving children (photography, video, drawing, films) and adolescents<sup>24</sup>** is a form of sexual exploitation that occurs through the production and exhibition, as well as the distribution, sale, purchase, possession and use of material that exposes the body of children and adolescents for the satisfaction of adults.

<sup>24</sup> The term “child pornography” should be avoided. The word “pornography” is used to describe the display of consensual sexual relations between adults and refers to an increasingly normalized and legitimate practice in many countries. It’s incorrect to define the display of images of sexual practices involving children and adolescents as “child pornography”, since, in reality, it is a form and representation of the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.



**25** Childhood Brasil (2000). *Vítimas de Exploração Sexual de Crianças e Adolescentes: Indicadores de risco, vulnerabilidade e resiliência.*

**26** Ministry of Health of Brazil (2018) *Análise epidemiológica da violência sexual contra crianças e adolescentes no Brasil, 2011 a 2017.* Disponível em: [https://assets-dossies-ipp-v2.nyc3.digitaloceanspaces.com/sites/5/2019/05/Ministerio\\_Saude\\_Analise-epidemiologica-da-violenci-sexul-contra-crisis-e-adolescentes-de-2011-a-2017.pdf](https://assets-dossies-ipp-v2.nyc3.digitaloceanspaces.com/sites/5/2019/05/Ministerio_Saude_Analise-epidemiologica-da-violenci-sexul-contra-crisis-e-adolescentes-de-2011-a-2017.pdf)

**27** Ibid.

**28** Ministry of the Women, the Family and Human Rights of Brazil. (2020). *Disque Direitos Humanos. Relatório 2019.* Available at: [https://crianca.mppr.mp.br/arquivos/File/publi/mmfdh/disque\\_100\\_relatorio\\_mmfdh2019.pdf](https://crianca.mppr.mp.br/arquivos/File/publi/mmfdh/disque_100_relatorio_mmfdh2019.pdf)

**29** Ibid.

**30** IPEA (2014). *Estupro no Brasil: uma radiografia segundo os dados da Saúde.* Disponível em: [https://www.ipea.gov.br/portal/images/stories/PDFs/nota\\_tecnica/140327\\_notatecnicadiest11.pdf](https://www.ipea.gov.br/portal/images/stories/PDFs/nota_tecnica/140327_notatecnicadiest11.pdf)

In some contexts, society has normalized sexual exploitation to the point of not realizing the children or adolescent involved is being a victim of violence. This leads to adults paying for sex with children and adolescents and a failure to report such cases. Minors, when pressured, tend to feel scared and avoid sharing their experiences, which can make protection measures difficult to be implemented. Sexual exploitation should not be normalized and the responsibility for this situation should never be placed on the child or adolescent.

Involvement in sexual exploitation occurs under various circumstances, such as the need to satisfy hunger, sustain drug addiction, consume material goods, or even help support the household. According to Childhood Brasil research, access to consumer goods and drugs is the main use of the earnings derived from

involvement in sexual exploitation. Sometimes the money received by adolescents helps them gain status, which in turn creates a positive feeling of “recognition.” The consequences may also include sexually transmitted infections (STI), exposure to the use of alcohol and illegal substances, school dropout, early pregnancy, a high rate of attempted suicide, and a compromised future.<sup>25</sup>

The exposure of children and adolescents to sexual exploitation is usually accompanied by other violations such as physical, psychological violence, abandonment, neglect, discrimination, among others. Therefore, sexual exploitation can not be overcome through an isolated action or by the work of a single. It requires integrated actions at different levels (family, school, community, society more broadly) to ensure basic social rights and to break this continuous cycle of violence.

#### Box 4

#### Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents in Brazil

- Every hour four children or adolescents are victims of sexual violence.<sup>26</sup>
- 51% of sexually abused children are aged 1 to 5.<sup>27</sup>
- 72.3% of sexual violence cases happened within the child or adolescent’s home.<sup>28</sup>
- 82% of victims of sexual violence against children and adolescents are female.<sup>29</sup>
- Less than 10% of the cases are reported to the authorities.<sup>30</sup>

## Legal Framework

In 1989 the General Assembly of the United Nations launched the International Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>31</sup> to establish a minimum standard of integral protection for children and adolescents worldwide. The Convention, which is in effect in virtually every country, is one of the most widely accepted instruments of human rights for children and adolescents. Composed of 54 articles, this Convention provides a common legal framework and defines the responsibilities of

family, state and society.

The Convention established that, because they are in a developmental stage, children are all those up to 18 years of age. In its Article 2, it states that all countries must respect and guarantee the rights of children *“without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national, ethnic or social origin, economic status, physical disability, birth or other status of the child, his parents or legal representatives.”*

### Box 5

#### The International Convention on the Rights of the Child in Brazil

Brazil ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as all its Optional Protocols, and pioneered the creation of a specific set of national laws in the country, the Statute of the Child and Adolescent - ECA (Law no. 8.069/90). By stating that children and adolescents are legal entities, ECA supports the idea that, because they are in a developmental stage, they deserve full and special protection from their families, society, and the State. Considering the differences in the stages of development, the Brazilian legal framework stipulates that children are all those under the age of 12 and adolescents are all those aged up to 18.

In the wake of this Convention, three Optional Protocols were put in place and their topics require special attention. In 2002, the Optional Protocols that included the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict became effective. In 2014, the Optional Protocol on Communications Procedure became effective.

By ratifying or adhering to the Convention or an Optional Protocol, a country recognizes its obligation to respect, protect, and fulfill the rights stated, implying the adoption or amendment of the local laws and policies needed to implement the terms of these agreements. Although they are related, the Optional Protocols can be adhered to or ratified regardless of the Convention.

<sup>31</sup> The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most widely ratified international human rights treaty in the world. The Convention has been ratified by all Latin American and Caribbean countries.



## SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Apart from children and adolescents, adults can also be considered as vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Characterizing a relation between adults as being sexual exploitation can be more complex, since commercial sex can be consensual, with both parties in agreement, and is considered legal in many countries.

A commercial sexual relation between adults is construed as sexual exploitation when there are power inequalities and abuse between the person providing the sex service and the person paying for it, motivated by a vulnerable condition of the victim. The exploitation happens mostly for financial gain, social or political advantage.<sup>32</sup>

The International Labor Organization (ILO) considers sexual exploitation as a type of forced labor or modern-day slavery, both terms being interchangeable.<sup>33</sup> Forced labor is defined as work or a service which is demanded from any person under threat of punishment, whether by violence, intimidation, or more subtle forms of manipulation, and for which the person has not offered themselves voluntarily.<sup>34</sup> According to this framework, adult sexual exploitation refers either to people who are involuntarily

engaged in commercial sexual exploitation activities or of people who have voluntarily entered the sex industry but are unable to leave and, therefore, remain involuntarily engaged in the business.<sup>35</sup>

Sexual exploitation also falls under the definition of human trafficking. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), human trafficking has different purposes and sexual exploitation is one of them. For an act to qualify as human trafficking for sexual purposes, three aspects must be considered. First, the act itself (what is done), which can consist of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring, and receiving people; second, the means (how it is done), which includes the threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person who is controlling the victim; and third, the purpose (why it is done), in this case, sexual exploitation or the exploitation of prostituting others.<sup>36</sup>

Sexual exploitation is a serious violation of human and civil rights.<sup>37</sup> Most survivors of sexual exploitation have at some point been denied their right to freedom,<sup>38</sup> the right not to be held in slavery or involuntary servitude,<sup>39</sup> and the right to be free from cruel and inhumane treatment.<sup>40</sup>

Sexual exploitation encompasses

**32** WHO (n.d.). Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: Prevent and Protect. Available at: [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/documents/ethics/sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-pamphlet-en.pdf?sfvrsn=409b4d89\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/documents/ethics/sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-pamphlet-en.pdf?sfvrsn=409b4d89_2)

**33** The term “modern slavery” has been used to emphasize working and living conditions that are detrimental to human dignity and are a characteristic of forced labor.

**34** ILO. (1930) Forced Labour Convention (No. 29).

**35** ILO. (2017). Global Estimates of Modern Slavery. Available at: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---d-comm/documents/publication/wcms\\_575479.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---d-comm/documents/publication/wcms_575479.pdf)

**36** Other reasons behind human trafficking include forced labor, debt bondage, domestic servitude, and others. For more information go to What is Human Trafficking, UNODC. Available at: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>

**37** Phinney, A. (2002). Trafficking in Women and Children for Sexual Exploitation in the Americas. PAHO.

**38** Article no. 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article no. 7 of the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights (“Pact of San Jose, Costa Rica”).

**39** Article no. 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article no. 6 of the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights (“Pact of San Jose, Costa Rica”).

**40** Article no. 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article no. 5 of the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights (“Pact of San Jose, Costa Rica”).

not only sexual violence by inferring sexual acts against a person without that person's consent but also physical and psychological violence. For example, survivors of trafficking for sexual exploitation report beatings for refusing clients or for escape attempts, as well as threats and physical violence to intimidate, punish and control. Physical violence can also occur during the act of sexual violence itself.<sup>41</sup> Violence and abuse have negative effects on the survivors' mental health, in many cases causing depression, suicidal thoughts, and drug use.<sup>42</sup>

The following subsections examine different groups that are vulnerable to sexual exploitation, considering the conditions of the vulnerability of each group and key international legal frameworks. We must consider that the same individual may experience simultaneously more than one condition of vulnerability, which further increases the risk of sexual exploitation.

## WOMEN AND GIRLS

The vast majority of the world's survivors of sexual exploitation are women and girls and the data shows a similar pattern in LAC. According to ILO, women and girls represent 99% of the world's sexually exploited victims, according to global estimates of forced labor and modern slavery.<sup>43</sup> Concerning human trafficking, the UNODC states

that in Central America and the Caribbean, 79% of the victims of trafficking for any purpose are women and girls, and 81% of trafficked people in the region as a whole are trafficked for sexual exploitation. In South America, 69% of the victims are women and 5% are girls. Sexual exploitation is also the main reason behind human trafficking in the region, accounting for 64%.<sup>44</sup>

The vulnerability of women and girls to sexual exploitation can be analyzed from several standpoints. One of them relates to the inequalities and social gender standards established by society. Others consider the role of the economic vulnerability of women and girls.

In LAC, poverty rates are higher among women than men. In 2018, 27% of women lived in poverty, compared to 24% of men.<sup>45</sup> Although the female share in the labor force has increased significantly in the region, reaching 68% in 2020, it is still below that of the male population (93%).<sup>46</sup> In addition, women tend to have more informal jobs than men. For every hour worked, women's earnings in the region are on average 13% to 17% lower than those of men of the same age, education and economic status.<sup>47</sup> In addition, 4 out of 5 women workers are employed in low productivity sectors.<sup>48</sup> The gender pay gap is widest at the lowest income percentiles and non-compliance with the minimum wage disproportionately affects

<sup>41</sup> Phinney, A. (2002). *Trafficking of Women and Children for Sexual Exploitation in the Americas*. PAHO.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> ILO. (2017). *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery*. Available at: [https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS\\_575479/lang-en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_575479/lang-en/index.htm)

<sup>44</sup> UNODC (2020). *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. Available at: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTIP\\_2020\\_15jan\\_web.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTIP_2020_15jan_web.pdf)

<sup>45</sup> ECLAC (2019). *Social Overview of Latin America, 2019 (LC/PUB.2019/22-P/Re v.1)*. Santiago.

<sup>46</sup> ILO (2020). *ILO Modelled estimates*.

<sup>47</sup> ECLAC-ILO (2019). *Employment Situation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Evolution of and prospects for women's labor share in Latin America*. Available at: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---americas/---ro-lima/---sro-santiago/documents/publication/wcms\\_725442.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---americas/---ro-lima/---sro-santiago/documents/publication/wcms_725442.pdf) & Bando, Rosangela (2019). *Evidence-Based Gender Equality Policy and Pay in Latin America and the Caribbean: Progress and Challenges*. *Latin American Economic Review* 28(10): 1- 23

<sup>48</sup> ILO (2019). *Acelerar la participación laboral femenina es crucial para la impulsar economía de América Latina y el Caribe*. Available at: [https://www.ilo.org/americas/sala-de-prensa/WCMS\\_717791/lang-es/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/americas/sala-de-prensa/WCMS_717791/lang-es/index.htm)



**49** ILO (2020). Women in the World of Work. Pending Challenges for Achieving Effective Equality in Latin America and the Caribbean. (Thematic Labour Overview, 5). Available at: [https://www.ilo.org/americas/publicaciones/WCMS\\_736930/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/americas/publicaciones/WCMS_736930/lang--en/index.htm)

**50** Phinney, A. (2002). Trafficking in Women and Children for Sexual Exploitation in the Americas. PAHO. & Sassen, S. (2000). Women's burden: counter geographies of globalization: the feminization of survival. Journal of International Affairs.

**51** WHO (2017). Violence Against Women. Available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women#:~:text=A%202013%20analysis%20conduct%20by,partner%20or%20non%2Dpartner%20sexual>

**52** WHO (2013). Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence.

**53** UNDP (2017). From Commitment to Action: Policies to End Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Regional Analysis Document.

**54** UNGA. (1979). Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/documents/professionalinterest/cedaw.pdf>.

women. This trend is especially prevalent in informal employment and LAC is widely known for its high level of informality.<sup>49</sup>

Poverty, lack of opportunities, and discrimination in terms of jobs and wages reduce the economic livelihood options open to women, making them more vulnerable and susceptible to trafficking for sexual purposes and sexual exploitation.<sup>50</sup>

Furthermore, women are particularly vulnerable to violence. One in three women worldwide is subject to gender-based violence (GBV),<sup>51</sup> and yet many countries do not have comprehensive protection systems in place for women, and in some places social standards perpetuate this problems. Specifically, Latin America has the highest rate of violence against women in the world<sup>52</sup> and in Central America, in 2017 two out of every three women killed were victims of femicide.<sup>53</sup>

### Legal Framework

In 1979, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the first international framework that comprehensively addresses women's human rights. The Convention was ratified by 189 countries, and all Latin American countries are signatories with most of them having ratified the Convention as well. Article 6 states that the Member States will take all applicable measures, including

legislative measures, to suppress all forms of women trafficking and exploitation of the prostitution of women.<sup>54</sup>

By laying down the rules for women's rights at an international level, the Convention, with basis on the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the Declaration of Human Rights, provided a foundation for various countries to incorporate these rights - at the legislative level, through the adaptation of national laws; at the executive level, with the creation of public policies; and lastly, in the judicial sector, to ensure the protection of women's rights. As such, the content of the Convention became law in several member states, including Brazil.

In addition to this Convention other international treaties and agreements have been signed addressing different aspects of the issue of discrimination against women. The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women was adopted in 1994 by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS). This is the first legally binding international treaty that addresses violence against women and identifies trafficking in women and forced prostitution as forms of violence against women. Almost all countries in LAC have ratified the Convention.

## LGBTQI+

The sexual exploitation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and other sexual and gender minorities (LGBTQI+) is a topic that is not widely addressed by countries in the region. Lack of officially registered data <sup>55</sup> limits the availability of statistics about violence cases involving this group. Nevertheless, different qualitative and investigative research, as well as the reports drawn up by organizations working with survivors,<sup>56</sup> underline the vulnerability of LGBTQI+ people to sexual exploitation.

Despite the growing social acceptance of LGBTQI+ communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, there is insufficient data on the size of the LGBTQI+ population or the types of exclusion that LGBTQI+ individuals face in the region.<sup>57</sup> The limited data available indicates an LGBTQI+ population between 2.4% and 7% in the region.<sup>58</sup>

As with other minorities, LGBTQI+ people are likely to have less access to services and economic opportunities. The LGBTQI+ community experiences more bullying, harassment, discrimination in the provision of services and access to opportunities, including in health, education, labor, and justice than the non-LGBTQI+ population.<sup>59</sup> A study from the World Bank focusing on Serbia showed that discrimination against the LGBTQI+ community can increase the poverty risk rate from 16% to 20% for those who experience discrimination.<sup>60</sup>

Discrimination in the labor market can limit access to job opportunities. Many LGBTQI+ people report that they were rejected for a job due to their sexual identity or orientation. Moreover, discrimination can reduce access to certain sectors and services and can encourage others. For example, research showed that gay men



<sup>55</sup> Martinez, O. & Guadalupe, K. (2014). Sex Trafficking of LGBT Individuals. A Call for Service Provision, Research, and Action. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4204396/>.

<sup>56</sup> See, for example, this publication on transgender victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation in Peru: <https://www.connectas.org/especiales/mujeres-trans-victimas-invisibles-de-la-trata-violencia-y-esclavitud/>

<sup>57</sup> Urban, A., Agreda, M., A. Ramos, D. Ortiz (2020) Hacia un Mejor Entendimiento de la Discriminación por Orientación Sexual e Identidad de Género. IDB Technical Note 01885. Available at <https://publications.iadb.org/publications/spanish/document/Hacia-un-mejor-entendimiento-de-la-discriminacion-por-orientacion-sexual-e-identidad-de-genero.pdf> & BID (2017) Gender and Diversity Sector Framework Document

<sup>58</sup> Grant, J., L. Mottet, J. Tanis, et al. (2011). Injustice at Every Turn, A report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey. U.S.: National Center for Transgender Equality, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

<sup>59</sup> ECLAC (2011) Población y Desarrollo series No. 103; Caribbean Development Research Services Inc.- CADRES (2013). Attitudes Towards Homosexuals Barbados, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago & Banco Mundial (2015) Brief on Violence Against Sexual and Gender Minority Women.

<sup>60</sup> World Bank (2018). Discrimination against Sexual Minorities in Education and Housing: Evidence from Two Field Experiments in Serbia. Available at: <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/161011522071811826/pdf/124587-WP-PI56209-DISCRIMINATION-AGAINST-SEXUAL-MINORITIES-IN-EDUCATION-AND-HOUSING-EVIDENCE-FROM-TWO-FIELD-EXPERIMENTS-IN-SERBIA-PUBLIC-ENGLISH.pdf>.

<sup>61</sup> Pew Research Center (2013). The Global Divide on Homosexuality. Available at: <https://www.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/05/Pew-Global-Attitudes-Homosexuality-Report-REVISED-MAY-27-2014.pdf>

**61** ILO. (2015). La discriminación en el trabajo por motivos de orientación sexual e identidad de género: Resultados del proyecto PRIDE de la OIT. Available at: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---gender/documents/briefingnote/wcms\\_380831.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---gender/documents/briefingnote/wcms_380831.pdf)

**62.** IOM. (2016). Migración y poblaciones lesbianas, gais, bisexuales, trans y intersexuales (LGBTI). Available at: <https://publications.iom.int/es/system/files/pdf/lgtbi.pdf>

**63** Pew Research Center (2013). The Global Divide on Homosexuality. Available at: <https://www.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/05/Pew-Global-Attitudes-Homosexuality-Report-REVISED-MAY-27-2014.pdf>

**64** CIDH (2014). An Overview of Violence against LGBTI Persons in the Americas. Available at: [https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media\\_center/preleases/2014/153a.asp](https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/preleases/2014/153a.asp)

**65** IDB (2017). Gender and Diversity Sector Framework Document.

**66** Martinez, O. & Guadalupe, K. (2014). Sex Trafficking of LGBT Individuals. A Call for Service Provision, Research, and Action. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4204396/>.

**67** IOM. (2016). Migración y poblaciones lesbianas, gais, bisexuales, trans y intersexuales (LGBTI). Available at: <https://publications.iom.int/es/system/files/pdf/lgtbi.pdf>

**68** Ibid.

**69** Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. (2015). Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Persons in the Americas.

in Argentina were encouraged to work in customer service centers and discouraged to work in the mining industry.<sup>61</sup> Stereotypes of this nature often associate transgenderism with sex work. In many cases, the sex industry becomes one of the few options available to transgender people, given the difficulties they have accessing other sectors.<sup>62</sup>

In the past 20 years, large strides have been made regarding the creation of LGBTIQ+ laws, however, important challenges still need to be overcome. Despite 55% of the region's population has a positive opinion about homosexuality,<sup>63</sup> an LGBTIQ+ person is killed every day in the Americas.<sup>64</sup> In just over a year (15 months), 770 acts of violence were recorded against individuals who were, or appeared to be, LGBTIQ+. Of these, 594 were homicides and 176 were physical assaults, perpetrated in both cases for reasons related to the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity. Many acts of violence against LGBTIQ+ people go unreported because survivors fear retaliation, do not want to identify themselves as LGBTIQ+ or do not trust the police or the justice system.<sup>65</sup>

Stigmas related to being an LGBTIQ+ person may also make reporting to local authorities less likely. Specialized support to survivors of sex trafficking

might be more difficult to find. Reporting sexual violence against men, for example, is still taboo in many countries in the region.<sup>66</sup>

The vulnerability caused by the lack of job opportunities, the social misconception that associates transgenders with sex work, and the discrimination and violence directed at LGBTIQ+ people, may increase their risk to sexual exploitation (either through trafficking for sexual purposes or through forced sex work).<sup>67</sup>

The LGBTIQ+ youth face challenges of their own. Rejected by their own families because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, many young people are expelled from their homes and find themselves on the streets and out of the school system. Without access to social security and the guarantee of their rights, many of these young people become victims of sexual exploitation.<sup>68</sup> In the case of transgender women, life expectancy in LAC is 35 years old.<sup>69</sup>

As described previously, adults can also work in the sex work industry without being sexually exploited, as long as the work is done in a consensual manner and in a country where the practice is allowed. Many civil society organizations are fighting for improved working conditions in the industry and the rights of sex workers.

## Legal Framework

There are no international agreements and treaties that specifically address the sexual exploitation of LGBTQI+ people; hence, protection against these crimes is supported by international agreements that cover the topic in a general way. The Additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime that covers Preventing, Suppressing and Punishing Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children,<sup>70</sup> addresses human trafficking and recognizes trafficking for sexual exploitation or the exploitation of the prostitution of others.

In terms of protecting the rights of LGBTQI+ people, the Yogyakarta Principles<sup>71</sup> are the global reference document on the application of international human rights law concerning gender orientation and identity. The document was drafted and published in 2006 after a meeting with several internationally relevant groups about human rights. In 2017, the Yogyakarta Principles were complemented with additional articles - the Yogyakarta Principles +10.

The logic behind the Yogyakarta Principles and PY+10 is that universal human rights can be interpreted to apply to issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. For example, Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights refers to the

fact that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. This, therefore, includes people in the LGBTQI+ community, who cannot have their freedom, dignity, and rights removed. From this point of view, one may consider that the countries legally bound to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights would consequently also be committed to defending and protecting rights related to sexual orientation and gender identity.

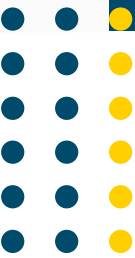
## AFRO-DESCENDANTS

The 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Forms of Intolerance, attended by United Nations member states, United Nations specialized agencies, and relevant non-governmental and governmental organizations, explicitly recognized that there is a link between racial discrimination and trafficking, including for sexual exploitation. As stated in the conference, one must also consider the intersection between gender and racial discrimination in trafficking for sexual purposes context. Trafficking women and girls is often associated with racist attitudes and perceptions and is usually targeted at women of certain races and ethnic groups.<sup>72</sup>

Global estimates, such as those presented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on human trafficking

<sup>70</sup> Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/protocoltraffickinginpersons.aspx>.

<sup>71</sup> More information about the Yogyakarta Principles is available at <https://yogyakartaprinciples.org/>



and by the ILO on forced labor, do not include data on the race or ethnicity of the victims, which makes it difficult to estimate the role that racial discrimination play in sexual exploitation. Some national estimates, however, do have separate data regarding race and ethnicity of victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. A study conducted in 19 states in Brazil concluded that the victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation in the country are predominantly women and adolescents of African descent.<sup>73</sup> In Colombia, although the black population represents 10.33% of the total population, about 18% of the victims of trafficking, including for sexual exploitation, are black.<sup>74</sup> Such data, however, reflects the particularities of each country and cannot be considered representative on a global or regional scale.

Regarding the trafficking of people for all purposes, including for sexual purposes, there is extensive literature that considers factors such as poverty, unemployment, and lower income levels as highly relevant risk factors in increasing the vulnerability of victims.

Afro-descendants represent about a quarter of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean and are over-represented among the poor in all countries.<sup>75</sup> This group faces more than double (sometimes triple) the respective poverty rates than the non-indigenous and non-black population in the region where data is available.<sup>76</sup> As such, it is estimated that about a quarter of the region's Afro-descendant population is in poverty.<sup>77</sup>

<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>73</sup> Centro de Referência, Estudos e Ações sobre Crianças e Adolescentes - CECRIA. (2002). Pesquisa sobre Tráfico de Mulheres, Crianças e Adolescentes para Fins de Exploração Sexual Comercial no Brasil (Pestraf). Available at: [http://www.namaocerta.org.br/pdf/Pestraf\\_2002.pdf](http://www.namaocerta.org.br/pdf/Pestraf_2002.pdf)

<sup>74</sup> National University of Colombia, Ministry of Interior and Justice & UNODC. (2009). Estudio Nacional Exploratorio Descriptivo sobre el Fenómeno de Trata de Personas en Colombia. Available at: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/frontpage/Investigacion\\_Trata\\_CO1.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/frontpage/Investigacion_Trata_CO1.pdf)

<sup>75</sup> World Bank (2018). Afro-descendants in Latin America Toward a Framework of Inclusion. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/30201>

<sup>76</sup> ECLAC (2019). Social Panorama of Latin America, 2019 (LC/PUB.2019/22-P/Re v.1), Santiago.



The Afro-descendant population in Brazil comprises the largest population in the world outside of Africa and is more than twice as likely to be in poverty than white Brazilians.<sup>78</sup> In Uruguay, Afro-Uruguayans are three times more likely to be in poverty.<sup>79</sup> In Mexico, being of Afro-descent implies a 4.5 percentile drop in wealth distribution and poverty in this group is prevalent across generations.<sup>70</sup>

Regarding employment, Afro-descendants have on average close to twice the rate of unemployment of non Afro-descendants in many countries on the region.<sup>81</sup> In addition, the types of jobs in which black people are employed pay lower incomes.<sup>82</sup> About 75% of the Afro-descendant population works in low-skill occupations, compared to about 69% of the non-Afro-descendant population.<sup>83</sup> In the Chocó district in Colombia, for example, unemployment is almost twice as high for people of African descent than for the smaller white and *mestizo*<sup>84</sup> population.<sup>85</sup> In Mexico, average labor income is lower in states where indigenous and Afro-descendant groups represent a higher percentage of the population as compared with other states.<sup>86</sup>

## Legal Framework

The United Nations World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance of 2001 adopted by consensus a declaration and program of action (Durban Declaration and Programme of

Action (DDPA), which proposes effective measures to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance. Although it is not a legally binding document, it represents the global commitment of several countries in relation this issue.

The DDPA recognizes that victims of trafficking, especially women and children, are particularly exposed to racism and racial discrimination and it points out the need to take measures to prevent, confront, and eliminate all forms of human trafficking. In addition, the DDPA encourages the private sector to develop codes of conduct aimed at preventing human trafficking and protecting victims of trafficking.<sup>87</sup>

Similarly, as mentioned when speaking of Indigenous People, Afro-descendant populations are also protected by international conventions against sexual exploitation, such as the Additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime that covers Preventing, Suppressing and Punishing Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children.

<sup>77</sup> Busso, Matías; Messina, Julián (2020). The inequality crisis: Latin America and the Caribbean at the crossroads. IDB.

<sup>78</sup> World Bank (2018). Afro-descendants in Latin America Toward a Framework of Inclusion. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/30201>

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.

<sup>80</sup> IDB (2020). Unequal opportunities for indigenous peoples and African descendants. Available at: <https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/document/Unequal-Opportunities-for-Indigenous-Peoples-and-African-Descendants.pdf>

<sup>81</sup> World Bank (2018). Afro-descendants in Latin America Toward a Framework of Inclusion. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/30201>

<sup>82</sup> IDB (2020). Unequal opportunities for indigenous peoples and African descendants. Available at: <https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/document/Unequal-Opportunities-for-Indigenous-Peoples-and-African-Descendants.pdf>

<sup>83</sup> World Bank (2018). Afro-descendants in Latin America Toward a Framework of Inclusion. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/30201>

<sup>84</sup> Mestizo refers to people from mixed European and indigenous ancestry.

<sup>85</sup> World Bank (2018). Afro-descendants in Latin America Toward a Framework of Inclusion. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/30201>.

<sup>86</sup> IDB (2020). Unequal opportunities for indigenous peoples and African descendants. Available at: <https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/document/Unequal-Opportunities-for-Indigenous-Peoples-and-African-Descendants.pdf>

<sup>87</sup> World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. (2001). Declaration. Available at: [https://www.un.org/en/durbanreview2009/pdf/DDPA\\_full\\_text.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/durbanreview2009/pdf/DDPA_full_text.pdf)



## INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Although there is no statistical data at regional and global levels and a considerable lack of systematic studies that verify the relationship between indigenous populations and sexual exploitation, different case studies indicate the specific vulnerability of these populations to this risk, including in the context of Indigenous Peoples impacted by large infrastructure projects.

Indigenous Peoples hold a large part of the socio-cultural diversity in the world and constitute more than 476 million individuals, speaking more than 4,000 languages. In LAC, it is estimated that this population represents 11.5% of the total population.<sup>88</sup> This wide diversity is reflected in all spheres of the society: in their social, political, economic, and cultural organization. This includes the different ways that Indigenous Peoples define what it means to be “woman,” “child,” “teenager,” “transgender,”<sup>89</sup> among others. It also implicates the way such communities understand and define violence, including gender-based violence, violence against children and adolescents, homophobia, and sexual violence.

Policies and measures to prevent sexual exploitation or support centers for survivors may fail to recognize these diversities, contributing to a process of homogenization and silencing of the differences between Indigenous Peoples. Furthermore,

these dynamics can also contribute to the lack of identification and recognition of violence and sexual exploitation, both by public institutions and, sometimes, by the indigenous community itself<sup>90</sup> - aggravating their vulnerability to sexual exploitation. Indigenous women’s organizations, however, have been increasingly debating and giving visibility to the problems of gender-based violence practiced in the context of their communities, whether those practiced by non-indigenous people or those carried out by people of their ethnic group.<sup>91</sup>

In the context of development projects and large enterprises, the vulnerability of Indigenous Peoples to the risk of sexual exploitation is related to the impacts that such projects can have on the social, cultural, political and economic structures of their communities. Particularly relevant, are the processes of disruption of the traditional way of living and loss of territorial security. In many cases, the impacts in indigenous groups might be associated with an increase in alcoholism, domestic violence, and sexual exploitation of children, adolescents, and indigenous women.

Impact mitigation measures that do not consider the particularities of different Indigenous Peoples might further harm the communities. For example, a large infusion of cash compensation offered to indigenous communities without an adequate and tailored support

**88** FAO. (2020). Indigenous People and FAO. Available at: [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/faoweb/2020/Indigenous/FAO\\_Indigenous\\_peoples\\_narrative\\_MAY\\_2020\\_.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/faoweb/2020/Indigenous/FAO_Indigenous_peoples_narrative_MAY_2020_.pdf)

**89** The terms were presented in quotation marks because they refer to non-indigenous categories and may not be suitable for systems of definition and category of certain indigenous peoples. For example, there are indigenous communities in which the transition between being a child and being an adult does not include an intermediate phase such as “adolescent”. Or, in certain communities, the existence of a “third gender” is recognized, which has specific social characteristics and functions and does not translate as “transgender” in the way non-indigenous societies conceive the term.

**90** There are cases, for example, of communities that do not recognize the problem of sexual exploitation of indigenous girls, boys and women in their community, as sexual exploitation and prostitution are not conceived in the same way that is understood, practiced and regulated among non-indigenous peoples. Source: Cohn, C. (2014). Violência sexual e crianças indígenas nos contextos de megaempreendimentos.

**91** Da Costa Oliveira, A. (2016). Violência sexual, infância e povos indígenas: resignificação intercultural das políticas de proteção no contexto das indígenas crianças. Revista Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, Niñez y Juventud, 14 (2), pp. 1177-1190

program might alter that group's way of life. In some cases, it led to frequent visits to urban areas and larger exposure to non-indigenous people, which contributed to the increase in sexual violence and sexual exploitation.<sup>92</sup>

Indigenous Peoples make up one third of the world's population living in poverty and experience various difficulties and disadvantages that increase their vulnerability and hinder their access to health services, education, employment, and guaranteed protection of their rights.<sup>93</sup> Different studies indicate that illiteracy rates tend to be higher among Indigenous Peoples compared to non-indigenous people in

the same country. In Mexico, for example, the illiteracy rate for non-indigenous people was 7.5%, compared to 31.3% for Indigenous Peoples.<sup>94</sup>

The vulnerability of Indigenous Peoples to conditions of forced labor and exploitation, including sexual exploitation, are aggravated by poverty, illiteracy, lack of information about their rights, lack of ID documents, monolingualism, and traditional habitats in isolated regions.<sup>95</sup> Gender-based discrimination, when coupled with ethnic discrimination, further increases the vulnerability to sexual exploitation of indigenous women, in addition to other forms of forced labor.<sup>96</sup>



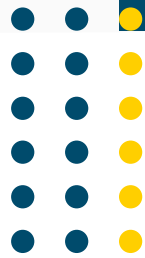
<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> UN (2009). State of the World's Indigenous Peoples. Available at: [https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/SOWIP/en/SOWIP\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/SOWIP/en/SOWIP_web.pdf)

<sup>94</sup> UN. (2017). State of the World's Indigenous Peoples: Education. Available at: [https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2017/12/State-of-Worlds-Indigenous-Peoples\\_III\\_WEB2018.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2017/12/State-of-Worlds-Indigenous-Peoples_III_WEB2018.pdf)

<sup>95</sup> Canqui, E. (2011). El Trabajo Forzoso Y Los Pueblos Indígenas Report presented by Special Rapporteur Elisa Canqui. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Tenth session. E/C.19/2011/CRP. 4. Available at: [https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/session\\_10\\_crp\\_4.pdf](https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/session_10_crp_4.pdf)

<sup>96</sup> ILO. (N.d.). Folleto n° 3 Trabajo forzoso, trata de personas, y pueblos indígenas y tribales. Available at: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---norms/documents/publication/wcms\\_100760.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---norms/documents/publication/wcms_100760.pdf)



In Guatemala, a study of trafficking victims identified Indigenous Peoples as more susceptible to the risk of sexual exploitation as compared with non-indigenous people. When analyzing cases of sexual exploitation, the majority of the victims were women and girls. Poverty, chronic shortage of job opportunities, lack of access to basic services, lack of political representation, and lack of protection and appreciation of traditions and ways of life have been identified as factors that increase the exposure of Indigenous Peoples to trafficking. Given this complex context, many indigenous individuals are lured to urban cities or neighboring countries under false promises, and in search of better opportunities may become victims of trafficking networks (including for sexual exploitation). Forced displacement, motivated by internal armed conflict or by the implementation of business ventures such as extractives projects, can increase the vulnerability of Indigenous Peoples to human trafficking.<sup>97</sup>

### Legal Framework

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the General Assembly in 2017.<sup>98</sup> The Declaration was the result of more than two decades of negotiations, discussions and advocacy among member states, Indigenous Peoples and other organizations and stakeholders. The Declaration is a global milestone and the

most comprehensive international instrument on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. It lays down universal minimum standards concerning the dignity and well-being of Indigenous Peoples, as well as human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Even though that the Declaration does not specifically address sexual exploitation, some of the articles are particularly relevant in this aspect. In the implementation of the Declaration, Article 7 ensures the right to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty, and personal security of indigenous people, and Article 22 states that special attention must be given to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youngsters, children, and people with disabilities. Article 17 states that indigenous children must be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with their education or to be harmful to their health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, taking into account their special vulnerability and the importance of education for their empowerment.

The Declaration aims to promote clarity and empowerment regarding the rights of indigenous people, their fundamental freedom and human rights, and to facilitate processes of legislation

<sup>97</sup> Procurador de Los Derechos Humanos de Guatemala (2017). Informe de Situación de Trata de Personas en Guatemala, 2017. Available at: <https://app.box.com/s/wxd3sv342rrj4awrws8q-jy1h2lj7lm4i>

<sup>98</sup> UN. (2017). United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. [https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRI-P\\_E\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRI-P_E_web.pdf)

reform. Latin America has been particularly proactive in this regard<sup>99</sup> but the legal framework of each country in the region still includes significant differences in implementation.

It is worth pointing out that indigenous people are also protected by international conventions against sexual exploitation, such as the Additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime that covers

Preventing, Suppressing and Punishing Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children<sup>100</sup>, although these do not specifically address these groups.

Indigenous leaders point out how the lack of legal instruments that consider the intersection of gender, ethnicity and age makes it difficult to recognize the specific problems and challenges that indigenous women and children encounter, hindering the creation of inclusive public policies. ●

## Box 6

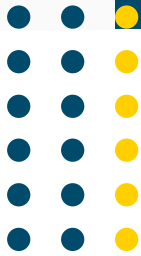
### Who are the Indigenous Peoples?


The identification of indigenous populations in the project's area of influence is not always simple and in some cases is controversial. Despite the progress made in recognizing cultural and ethnic diversity in a growing number of LAC countries, there are still many cases and processes of assimilation into the "dominant" society. PS 7 of the IFC recognizes that different social and cultural groups be specified as Indigenous Peoples if they have, to any certain degree, one or more of the following characteristics:

- Self-identification as members of a distinct indigenous cultural group and recognition of that identity by others.
- Collective connection to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories within the project area and the natural resources they cover.
- Traditional cultural, economic, social, or political institutions separate from those of the dominant society or culture.
- A different language or dialect, usually different from the official language or languages of the country or region in which they reside.

<sup>99</sup> For more information about the recognition of indigenous peoples at a national level in various regions, including Latin America, go to: UN. (2019). State of the World's Indigenous Peoples: Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. <https://social.un.org/unpfii/sowip-vol4-web.pdf>

<sup>100</sup> Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/protocoltraffickinginpersons.aspx>.





## V. Methodology for Preventing Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Projects of the Private Sector



As presented in the previous section, there are a number of groups that may be particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation in a context of private sector projects risks. This chapter, prepared by **Childhood Brasil**, presents the methodology developed by the organization in preventing the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the implementation and operation of large-scale projects, including infrastructure projects and industrial units.

## CONTEXTUALIZATION

Before presenting the **Step-by-Step** of this methodology, it is important to note three issues that connect the projects with the protection of children and adolescents from sexual exploitation: agents, project

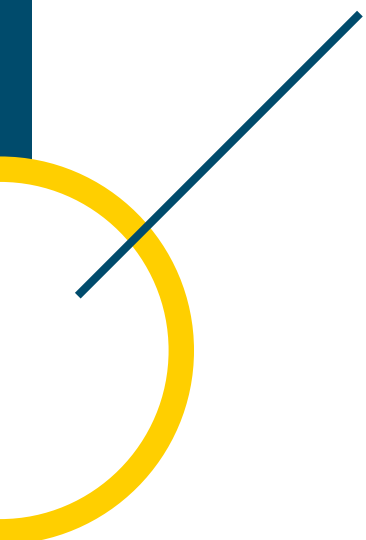
characteristics and territory. Those topics help identify the company's role and the risk factors that the project and the territory may represent to children and adolescents.

Risk factors vary according to the characteristics of the project and the territory, and may contribute to increasing cases of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. They can be grouped into four main areas: project, worker, territory and community. The table below illustrates the general aspects that correspond to each one of the areas, and that must be considered for the identification of risks and mitigation measures. These risk factors can be identified by the Territorial Mapping, described in **Step 6** of the methodology.

### Box 7

#### Sexual Exploitation Risk Factors related to Project, Worker, Territory and Community

Area	Risk Factors
<b>Project</b> <i>Factors related to the project's commitment to human rights may fail to mitigate or prevent sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An environmental licensing process that incorporates only basic social aspects and does not ensure the preparation of the area early enough.</li> <li>○ Lack of corporate commitment by the project's management to protect children and adolescents.</li> <li>○ Project management not in alignment with the discourse and behavior related to respect for human rights in the area.</li> <li>○ Unsuitable accommodations, no access control and no - or few - safe leisure options.</li> <li>○ Impacts of the enterprise on the territory, such as massive migration of mostly male labor, increase in vehicle traffic, increase of violence, real estate speculation, overload of the few existing services.</li> </ul>



Area	Risk Factors
<p><b>Worker</b></p> <p><i>The worker's circumstances may increase their chance of involvement in situations of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lack of ties to the area and anonymity reinforce the condition of “construction site worker” as a marker of identity.</li> <li>○ Strong identity of the construction site worker with cultural standards linked to masculinity, use of alcohol, drugs, and sex as leisure and relaxation during the period of stay in the territory of the project.</li> <li>○ Purchasing power of workers and employees of the enterprise related to a context of wide social inequality and social and economic vulnerability.</li> <li>○ Lack of perception of children and adolescents as people in a developmental stage coupled with the normalization of sexual exploitation - either as perpetrators or witnesses.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Territory</b></p> <p><i>Lack of information regarding vulnerable groups and insufficient prevention and care services increase vulnerability for sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nonexistent or weak public policies to ensure the rights of children and adolescents.</li> <li>○ Lack of information about the local reality of children and adolescents and the problem of sexual violence.</li> <li>○ Anonymity and lack of accountability of the perpetrator in cases of sexual violence, particularly sexual exploitation.</li> <li>○ Public policies for social and health care are nonexistent or are insufficient to meet the demand of the project.</li> <li>○ Lack of areas for the different vulnerable groups in the territory to be heard.</li> <li>○ Few leisure options for the population as a whole but particularly for teenagers and youngsters.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community</b></p> <p><i>Preexisting vulnerabilities and lack of cooperation by civil society may lead to increased vulnerability for sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The vulnerability of children and adolescents that live in the area.</li> <li>○ Normalization of sexual violence against children and adolescents.</li> <li>○ Nonexistent or poorly articulated civil society or community organizations.</li> <li>○ Resistance and/or insecurity related to the arrival of the project.</li> </ul>

## Agents

First of all, one must consider the implementation and operation of an enterprise directly and indirectly involve different **Agents**. Although the company in charge of the undertaking is responsible for implementing the actions proposed by this methodology, other **Agents** may have different

roles and responsibilities that complement and support the efforts and measures to protect children and adolescents in the area. Since the proposed actions occur in and outside the company, being aware of who these **Agents** is essential for the building of partnerships.



### FUNDING ENTITY

**This entity considers the protection of children and adolescents as an element of social risk management in financing operations.**

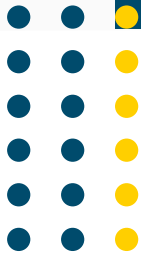
- Establishes conditions for granting or renewing funding that indicate good social risk management and put forward predefined strategies to prevent and mitigate the risk of sexual exploitation against children and adolescents.



### COMPANY

**The client formally agrees to the public commitment of protecting the human rights of children and adolescents with an emphasis on preventing sexual exploitation by establishing actions within its Sustainability Plan.**

- Develops a Social Management Plan guided by public and political commitment.
- Guarantees financial resources for actions to prevent and mitigate the risks of sexual exploitation in all phases of the project.
- Hires suppliers and adds contractual clauses that establish respect for the human rights of children and adolescents and promote engagement in actions to prevent and mitigate the risks of sexual exploitation.
- Implements the process of monitoring and assessing the actions using the indicators defined for every stage of the project.
- Establishes accessible and transparent communication channels for dialog between employees, business partners, local government, and the community.
- Contributes to a positive legacy in the territory, which may extend permanently after a project begins operating.







### PROJECT MANAGER

The project manager may refer to a company's own department in charge of managing the project, its construction, or the main third-party supplier. The manager agrees to protect children and adolescents from sexual exploitation and ensure the implementation of the company's Social Management Plan.

- Oversees the performance of the Social Management Plan throughout the chain of suppliers and third parties.
- Encourages and accompanies the monitoring and assessment process.



### SUPPLIERS

The suppliers implement or propose actions to protect children and adolescents and mitigate risks in accordance with the policies and Social Management Plan of the project.

- Raise awareness and engage workers.
- Influence other suppliers or construction management contractors to take up the cause.



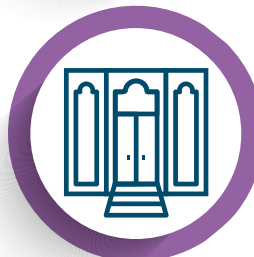
### LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITY

The local public authority guarantees all the rights of children, adolescents, and their families. Regarding sexual violence, it must offer prevention services and assistance to victims in a structured, transparent, and efficient manner.



### LOCAL CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

These organizations actively participate in intersectoral discussions about the protection of children and adolescents, exercising social control over the actions of the government and the project.



### COMMUNITIES

The families, children, and adolescents must be heard and be free from any form of violence.

## Characteristics of the Enterprise

Secondly, the **project's characteristics** must be taken into consideration since the risk factors for children and adolescents have different degrees of intensity based on the characteristics of the sector and the business. As such, the

suggestion is to find out the stage the project is in, if it is the company's first venture into the territory or if it is the continuity of an existing business, if the venture involves a construction site or an operation, and the profile of the workers.

### Box 8

#### Characteristics of the Enterprise

- **Stage in which the project is in:** The project usually kicks off with the process of license acquisition,<sup>101</sup> installation and construction, and extends into permanent local operation. Although the construction period represents an important risk factor for the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents within the context of the development, it is essential for the strategies of protection for children and adolescents to contemplate the previous period and to be kept up after operational startup.
- **If it is the company's first venture into the territory or the continuation of an existing business:** A background check may reveal problems and opportunities in the relationship of the project with the territory. If the company is starting a venture from scratch, it is an opportunity to establish relations with the territory based on the principles of respect for the human rights of children and adolescents, with an emphasis on preventing sexual exploitation.
- **If the project involves a construction site or an operation:** The massive migration of workers in relation to the resident population of the territory must be taken into consideration when implementing a large project. The greater the migration of workers, the greater this impact will be. In the case of an operation, the main risk factors for sexual exploitation of children and adolescents are related to the logistical operation of road freight transport, massive migration of workers to rest stops, and the displacement of employees on corporate trips.
- **The workers' profile:** The type of project determines the profile of the worker. This information is crucial since age group, marital status, level of education and schooling can have an effect in the relationship with human rights issues of children and adolescents.<sup>102</sup> It is, therefore, important to look at the type of service to understand the profile of the worker. Extractive industries and construction sites demand a higher volume of manual labor. On the other hand, port operations require a large number of truck drivers in the area. It should be noted if the labor is permanent or temporary and what the relationship between employees from outside the region is like and the period of greatest inflow of workers.

<sup>101</sup> In some cases, the licensing process is only formal and does not involve an environmental impact study either because of its low impact level or because of local pressure or because it is implemented by a state entity.

<sup>102</sup> Childhood Brasil. (2009). Os Homens Por Trás das Grandes Obras do Brasil.

## Characteristics of the Territory

Lastly, it is necessary to consider the territory. The socioeconomic and cultural characteristics of the municipalities that make up the Direct Area of Influence (DAI)<sup>103</sup> of the project determine the level of vulnerability of families and consequently of the children and adolescents. The project coordinators should become more watchful when a pre-existing scenario of sexual exploitation is found, associated with the nonexistence or insufficiency of public services and civil society organizations for the protection of children and adolescents. It must also be noted if there are other companies operating or working in the region (cumulative effects). The social and cultural

characteristics of the region, such as the normalization of sexual violence, be it abuse or exploitation, make it more difficult to recognize and address the problem.

Even if the methodological basis needs to be adequate to the reality of each project, variables such as client, culture of social responsibility of the company managing the project, type of project, geographic location, period of implementation of the project, and working and accommodation conditions directly influence the incidence violations of the human rights of children and adolescents, determining strategies for coping with sexual exploitation.

**103** The Direct Area of Influence (DAI) includes the areas surrounding the implementation of a project, which may be affected by the direct potential impact of the implementation and operation as a result of the network of physical, biotic, social, economic, and cultural relationships established there.

## STEP-BY-STEP: INTERVENTION PROJECT FOR COMPANIES TO PREVENT SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

The methodology for the prevention and mitigation of risks of sexual exploitation and protection of children and adolescents developed and applied by **Childhood Brasil** consists of a set of actions to be adopted, implemented, and monitored inside and outside the company. These actions are described in four stages and set out in 10 steps, which together make up the **Intervention Project**.

**Table 1**

### Methodology for Preventing and Mitigating Risks of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents: Stages and Steps of the Intervention Project

Stages	Steps
<b>I. CORPORATE POSITION</b>	1. Define position
	2. Prepare the company
	3. Set up a steering committee
<b>II. TERRITORIAL MAPPING</b>	4. Study and assessment of risks
	5. Internal actions
<b>III. WORK PLAN</b>	6. External actions
	7. Communication actions
	8. Monitoring & assessment
<b>IV. OPERATION</b>	9. Revision
	10. Operational stage

For sexual exploitation prevention and risk mitigation actions to be consistently implemented and become part of the company's culture, the protection of children and adolescents needs to be stated in the political and public commitment of the company that is heading the project. It is recommended for the development of protection strategies to cover the period before or at the start of the project, the installation and construction phases, and to remain in the operational stage afterwards. All of these phases need to be considered in a **Work Plan**, supported by a sound study and assessment of the risk factors present in the territory and aggravated by the enterprise. Once the **Work Plan** has been executed and the project enters into operation – or is demobilized, a new analysis of the **Intervention Project** is recommended considering its legacy.



## STAGE I

### CORPORATE POSITION

This stage is ideally executed in the preliminary period or at the start of the venture. If the company is already in operation, the possibility of reviewing and adapting the company's corporate position on the subject should be considered.

#### **STEP 1: DEFINE THE CORPORATE POSITION AND ALIGNMENT ON PROTECTING CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

The company must sign a commitment to protect children and adolescents from violence with an emphasis on preventing sexual exploitation. It is essential that this commitment come from the top down and for it to be integrated into the company's human rights and sustainability policies. The failure of the senior management to commit to this agenda makes it difficult, sometimes impossible, to implement the actions needed to aid in the prevention and mitigation of risks of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the project. As such, it is crucial to define a position and establish an internal alignment on the subject, evaluating the most suitable format for the business, and with emphasis given to the following actions:

- ① Verify if the company's human rights policy and code of conduct include the protection of rights of children and adolescents, with emphasis on the prevention of sexual exploitation.
- ② If necessary, revise and include this principle as a value in the policy, code of conduct, and guidelines or procedures.
- ③ Set up trainings or adapt the existing ones, introducing the content of the human rights policies and public statements to all employees and suppliers, ensuring that this is part of the company's values.
- ④ Announce this commitment publicly.

#### **STEP 2: PREPARE THE COMPANY TO DEAL WITH THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS AGAINST VIOLENCE WITH EMPHASIS ON PREVENTING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

Companies responsible for large projects need to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents from becoming an impact of their business. The prevention and mitigation of risk factors must be a high priority, ensuring that there are suitable financial and human

resources to carry out this work in the operation area. In preparation for the work, the following is suggested:

- ① Understand the role of the company in relation to the project: Company/client, construction manager or supplier, and consider the scope of action based on this role (see [Agents Infographic](#)).
- ② Define the financial and human resources.

### STEP 3: CREATION OF A STEERING COMMITTEE WITH LEADERS FROM THE COMPANY'S KEY TEAMS

The formation of a **Steering Committee**<sup>104</sup> is the starting point for the deployment of actions for the protection of children and adolescents against sexual exploitation and to support the definition of financial and human resources. The **Steering Committee** is composed of leaders of the strategic teams and its establishment must start with the CEO or President of the company in charge of the project. It is up to this committee to organize the study and assess the risks of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents (**Step 4**), define the scope of the **Work Plan** with a schedule for all the actions (**Steps 5, 6, and 7**), develop the monitoring plan with qualitative and quantitative indicators (**Steps 8 and 9**), and give continuity to the most suitable **Intervention Project** for the operational phase of the project (**Step 10**).

Once the structure and attributions of this **Steering Committee** are defined, the following steps are suggested:

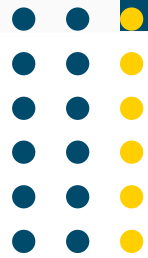
- ① Select the team that will lead the **Intervention Project**.



**In Childhood Brasil's experience, the area of Social Responsibility and Sustainability or Community Relations usually leads the Intervention Project.**

- ② Select the **Technical Partner** with expertise in protecting children and adolescents with a focus on preventing and mitigating the risks of sexual exploitation (civil society organization, consulting firm specialized in human rights or an in-house team).
- ③ Establish an ongoing agenda to raise awareness of the **Steering Committee** on human rights with a focus on children and adolescents.

**104** If the company already has an internal committee structured in a similar way to the one suggested (composed of leaders from different strategic teams), it is not necessary to form a new committee. It is recommended that the already established committee incorporate the Steering Committee's responsibilities and activities, as described in this step.



## STAGE II

### TERRITORIAL MAPPING

This stage includes a comprehensive study and a risk assessment of the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents so that any potential violation of children and adolescents' rights that the project may generate in the territory can be mapped. This study is conducted by the **Technical Partner** with the support and help of the **Steering Committee**.

#### STEP 4: STUDY AND RISK ASSESSMENT OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

This study must include information about the area corresponding to the municipalities that make up the **DAI** and information about the project in order to generate a clear view of the risk factors that may facilitate the occurrence of cases of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

The information gathered must include quantitative and qualitative data, research carried out with key players in the region and must be consolidated in a report and validated by the **Steering Committee**. The aim of this study is to provide a preliminary scenario of the vulnerability, risk factors, and potentialities present in the territory to support the structuring of the **Work Plan**.

#### A. INFORMATION ABOUT THE AREA

① Gather and assess secondary socioeconomic data available through online reports and surveys:

- Total population, urban/rural ratio, male/female ratio, and child/adolescent ratio (understand demographic distribution based on the indicators below).
- Human Development Index (HDI) (classifies the municipality by degree of human development).
- Employment and income indexes (unemployment rate, occupation in the informal sector, occupational category - employers, wage earners, etc.).

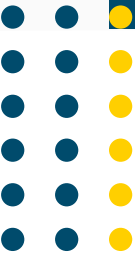
Single-parent families (single mother rate).

- Reports of sexual violence against children and adolescents registered in official agencies (pre-existence of the problem).
  - Infant mortality (access to early childhood health care).
- Data on schooling and dropout rates (schooling level, illiteracy rate, children and adolescents not attending school).

- Teenage pregnancy (may be a result of sexual violence, a contributing

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factor in the school dropout rate, sexually transmitted diseases and worsening socioeconomic conditions).

- Child marriage (considered a form of violence against children and adolescents).
- ② Gather local qualitative data by visiting the territory and setting up interviews with government representatives from the areas of social assistance, health, education, and security, members of the judiciary and the public prosecutor's office, and other services or agencies related to the protection of children and adolescents, with the aim of understanding the pre-existence of cases of sexual violence against children and adolescents and what public services are available to work with children and adolescent victims of violence.
  - ③ Gather local qualitative data by visiting the area to conduct interviews with community leaders and civil society representatives in an attempt to understand the pre-existence of cases of sexual violence against children and adolescents, the existence and cooperation of non-governmental organizations, the main agendas and issues related to childhood and adolescence in the area.
  - ④ Verify the existence of Municipal Plans to Fight Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents<sup>105</sup> and public policies aimed at protecting children and adolescents in the territory.
  - ⑤ Analyze the data collected to identify risk factors and social vulnerabilities, taking into consideration the local structure for the prevention, protection, and sheltering of children and adolescents in cases of sexual violence.

## B. INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

- ① Identify any managers or professionals who have already had experience with child and adolescent protection projects within the context of a large project.



**105** The Municipal Plan to Fight Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents in Brazil is a political and technical instrument built in a democratic and participatory way to guide municipal actions. Based on the National Plan to Fight Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents, this instrument is revised and/or drawn up every 10 years with the objective of structuring a set of actions that can be used to intervene and fight sexual violence against children and adolescents in a cooperative and comprehensive way. This document lists the actions of the different public services to ensure the protection of children and adolescents, and the goals that enable the assessment of planned and ongoing policies.



- ② Collect data from the project and conduct interviews with key managers:

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT:** The protection of the rights of children and adolescents is the shared responsibility of the state, the family, and society. Within the context of large projects, it is crucial to understand how the management is organized because it is in the decision-making stages throughout the **Intervention Project** that the protection of children and adolescents' rights is consolidated. In this section, the suggestion is to find out:

- Organizational chart of the enterprise's decision-making flow.
- Status of policies and codes of conduct.
- Projection of standards in policies and codes of conduct referring to human rights (focus on workers' rights, children's and adolescents' rights, women's rights).
- Information about financing requirements of the project.
- Number of workers for each stage of the process, taking into account all operational levels.
- Number of suppliers planned for the entire project, their supplier categories, and the total number of workers.
- Existence of an area or team dedicated to sustainability, institutional relations, and community relations.
- If the project involves construction, assembly or maintenance downtime, a timeline of the project.

**WORKERS' PROFILE:** Understanding who the worker is helps to analyze the risk of involvement with sexual exploitation. In this section, the suggestion is to find out:

- Age group.
- Schooling by field.
- Marital status.
- Number of children.
- Expectation about previous work experience in other projects.
- Percentage of manpower originating from the DAI and outside the DAI by area of operation.
- Projection of migration of family with the worker.
- Projection of female labor force by type of service.
- Percentage of manpower originating from the DAI and outside the DAI by area of operation.

**WORKING AND LODGING CONDITIONS:** With the workers under different types of stress, such as the pressure of work, being away from the family, loneliness, anxiety, and others, it is important to understand what working conditions are offered, as well as what the company is offering for the breaks of these workers and family visits, especially at the operational level. The better the working conditions, the **accommodations**, and the entertainment, the greater is the relief of these stressful factors and the greater is the commitment of the workers and, on the other hand, the worse the conditions are, the less commitment they will have to the company and the territory, which increases the possibility of risk behaviors, including in relation to involvement with the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. In this section, the suggestion is to find out:

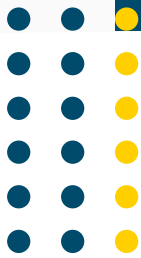
- The labor hiring regime including the planning for breaks, vacations, and family visits.
- Existence and operation of Grievance Mechanisms  
Worker health care and strategies.
- Management, condition, and quality of the accommodations, as well as access control.
- Transport conditions offered to workers.
- Quality leisure options and internet access.
- Channels of communication with workers.

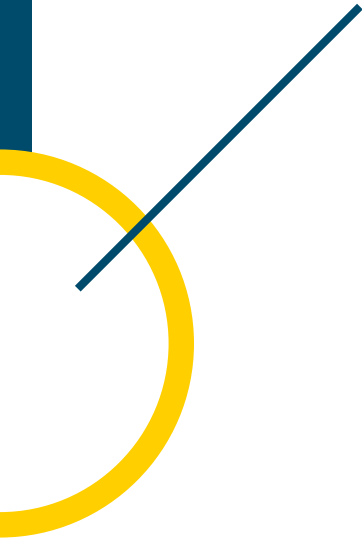
#### Box 9

#### Accommodation

Quality accommodation contributes to reducing the risks of workers getting involved in situations of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. These spaces should look for residential characteristics offering comfortable conditions, quality Wi-Fi, with air conditioning, more spacious rooms without bunk beds, and leisure options. Messages on the protection of children and adolescents from sexual exploitation should be placed in the available communication spaces. In addition to the internal characteristics, the accommodation should be located far from bars and schools.

**SUPPLY CHAIN:** Risks concerning human rights violations, including cases of violation of the rights of children and adolescents, can be caused indirectly but are still associated with the company through its network of suppliers or third parties. These companies bring together a large number of workers and need to be involved in awareness and





engagement actions. It is, therefore, necessary to understand the operation and the relationship established with the entire supply chain. In this section, the suggestion is to find out:

- Existence of standardization for contracting suppliers that includes working conditions/rest/vacation of outsourced labor, lodging structure, contractual clauses with respect to human rights and protection of children and adolescents from sexual exploitation.
- Transport logistics of the goods with projection of the daily flow of trucks and number of carriers involved.
- Projection for renting accommodation areas in the DAI.

**RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY:**

Agreements established between the company and the municipalities of the territory (DAI) or other relevant governmental entities<sup>106</sup>, and the strategies thought of to mitigate impacts. Collecting this information is important to evaluate whether the partnerships and agreements established with the government can contribute to risk mitigation and prevention of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. In this section, the suggestion is to find out:

- Main agreements established with the local public authority.
- Main responsibilities undertaken by the local government in relation to the project.
- Existence of a commitment with the municipalities to generate jobs in the project.
- Existence of a commitment with municipalities to train local labor.
- Projection of workers’ use of local public services (especially health services).

**STAGE III**

**WORK PLAN**

The **Work Plan** must include **Internal Actions**, implemented inside the company, based on strategies that engage and raise the awareness of all corporate collaborators and supply chain workers, and **External Actions**, implemented in the company’s surroundings, through actions that involve public authorities, organized civil society, and the community. The methodology proposed requires a robust strategy of **Communication Actions** with messages targeted at all audiences.

<sup>106</sup> Depending on the sector, the particularities and the scale of the project, impact mitigation strategies and commitments can be established through governmental entities at the state and federal level, as licensing conditions as provided for in each country’s laws. The points that refer to the Government and Community Relationship will be described in terms of the municipalities and local public authority.

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The details of the **Work Plan** need to be supported by a schedule for the oversight of Internal, External, and Communication Actions aligned to the agenda of periodic meetings held by the **Steering Committee**. The periodic meetings need to be planned and aligned with the schedule of actions because they are key moments for decisions about the enforcement of actions with leaders of the different teams in charge.

### STEP 5: INTERNAL ACTIONS

The aim of the Internal Actions is to raise the awareness of all corporate employees, the key supply chain, and the workers and it may receive help from the **Technical Partner**. The development of these actions involves several teams, with specific attributions and duties:

#### Sustainability and Social Responsibility or Community Relations<sup>107</sup>

- Ongoing monitoring of the **Work Plan**.
- Overseeing of the implementation of a Grievance Mechanism for employees, community, and suppliers.

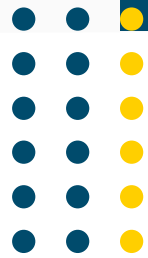
#### Human Resources

- Training of corporate employees on the company's human rights policy.
- Inclusion of the topic at the time the employee is welcomed into the company.
- Selection and training of corporate multipliers (See [Box 11](#)).
- Implementation of Grievance Mechanisms for employees, community and suppliers.

#### Legal / Compliance

- Checking all policies and procedures related to human rights and the protection of children and adolescents against sexual exploitation.

<sup>107</sup> These attributes may vary from company to company. In some, the Human Resources team defines the consequence policy, in others the management of the listening mechanisms is done by the sustainability team.



- Implementation of **Grievance Mechanisms** for employees, community and suppliers.
- Defining consequence policies for involvement in situations of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- Inclusion of contractual clauses and codes of conduct for key suppliers on the quality of workers' lodgings and travel.

**Box 10**

**Grievance Mechanisms**

It is important that the company creates specific channels to engage with communities that allow for receiving complaints and concerns regarding negative impacts of its activities, including of inappropriate behavior of workers. (Please see more on [Box 13](#)).

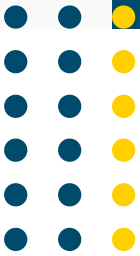
**Communication**

- Mapping of communication areas and channels. For example:
  - a. Daily Safety Dialogue (DSD).<sup>108</sup>
  - b. Meeting Points: places for shift changes, locker rooms, cafeteria, social centers, and workers' bus service.
  - c. Lodgings.
  - d. Payment slips.
  - e. Roundtables for Dialogue.
  - f. Bulletin Boards.
  - g. Creating a communication campaign.

**Supply Chain**

- Mapping and sectioning the Supply Chain:
  - a. Listing the main suppliers that gather a significant number of workers, who will work in the construction, assembly, and during downtime.
  - b. Sectioning by type of service and by number of other companies or workers being coordinated.
- Supply chain engagement:
  - a. Presentation of the **Work Plan**.

**108** The Daily Safety Dialogue are discussions held with workers about occupational risks and how to avoid them. At these discussions, other topics of interest to the worker such as health, environment, emotional issues, etc. are addressed also.



b. Call for assignment of employees who will act as **Multipliers** with the workers.

- o Identification and engagement of other suppliers in the transport service and accommodation chains.

### Box 11

#### Multipliers

The main strategy of the **Internal Actions** is based on the creation of a team of **Multipliers** and on a plan for ongoing awareness of the project's corporate collaborators and workers.

**TARGET: Multipliers** must promote the prevention and confront violence against children and adolescents in the enterprise through acting as “spokespersons” for the company's commitment to the cause, bringing information, guidance and establishing dialogue with employees with whom they will work.

**PROFILE: Multipliers** should preferably be the employees, who are in constant contact with the corporate employees and with the workers working on the site or in the operation of the project, and those who volunteer to take on this role. The **Multipliers** should feel comfortable talking about this subject, and have availability, commitment, good communication skills, respect for differences, and empathy.

**METHODOLOGY:** The methodology proposed is based on the perspective that awareness has the potential to change reality. Sexual exploitation of children and adolescents should be approached in a transversal way associated with themes of professional and daily interest of workers (health, citizenship, human rights and drugs and alcohol consumption). The topics addressed in the awareness must be prevention-oriented, encourage the exercise of citizenship, and informing the worker about how to act to protect children and adolescents.

To be a **Multiplier** the professional should be trained in the area of human rights of children and adolescents, forms of sexual violence, related laws, reporting channels and ways to protect children and adolescents. Since this is a specific topic that requires special expertise, it is recommended that this training be carried out

by the **Technical Partner**, that could be either a local civil society organization or a consulting firm with in-depth knowledge on the subject.

**MULTIPLIER IN ACTION:** Once trained, the **Multiplier** team must develop a plan for continuous awareness of corporate employees and workers. It is recommended to consider opportunities for dialogue and direct contact (e.g. Daily Safety Dialogue) and existing communication channels. One way of maintaining continuity of communication with the worker is to establish an annual calendar based on the selection of thematic dates (e.g., children's day, women's day, father's day, universal declaration of human rights day, etc.). Every approach must be taken with attention to ensure that corporate employees and workers know how to act to protect children and adolescents.

**REACHING OTHER AUDIENCES IN THE PROJECT:** By mapping and sectioning the supply chain, the project's **Multipliers** will be able to extend awareness to the logistics and accommodation sectors. Suppliers responsible for the logistics operation through the arrival of trucks can direct the communication to the cargo transport professionals (see [Box on The Right Track Program in the Specialized Note on the History and Experience of Childhood Brasil](#)).

If there is a need to use hotels and inns in the region, the multipliers can work on raising the awareness of these commercial establishments, guiding them to adopt a code of conduct that ensures the protection of children and adolescents, forbidding access and the accommodation of children and adolescents without family ties in these areas. (See [Guidelines for the Tourism Sector](#)).

## STEP 6: EXTERNAL ACTIONS

The planning of **External Actions** is targeted at public authorities, organized civil society, and the community, and should preferably be carried out by the **Technical Partner**.

It is usual for host municipalities to have poor services and insufficient or even non-existent public policies to ensure the rights of children and adolescents. The arrival of the development puts extra pressure on these services. The actions should strive to strengthen the structure of public policies for the protection and care of children and adolescents in the territory as a legacy of the project and to assist in the quality of the company's relationship with the municipalities in the DAI (See [Box 11](#)).

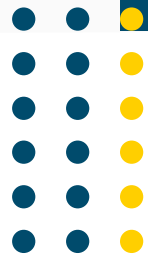
To achieve this goal, the **External Actions** must follow the steps below:

- ① Make a situational analysis of the scenario of violence with emphasis on sexual violence of children and adolescents through:
  - a. Qualified interviews with leaders and technicians from public services.
  - b. Create focus groups to map and test local flows and protocols for the care of victims of sexual violence.
- ② Present and validate the results with the focus groups based on the results, define the strategy for partnerships with the government, seeking to strengthen policies for the protection of children and adolescents and the prevention of negative impacts that could be caused by the project.
- ③ Encourage the creation of an intersectoral committee with different municipal departments to establish and monitor a Municipal Plan to fight violence against children and adolescents.



**External Actions can present a few challenges:**

- **The protection of children and adolescents may not be a priority in the agenda of the municipal administration, which reduces the availability of its employees in activities related to the subject.**
- **A change of management caused by electoral shifts can make it difficult to continue the partnership and the external activities.**
- **The local government may resist and choose not to join the partnership proposed by the company. One of the recommended strategies to circumvent this problem is to set up listening and dialogue areas at the start of the project to support the company's aim to promote the protection of children and adolescents as a positive legacy to the territory.**





**Box 12****Implementing External Actions in Brazil**

In Brazil, **Childhood Brasil's** assistance is focused at reviewing and/or preparing the Municipal Plan for Fighting Violence against Children and Adolescents, its Flows and Protocols as provided for in National Law 13.431/2017. Law 13.431/2017 establishes a trained listening approach for child and adolescent victims or witnesses of violence in Brazil as well as guidelines on Flows and Protocols for the reception and care of cases in services for the Guarantee of Rights System.

The Guarantee of Rights System for Children and Adolescents (Sistema de Garantia dos Direitos da Criança e do Adolescente) was consolidated in Brazil in 2006 to ensure the implementation of a national legal framework that ratifies the fundamental rights of children and adolescents (Child and Adolescent Statute). The System is formed by the integration and cooperation of different governmental and civil society services and public entities operating in three strategic spheres (Defense, Development of Rights, and Social Control) organized to guarantee and operationalize the rights of children and adolescents.

**STEP 7: COMMUNICATIONS ACTION**

Along with the **Internal and External Actions**, it is necessary to develop a communication strategy that reinforces the institutional position and its commitment to protect children and adolescents from sexual exploitation.

Considering the size of the undertaking and its impact on the territory, the creation of a perennial communication campaign is essential. The creation and production of the campaign are the responsibility of the communication team and must be aligned with the visual language and the call-to-action, raising the awareness instigated by the engagement actions carried out by the **Multipliers**.



**The communication campaign must be aligned with the universal principles of respect for the human rights of children and adolescents, addressing the issue in a positive way and providing information on how to act to ensure the protection of children and adolescents from sexual exploitation.**

Another vital point is the use of communication as a continuous tool to share results of the **Intervention Project** with the different **Agents**.

### STEP 8: MONITORING AND EVALUATING THE WORK PLAN

The monitoring and assessment actions must be based on the **Work Plan** and on the qualitative and quantitative indicators put in place to monitor the implementation of the actions foreseen in the **Work Plan** and to evaluate the mitigation of the risk factors identified. We recommend that they be carried out on an ongoing basis, monitored by the **Steering Committee**, and that their results be informed to all workers (those who work in the office/headquarters as well as those working on the project), suppliers, and partners in the municipality.

### STEP 9: REVIEWING THE WORK PLAN

The **Work Plan** must be periodically reviewed in follow-up meetings with the **Steering Committee** based on the results of the monitoring and assessment. We recommend this review to take place every 6 months and the actions to be reviewed and adjusted as the Project moves ahead.

## STAGE IV

### OPERATION

The operational phase may involve the winding down of a project, the aftermath of a construction site or a project with a continuous flow of workers. After the execution of the **Work Plan** a new analysis considering its legacy is recommended.

### STEP 10: DEVELOPING AN INTERVENTION PROJECT TAILORED TO THE PROJECT'S OPERATIONAL PHASE

In the case of projects that conclude the construction period and start operating, it is necessary to consider this new reality and map the risk factors for the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. The increased inflow of workers in the timeline of a project is considered as a risk trigger for sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

Once the company is aware of and engaged with the topic of protecting children and adolescents from sexual exploitation, it is a good idea to broaden the information to include other forms of violence. The company is a place of awareness and guidance for workers and their families. Disseminating this information can ensure the protection of children and adolescents within other contexts. ●



## VI. Recommendations for Applying the Methodology with Other Vulnerable Groups in Latin America and the Caribbean

## CONTEXTUALIZATION

This section presents **Recommendations** aimed at helping broaden the scope of the sexual exploitation risk prevention methodology presented in the **Step-by-Step** by considering the inclusion of other vulnerable groups within the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) context.

Before laying down the specific **Recommendations**, the following issues should be taken into consideration:

While there is no capacity for consent with children and adolescents, the selling, buying, and arranging of sexual services by adults can be carried out consensually between all parties and can even be decriminalized, legal or regulated.<sup>109</sup>

Laws regarding the commercialization of sexual services varies greatly from country to country within LAC and around the world. Some places criminalize the practice and all those involved, while others allow the practice to be carried out in certain locations and according to specific rules. In some countries the person selling sexual services is not considered a criminal but the person buying it is. In others, the buying and selling of sexual services is allowed but arranging, organizing, facilitating, and making a profit from the sale of another person's sexual services is prohibited.

The Institute of Development Program has a map of sex work laws around the world (Map of Sex Work Law), that provides an overview of the laws, regulations, directives, and standards governing the sale of sexual services by adult women.<sup>110</sup> This map can be used as a starting point to identify the laws applied in the project's area.<sup>111</sup>

Sex work, even in circumstances where it is decriminalized, legal or regulated, can be simultaneously associated with illegal practices such as the use of illegal substances.<sup>112</sup> It could also be masquerading as a legal prostitution practice, but the person selling the services might not be freely consenting or might have limited capacity to consent.

According to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, if obtained through any improper means, consent given by the victim is considered irrelevant. In the sex trafficking cases the consent given by the victim could be considered irrelevant if "improper means were used."<sup>113</sup> Such methods include not only the use of threats, force, and other forms of coercion but also the exploitation of a vulnerability. Therefore, someone who is in a situation of vulnerability and is consenting - or apparently consenting - to engage in sexual activity may be considered a victim of sex trafficking.

Certain aspects can be observed

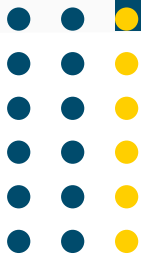
**109** Decriminalization of the sex trade, in general, refers to systems of law that do not penalize sex work. This often occurs through the absence or suspension of laws that criminalize the practice as a crime. Legalization and/or regulation, on the other hand, refers to systems of law that recognize the practice and generally set some terms for the control and regulation of the practice. For example, some countries allow the sex trade but only in certain neighborhoods and regions. There are also abolitionist systems that do not condemn the sex worker, and in general not the person who seeks sexual services from others but considers the involvement of third parties, such as pimps or owners of brothels, a crime.

**110** According to the institution's website, the map currently covers criminal laws regarding the female sex trade. In some countries, the criminal law against selling sex applies exclusively to women, and in others it is gender neutral. In some cases, even absent criminalization provisions against male prostitution, public decency provisions, disturbances and anti-homosexuality laws are used. An effort has been made in the Map methodology to include laws regarding the male sex trade.

**111** The map is available at this link <http://spl.ids.ac.uk/sexworklaw/about-map>.

**112** Meneses Falcón, Carmen. (2010). Usos y abusos de drogas en contextos de prostitución. En: Revista Española de Drogodependencias, Vol. 35, no. 3

**113** UNODC. (2008). Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/unodc\\_toolkit\\_en\\_1.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/unodc_toolkit_en_1.pdf)



and considered risk indicators for sexual exploitation. Table 2 below shows some of the aspects that help identify risk situations for sexual exploitation, whether they are elements in the victim's behavior or present at the place where the

sexual service is being provided. This framework was built from the experience of several institutions that work with the identification, rescue, and sheltering of victims of sexual exploitation in situations of trafficking and/or forced labor.

**Table 2**

**Risk Indicators of Sexual Exploitation Conditions**

<b>Workplace characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Poor infrastructure conditions.</li> <li>○ Windows, curtains, and doors permanently closed or with locks which the potential victim has no control over.</li> <li>○ Place of residence is the same as the workplace or the potential victim sleeps at the workplace.</li> </ul>
<b>Work conditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Long working hours for extended periods, with little or no time off.</li> <li>○ Lack of direct access to the money paid for their services.</li> <li>○ Lack of ability to negotiate working conditions and services.</li> <li>○ Lack of access to medical care.</li> </ul>
<b>Behavioral aspects of potential victims</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Acting as if instructed by someone else.</li> <li>○ Allowing other people to speak for the person or on their behalf, even when they are present and when addressed directly.</li> <li>○ Not having the freedom to communicate with other people.</li> <li>○ Not being free to leave the workplace or showing signs that their movements are being controlled.</li> <li>○ Always being accompanied by another person when circulating outside the workplace.</li> <li>○ Having limited or no social interactions.</li> <li>○ Have limited contact with family, friends, and people outside the work environment.</li> <li>○ Having few personal belongings.</li> <li>○ Not having identity documents.</li> <li>○ Not speaking the local language.</li> <li>○ Not knowing the address of their residence or workplace.</li> <li>○ Displaying distrust of authorities or feeling afraid of being approached by authorities.</li> </ul>

### Psychological and physical aspects of potential victims

- Having wounds, bruises or marks that may have resulted from physical assault.
- Marks of edemas, fractures and other signs of untreated medical problems and chronic diseases, such as diabetes and cancer.
- Shows fear, anxiety, and nervousness.
- Excessive shyness.
- Low self-esteem.
- Depression.
- Signs of post-traumatic stress.
- Malnutrition and/or dehydration.
- Poor state of hygiene.
- Venereal diseases.
- Signs of sexual abuse.

#### Sources:

UNODC. (2008). Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons. [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/unodc\\_toolkit\\_en\\_1.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/unodc_toolkit_en_1.pdf);

ILO & Special Department of Policies for Women (2005). Human Trafficking for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation. [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/unodc\\_toolkit\\_en\\_1.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/unodc_toolkit_en_1.pdf);

Phinney, A. (2002). Trafficking of Women and Children for Sexual Exploitation in the Americas. PAHO.

In the broad debate about sex trade and sexual exploitation, civil society organizations, activist groups and movements may have differing positions and opinions on the subject.<sup>114</sup> It is important for the company to be aware of the social context in which the sex trade occurs in the territory and how sexual exploitation may be associated with it.

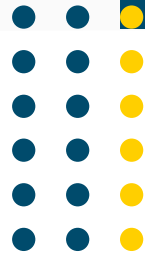
As mentioned in [Chapter IV](#), there is often a combination of more than one factor which makes the person vulnerable. The **Intervention Project** must have a careful and sensitive look at the

intersectionality of risks, aiming to capture the diversity that may exist within the same group.<sup>115</sup>

It is worthwhile pointing out that it is the company's responsibility to ensure that its project does not adversely impact the surrounding community; therefore, as already addressed in the **Intervention Project**, prevention and mitigation actions are necessary to prevent these impacts from occurring. A few recommendations to address the risk of sexual exploitation to other vulnerable groups are shown next.

**114** For more information and examples of different opinions and positions, see: Amnesty International. (2016). What I am Doing is Not a Crime: The Cost of Criminalizing Sex Work in the City of Buenos Aires, Argentina. <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AMR1340422016ENGLISH.PDF> Bien-Aimé. (2017). Why We Must Oppose the Full Decriminalization of Prostitution. Dignity: A Journal on Sexual Exploitation and Violence: Vol. 2: Iss. 3, Article 10. Available at: [https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/dignity/vol2/iss3/10/?utm\\_source=digitalcommons.uri.edu%2Fdignity%2Fvol2%2Fiss3%2F10&utm\\_medium=PDF&utm\\_campaign=PDFCoverPages](https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/dignity/vol2/iss3/10/?utm_source=digitalcommons.uri.edu%2Fdignity%2Fvol2%2Fiss3%2F10&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages). Bendavid, N. (2013). Amsterdam Debates Sex Trade. The Wall Street Journal. Available at: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424127887324049504578543370643627376> Martynowskyj, E. (2018). Prostitución y feminismo(s). Disputas por el reconocimiento en los Encuentros Nacionales de Mujeres. (Argentina, 1986-2017). Sex., Salud Soc. (Rio J.) no. 30 Rio de Janeiro Sept./Dec. 2018. Available at: [https://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci\\_arttext&pid=S1984-64872018000300022](https://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S1984-64872018000300022)

**115** For example, when dealing with indigenous groups, it is important to consider the challenges, risks and necessary preventive measures specific to indigenous women and indigenous children, which will not be the same when considering indigenous male adults or non-indigenous women and non-indigenous children. The same can be assessed when considering other vulnerable groups.



## INTERVENTION PROJECT FOR COMPANIES TO PREVENT SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Guidelines described in the **Step-by-Step** are based on the experience and methodology of **Childhood Brasil** to address the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, and they were not tested to incorporate other vulnerable groups (women, LGBTQI+, afro-descendants and Indigenous Peoples). Nevertheless, the structure of the **Step-by-Step** can be used as a reference to the necessary actions that a prevention initiative must consider provided that the company is prepared to make the necessary adjustments to the methodology as recommended by **Technical Partners** and specialized advisors. A few general notes about initiatives protecting vulnerable groups are:

### Broadening the Scope

The determination to include other vulnerable groups in the actions to prevent sexual exploitation should consider the results of risk analysis and social and environmental impact studies associated with the project. The groups identified by these studies as having been adversely impacted or potentially impacted by the project must necessarily be included in the **Intervention Project's** approach. As a result, the **Intervention Project** will have two subsections, implemented simultaneously - one targeted at children and adolescents and the other at vulnerable groups of adults.

When risk analyses and social and environmental impact studies associated with the project do not identify the potential of the project to affect vulnerable groups, the decision of including one such groups in the **Intervention Project** is optional and will depend on the company's corporate social responsibility strategy. In such cases, the company can either approach different groups simultaneously, as mentioned in the previous paragraph, or it may choose to start with the **Intervention Project** by selecting a specific audience as the target and then moving on to another audience once it has gained enough experience and maturity in the sexual exploitation prevention area.

Although the steps and stages set forth in the **Intervention Project** for both groups are similar, the work to prevent sexual exploitation requires different technical and institutional approaches when dealing with children and adolescents compared to vulnerable groups involving adults. [Chapter IV](#) shows how sexual exploitation is construed by these different audiences and it describes the main legal frameworks for each group.

### Stating the Company's Position and Securing Dedicated Resources

As shown previously in the **Intervention Project**, it is essential for the sexual exploitation prevention commitment to come from the company's senior management and be integrated into the human rights and sustainability policies. When the company decides to add the protection of other vulnerable groups to the **Intervention Project's** scope, it is important to reflect this on its corporate commitment.

As seen previously in this Guide, specific legal and institutional frameworks regulate the protection of children and adolescents against sexual exploitation. In the case of other vulnerable groups, company guidelines must consider preventing sexual exploitation under the framework of protection against trafficking in persons for sexual purposes, forced labor for sexual purposes or legal frameworks applicable to specific vulnerable groups (see Legal Framework sections for each vulnerable group in [Chapter IV](#)).

The company's preparation to address the prevention of sexual exploitation of other vulnerable groups should consider enough financial and human resources to cover the expansion of the initial scope. The budget estimate should consider the addition of specific activities aimed at other vulnerable groups, including the costs for hiring of specialized **Technical Partners**.<sup>116</sup> Likewise, the estimate for the human resource requirement should be bigger, avoiding overloading the teams



<sup>116</sup> Intervention Projects that include Indigenous Populations or traditional communities require the participation of a Technical Partner specialized on the issue given the sensitivities and complexities of these groups and the need for specialized technical knowledge.



already allocated in the original scope and ensuring that there is enough time available for the teams to work on tasks related to different vulnerable groups.

### Collection and Organization of External Information

It is important that the company collects data that allows for a preliminary mapping of the area of influence regarding: a) sexual exploitation and human trafficking and b) forced labor for the purpose of sexual exploitation. This assessment is important in evaluating how the existing vulnerable groups could be affected by the company's activities.

Besides the data and information shown in **Step 4** of the **Step-by-Step**, it is also recommended to collect the following data and information:

- ① Survey and assessment of secondary socioeconomic data regarding:
  - Poverty (for example, number of people living in poverty, food security); employment and income (e.g., unemployment rate, occupation in the informal sector, etc.); education (e.g. schooling level, illiteracy rate); health (e.g. incidence of diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, HIV and STIs; social security (e.g. access to benefits and public social support programs); public policies focused on specific groups, etc. Whenever possible, collect information segregated by gender, age and ethnicity. The goal is to observe whether there are significant disparities between different groups, such as women and Afro-descendant population, helping to identify structural inequalities and increased risk of sexual exploitation. Some countries provide separate data regarding Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities.
  - Cases of femicide or femicide. If available, information on the femicide or femicide rate (occurrence per 100,000 women) in the region, state or even country, can provide guidance on the condition of protection, safety, and physical autonomy of women within a broader context in the territory.<sup>117</sup>
  - Occurrence of homophobia cases: Considering the lack of public data available on the subject, it is recommended that in the absence of official sources, civil society organizations be consulted.<sup>118</sup>
  - Reports of sexual violence against children and adolescents registered by official agencies. Note whether the recorded cases identify the age, gender, race, or other characteristics of the victim to understand intersectionality issues.
  - If available, reports and occurrences of cases of sexual exploitation and human trafficking and forced labor for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

<sup>117</sup> See Observatory on Gender Equality in Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC: <https://oig.cepal.org/pt/indicadores/feminicidio-ou-femicidio>

<sup>118</sup> In view of the lack of official identification of cases of violence against LGBTQI+ people, many local organizations are making sure to identify and document these cases.

- ② Assessment of the context to fight sexual exploitation at a national level. The U.S. Department of State publishes the Trafficking in Persons Report annually, with information and analysis of national efforts to prosecute, protect, and prevent trafficking in persons, including for sexual exploitation.<sup>119</sup> The report can be considered a reliable source for a first high-level assessment of a country's commitment and performance in addressing sexual exploitation.
- ③ Survey of local qualitative data through interviews with representatives of public authorities in the areas of social assistance, health, education, security, human rights, indigenous peoples and traditional communities, migrants and refugees, and other related services or agencies that work in the prevention of sexual exploitation, human trafficking and forced labor, representatives of the judiciary or prosecutors working to identify the pre-existence of cases of sexual exploitation in the territory, the existence of groups particularly vulnerable to this risk and all public services available for supporting victims.
- ④ Gather local qualitative data by interviewing community leaders and civil society representatives in an attempt to understand key issues such as a) the pre-existence of cases of sexual violence in the area, b) level of cooperation of non-governmental organizations, c) main challenges and obstacles to eradicate sexual exploitation in the area.
- ⑤ If Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities live in the area, it is important that the interviews are done with the presence of a **Technical Partner** (or a specialized consultant). In most countries in LAC there are public bodies that safeguard the rights of those groups, and they should also be invited.



<sup>119</sup> The Trafficking in Persons Report is available at this link: <https://www.state.gov/trafficking-in-persons-report/>.

- ⑥ Verify existence of public policies aimed at the prevention of sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and forced labor, and public policies for the protection of vulnerable groups.

### Collection and Organization of Internal Information

As mentioned in the previous section, data collection and interviews regarding project management, workforce profile, lodging and working conditions, value chain and relationship with the local government and community should not be changed significantly if other vulnerable groups are included in the scope of the **Intervention Project**. This initial analysis is aimed at understanding the project itself - and not the territory in which it operates. The suggestion is to simply add:

- ① For PROJECT MANAGEMENT: Map the existence of standards in policies and codes of conduct referring to human rights, more specifically, the ones addressing nondiscrimination, protection of indigenous and traditional peoples and community members, prevention of gender-based violence and harassment.
- ② For WORKER PROFILE and LODGING AND WORKING CONDITIONS: The assessments suggested previously should be maintained. The **Intervention Project** doesn't intend to prescribe what the workers should do in their free time - as long as their actions are in accordance with local laws and do not interfere with the welfare and safety of the community. Company's rules and code of conduct for lodging facilities that are provided by the company should prohibit behaviors which may aggravate the risk of sexual exploitation, such as drinking alcohol on the premises and allowing the presence of non-workers. Company's policies should provide for good working conditions and adequate lodging facilities and services.
- ③ For CORE SUPPLY CHAIN: Include contractual clauses that refer to human rights protection and prevention of sexual exploitation of adults, as well as prevention of human trafficking or forced labor for sexual purposes, and monitor compliance.
- ④ For RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY: Analyze the information gathered and evaluate possible partnerships with public authorities and or civil society organizations that can help to mitigate risks and prevent the sexual exploitation of adults in the region.

In addition, identify any managers or workers who have already had experience with prevention of sexual exploitation and invite them to participate on the **Intervention Project**.

## Creating the Intervention Project

The structure and implementation of the **Intervention Project** could follow the logic presented in the **Step-by-Step**, but it is important to consider that the methodology was developed and tested to work with prevention of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. Rely on the **Technical Partner** to address particularities of including protection of other vulnerable groups and be prepared to make all necessary adjustments to the **Intervention Project**. ●

### Box 13

#### Grievance Mechanism

Similar to other cases of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation is widely under reported. As mentioned in the publication *Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Harassment*<sup>120</sup>, it is important that people both inside and outside a company have channels through which they can report such cases, including options to report anonymously. Those channels should be safe and confidential.

Companies should also establish a clear set of procedures to follow up when a report of sexual exploitation, gender-based violence or harassment is made. These procedures need to set out how reports will be acknowledged and handled, by whom and within what timeframe. Some cases might require investigation – procedures for these investigations, including appeal mechanisms, need to be clearly communicated.

Sometimes companies train internal staff to investigate reports of sexual exploitation, gender-based violence and harassment. In some cases, though, it is highly recommended that external, specialized investigation services are engaged (when complaints implicate senior management, involve community members, or are complex and sensitive). If a grievance involves children or adolescents, special expertise is necessary and national legal framework by government child and adolescent's protection services or the police will be followed. Additional guidance can be found in UNICEF's *Child Friendly Complaint Mechanisms*<sup>121</sup> and the *Keeping Children Safe*<sup>122</sup> resource library.

<sup>120</sup> IFC, EBRD & CDC. (2020). *Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Harassment: Emerging Good Practice for the Private Sector*. Available at: [https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/f1645167-7eff-439b-922b-7656c75320ab/GPN\\_AddressGBVH\\_July2020.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=nd-dokis](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/f1645167-7eff-439b-922b-7656c75320ab/GPN_AddressGBVH_July2020.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=nd-dokis).

<sup>121</sup> Available at: [https://www.unicef.org/eca/sites/unicef.org/eca/files/2019-02/NHRI\\_ComplaintMechanisms.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/eca/sites/unicef.org/eca/files/2019-02/NHRI_ComplaintMechanisms.pdf)

<sup>122</sup> Available at: <https://www.keepingchildrensafe.global/blog/category/resource-library/>

## VII. Conclusions


Different factors may increase the risk of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and other vulnerable groups within the context of large infrastructure and development projects. However, although the fight against sexual exploitation is the co-responsibility of various sectors of society **IDB Invest** and **Childhood Brasil** are certain that companies can play a decisive role in preventing and mitigating these risks, and in offering protection to these groups.

The almost two decade long experience of **Childhood Brasil** advising private sector partners in the protection of children and adolescents against sexual exploitation in Brazil is the foundation for the recommendations set forth in this Guide. The experience in the Latin America and the Caribbean has allowed **IDB Invest** to extend this methodology to further consider the protection of other vulnerable groups and includes suggestions for applying it in agribusiness and tourism projects.

Affirming a clear commitment against sexual exploitation, understanding the reality of the territory, evaluating the risks of adding to or causing negative impacts, working with internal and external **Agents**, securing financial and human resources, sharing the results with internal and external **Agents**, creating a team of Multipliers and relying

on the support of specialized **Technical Partner(s)** are some of the key components presented in the methodology.

**IDB Invest** and **Childhood Brasil** expects this Guide will inspire different companies in adopting practical measures that reaffirm their commitment to achieving positive development impacts and long term social and environmental sustainability. ●



[www.childhood.org.br](http://www.childhood.org.br)  
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## Specialized Note on the History and Experience of Childhood Brasil

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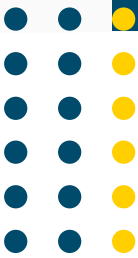
**Childhood Brasil** has been working in partnership with the private sector since 2005 offering advice and supporting the sector to end sexual violence against children and adolescents to happen as an impact of their businesses or their value chains. The work with large enterprises began in 2007 and, since then, **Childhood Brasil** has been accumulating experiences that consolidated in a methodology for preventing and fighting sexual exploitation against children and adolescents in the context of development projects.

This **Specialized Note** presents **Childhood Brasil's** experience with the **Major Infrastructure Program** (Programa Grandes Empreendimentos), and the main **Lessons Learned** of the organization, accumulated in almost two decades. It also includes a **Cases** section, in which private sector partners who were part of this history share their experiences, challenges and recommendations. The **Methodology for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents** presented in this Manual is the result of **Childhood Brasil's** experience with the **Major Infrastructure Program**.

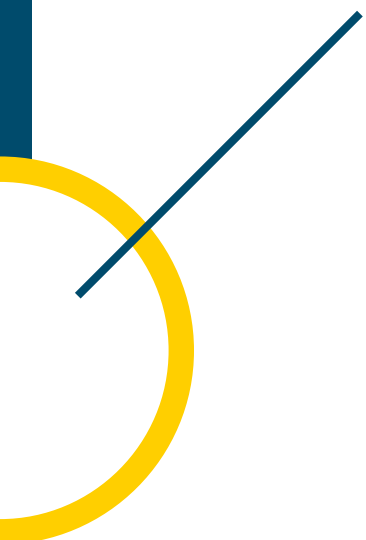
### BACKGROUND OF THE MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (PROGRAMA GRANDES EMPREENDIMENTOS)

**Childhood Brasil's** work with major infrastructure projects began in 2007. At that time, the organization was already recognized for developing consistent initiatives with the public and private sectors. In the public sector, **Childhood Brasil** worked with projects to help local networks promote and protect the rights of children and adolescents. In the private sector, the organization connected partnerships and institutional actions with lodging facilities and was a pioneer in launching a program aimed at fighting sexual exploitation of children and adolescents on Brazilian highways. The [On the Right Track Program \(Programa Na Mão Certa\)](#) brought together companies and business entities from the logistics and road cargo transport sector in an innovative way through a business pact.

The organization's 14-year period working in large enterprises has provided it with a vast amount of knowledge and its journey has been rich in experiences, knowledge

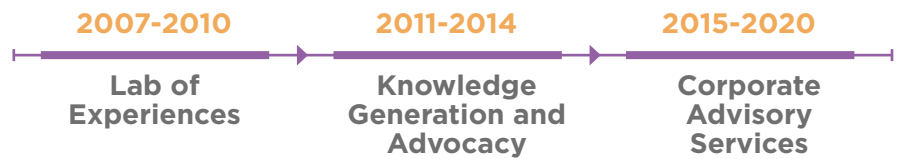






generation and advisory services that companies can use to implement solid strategies in their operation areas. Each experience had value in consolidating the work method.

In order to describe each learning stage of this process, a timeline of **Childhood Brasil's** work with the **Major Infrastructure Program** is presented in three main stages:



## 2007 - 2010

### Lab of Experiences

The first years of work within the context of major infrastructure projects and large enterprises were vital in structuring the work strategy in this sector. The organization has strengthened municipalities that have hosted large construction sites, conducted research on worker profiles, set up discussion groups and entered into partnerships with companies to create pilot work methods.

**Childhood Brasil** received an invitation from **Alcoa** in 2007 to contribute to a set of actions to mitigate the social impact caused by the construction of a bauxite mine, a railroad and a port in the Municipality of Juruti, Pará. The prospect was for a massive migration of male labor required for the infrastructure project, to enter a city that did not have the necessary

services and public policies to respond to the rapid changes that would be caused by the arrival of the project and would have a profound impact on the region.

**Childhood Brasil's** contribution was to implement the *Weaving the Net (Tecendo a Rede)* Project aimed at structuring public policies that could guarantee the prevention and give assistance to children, adolescents and families in situations of domestic and sexual violence. The project required making a local analysis of the system guaranteeing the rights of children and adolescents, raising awareness, training and following-up on case studies. In addition, it promoted the collective preparation of the Municipal Ten-Year Plan for Fighting Domestic and Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents in Juruti (2010-2019).

Although the work of

**Childhood Brasil** in the municipality raised the visibility and attention given to the issue of sexual violence against children and adolescents, it was not enough to simply prepare the public network of child and adolescent protection for the impact of the construction work. With its background in training and the awareness that **Childhood Brasil** had raised with truck drivers through the **On the Right Track Program**, it held the first discussions with the project leaders and workers.

The emergence of a local sex market that includes children and adolescents, in addition to cases reported by the community and an increase in police reports make it evident that the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents manifests itself and increases as a negative and atrocious effect in the construction sites of large infrastructure projects. This observation led **Childhood Brasil** to look into creating a consistent and replicable method in partnership with other companies in the sector.

In 2009 **Childhood Brasil**, **Construções e Comércio Camargo Corrêa** which was already involved in the On the Right Track Program, and the **Camargo Corrêa Institute** formed a partnership to develop a pilot project to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents within the context of the construction of the Jirau Hydroelectric Power Plant in the territory of Porto Velho, Rondônia.

The immense size of the project and the fact that it was in its early stages has made the hydroelectric plant a natural choice for testing some working cases by the teams involved in the project.

The project in Jirau involved creating an extensive local analysis of the system to guarantee the rights of children and adolescents in the municipality and to strengthen these services, actions to raise awareness of the cause aimed at the project managers, meetings to find opportunities to include the topic in planned communication and engagement activities, and the training of professionals interested in sharing knowledge about sexual exploitation with the workers on the construction sites.

Along with the pilot project in Jirau, **Childhood Brasil** invested in a national survey to increase its knowledge of the workers at large construction sites, the context in which they lived, and the circumstances of their involvement with situations of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. The survey titled “**The Men Behind Large Construction Projects**” helped identify and understand the risk behaviors of the workers, offering subsidies for the development of the methodology and definition of the contents of awareness and citizen education for these professionals (See [Box The Men Behind Large Construction Projects](#)). Such information was vital in creating a closer connection with this audience.

## Box 14

## The Men Behind Large Construction Projects

The survey “**The Men Behind Large Construction Projects**” conducted in 2009 was an unprecedented dive into the lives of workers employed in large infrastructure projects in Brazil. The study, carried out through a partnership between **Childhood Brasil** and the Federal Universities of Sergipe and Rio Grande do Sul, covered five states and 228 workers. The goal was to verify the occurrence and involvement of workers with sexual exploitation of children and adolescents by this group and to understand the social, economic, cultural and identity aspects that facilitate or aggravate the problem.

The first target was reached through a numerical confirmation of the presence of this violation of rights within the environment of large construction sites. Of the workers interviewed, 66.9% said that their colleagues consort with children under the age of 18, and 25.4% said that they had paid for sexual intercourse once or more with children and/or teenagers.<sup>123</sup>

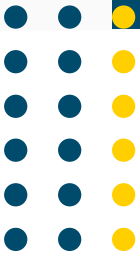
Within this group, the survey pinpointed a marked concept of masculinity with discourses that gave emphasis to excitement, domination and pleasure in gender relations, and that ignore the special developmental condition of children and adolescents. For most, having sex with this group is seen as something normal and they do not consider their actions a crime. Moreover, many justify their attitude by claiming to “help” the families in the community by buying the sexual services of their daughters or sons.

This translation of their identity and their power in the community is reinforced by the condition of “peon,”<sup>124</sup> a stigma that carries a double meaning. On the one hand, these men are discriminated against because they are considered outsiders, people with no ties and, therefore, have no commitments or responsibility. On the other hand, they are welcomed because they have money and consume, which boosts the local economy.

The role of outsider, adventurer, and stranger mix in as such with the idea of a hardworking, high-achieving, and brave per-

<sup>123</sup> Childhood Brasil (2009). O Homem Por Trás das Grandes Obras do Brasil. Available at: [https://www.childhood.org.br/pge\\_bidinvest](https://www.childhood.org.br/pge_bidinvest)

<sup>124</sup> “Peon” means construction worker in Brazilian slang.



son. The construction site work, however, is a major source of dissatisfaction among most of these men. The long and exhausting workload, the periods away from their family, their hometown, and the conditions in which they live in the lodgings, cause frustration and discouragement. Drugs, alcohol, and sex become options for leisure and relaxation in this reality. This and other data from the survey showed that ordinary men, when subjected to an environment of too much pressure and too little care, are capable of getting involved in cases of violence against children and adolescents.

The outcome of the survey confirms the presence of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents within the context of large construction projects:<sup>125</sup>

- 97.2% claimed that prostitution is present in the construction sites where they work.
- 97.2% said that their co-workers go out with prostitutes.
- 56.7% of those interviewed reported consorting with prostitutes.
- 57.3% of those interviewed reported witnessing or having witnessed children and adolescents prostituting themselves near the construction sites.
- 66.9% of those interviewed stated that their colleagues consort with people under the age of 18.
- 25.4% claimed to have paid for sexual relations once or more with children and/or adolescents.

The results of the survey and the lessons learned in Juruti and Jirau subsidized the design of their own institutional methodology and communication materials to raise the awareness of workers, train multipliers and engage partner companies and suppliers of the projects, all under the umbrella of the Large Construction Program (Programa Grandes Obras).

With the objective of “uniting governments, companies, and social organizations to help fight the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in large construction projects,” the Program developed internal actions (such as raising the awareness of professionals and the supply chain) and external actions (within the communities in the direct area of influence).

<sup>125</sup> Childhood Brasil (2009). O Homem Por Trás das Grandes Obras do Brasil. Available at: [https://www.childhood.org.br/pge\\_bidinvest](https://www.childhood.org.br/pge_bidinvest)

## 2011-2014

### Knowledge Generation and Advocacy

This period was marked by heavy investments in large construction projects in Brazil. The projects stemmed from actions such as the Growth Acceleration Program (PAC in Portuguese), PAC2, and “Minha Casa, Minha Vida” (“My House, My Life”) Program, and from the country’s preparation to host major sports events such as the World Cup in 2014 and the Olympics in 2016.

While the Large Construction Program continued to advise companies, it began to work with other partners in advocacy actions, on efforts to include the issue of sexual exploitation of children and adolescent into the sector’s regulatory and legal frameworks. The accelerated pace of implementation of large infrastructure projects in the country and the agenda of major international sporting events in Brazil, drew the attention of the government and other civil society organizations and research institutions regarding the issue of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

Working to protect children and adolescents from situations of sexual exploitation in both these scenarios necessarily

involved building bridges and creating intersectoral solutions by strengthening local public services, networking with civil society organizations, and providing clear guidelines to ensure a responsible attitude by the companies. **Childhood Brasil** started not only to actively participate in discussion forums on this subject but also to promote intersectoral meetings and key research in an attempt to gather more knowledge on the subject.

This second stage of the institutional trajectory culminated with a broad strategic plan where the Project por Construction was revisited and its name was changed to **Major Infrastructure Program (Programa Grandes Empreendimentos)**, comprising the entire cycle of development projects.

### 2011

- **Charter of Porto Velho:** Attendance in the national meeting promoted by the National Committee to Fight Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents in the city of Porto Velho to discuss the social impact caused by the Jirau and Santo Antônio dams, with emphasis on the issue of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. This meeting led to the Charter of Porto Velho<sup>126</sup> and fostered the national and intersectoral debate for the creation of solutions to prevent

<sup>126</sup> Comitê Nacional de Enfrentamento da Violência Sexual Contra Crianças e Adolescentes (2011). Letter from Porto Velho. Available at: [https://www.childhood.org.br/pge\\_bidinvest](https://www.childhood.org.br/pge_bidinvest)

and fight sexual exploitation as a direct impact of the new infrastructure projects connected to the Growth Acceleration Program (PAC), PAC2, and the My House, My Life Program, in addition to the sporting events the country was going to host.

- **Sexual Exploitation and Major Infrastructure Projects: National Experiences to Mitigate The Impact” Workshop:** A workshop was held with 14 organizations so they could come together to make a combined effort to create a convergence matrix, including the formatting of a proposal for a pedagogical policy of approach and the development of materials for program application. This work was the foundation for the creation of the Convergence Agenda for Major Infrastructure Projects<sup>127</sup> led by the Federal Government’s Special Human Rights Department.

## 2012

- **Support for the National Network Workshop for the protection of the human rights of children and adolescents,** which sought to build strategic civil society actions to strengthen the Rights Assurance System for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Children and Adolescents within the context of Mega Sporting Events.

## 2013

- Publication of the **Business Guidelines for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents within the Context of Major Infrastructure Projects Cycle 2013**<sup>128</sup> in partnership with the Center for Sustainability Studies of the Getúlio Vargas Foundation (GVCes) and the Research Group on Human Rights and Business of GV Law (GDHeH).

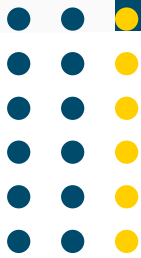
## 2014

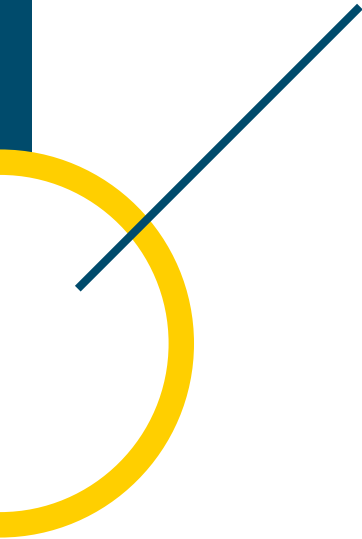
- Publication of the **Corporate Guidelines for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents Within the Context of Major Infrastructure Projects Cycle 2014**<sup>129</sup> in partnership with the Center for Sustainability Studies of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (GVCes) and the Research Group on Human Rights and Business of GV Law (GDHeH) through four meetings with companies interested in building strategies and guidelines for the inclusion of the topic of comprehensive protection of children and adolescents in business management, within the context of the setup or operation of large undertakings.
- Participation in the creation of the **Convergence Agenda**, an unprecedented initiative that brought together 35 organizations, including ministries, civil society organizations and international organizations

<sup>127</sup> Women’s, Family and Human Rights Ministry of the Federal Government of Brazil. (2018). Convergence Agenda. Available at: [https://www.childhood.org.br/pge\\_bidinvest](https://www.childhood.org.br/pge_bidinvest)

<sup>128</sup> FGV & Local DI (2013). Geração de Valor Compartilhado a Partir da Proteção Integral de Crianças e Adolescentes: Uma proposta de diretrizes empresariais no contexto de grandes empreendimentos. Available at: [https://www.childhood.org.br/pge\\_bidinvest](https://www.childhood.org.br/pge_bidinvest)

<sup>129</sup> FGV & Local DI (2014). Geração de Valor Compartilhado a Partir da Proteção Integral de Crianças e Adolescentes no Contexto de Grandes Empreendimentos. Available at: [https://www.childhood.org.br/pge\\_bidinvest](https://www.childhood.org.br/pge_bidinvest)





to develop a common agenda for child protection within the context of major sporting events and the construction of large projects. The **Convergence Agenda** was an initiative of the then Human Rights Department of the Presidency of the Republic in partnership with **Childhood Brasil**, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Itaú Social Foundation.

- **Partnership with the Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro (Rio 2016)** to encourage discussions and roundtables to discuss strategies and measures to protect the rights of children and adolescents before and during the Olympic Games.
- New **2015-2020 Strategic Planning of the Major Infrastructure Program** cycle.

greatest risk for sexual exploitation, a successful intervention needs to ensure that care starts before and continues after operational startup. At different scales, maintenance downtime, corporate travel and significant logistical volume also have a negative impact on children and adolescents. Therefore, based on the new strategic plan of the **Major Infrastructure Program**, **Childhood Brasil** is now looking at the project as a whole, considering all its stages, from the impact study phase through to construction execution and stay during the operational phase in order to leave a positive legacy in the territory.

Based on these principles, this period was marked by the advisory services provided by **Childhood Brasil** to four large companies, **Klabin, Suzano, Portocel** and **LD Celulose**, for the development of strategies to protect children and adolescents in line with the methodology set forth in this Guide (See [Cases](#)).

**Childhood Brasil** Brazil has not stopped working towards generating knowledge and carrying out advocacy actions. **The Human Rights Impact Assessment Handbook** was launched in 2017 through a partnership with the Human Rights and Business Group (GDHeE) and the São Paulo Law School (Direito SP).<sup>130</sup> The publication is aimed at guiding companies in the infrastructure sector on how to prevent actions that adversely impact the lives of children and adolescents,

## 2015-2020

### Advisory Services for More Complex Practices

The lessons learned from previous phases showed that a major project may involve infrastructure work, the installation of industrial centers, tourist complexes, power plants, manufacturing units and port operations. Although the construction period represents the

<sup>130</sup> FGV & Childhood Brasil. (2017). Avaliação De Impacto Em Direitos Humanos: O Que As Empresas Devem Fazer Para Respeitar Os Direitos De Crianças E Adolescentes (Human Rights Impact Assessment: What Companies must do to Respect the Rights of Children and Adolescents). Available at: [https://www.childhood.org.br/pge\\_bidinvest](https://www.childhood.org.br/pge_bidinvest)

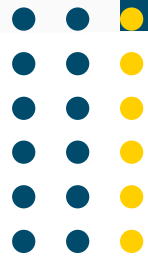
## CHILDHOOD

PELA PROTEÇÃO DA INFÂNCIA

in addition to encouraging the creation of public protection policies. The handbook was developed collaboratively and provides an impact assessment matrix to assist large developments in risk assessment as well as in the development of plans to respect human rights.

Out of the many advocacy actions in this period, **Childhood Brasil** helped to draw up the **Protocol of Actions for the Protection of Children and Adolescents within the Context of Projects and Enterprises** through the **Convergence Agenda** coordinated by the then National Department for the Rights of Children and Adolescents of the then Human Rights Ministry. This discussion culminated in the approval and publication of Resolution no. 215 by the National Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents (CONANDA) in 2018 that provides for Parameters and Actions for the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents within the Context of Projects and Enterprises.<sup>131</sup> The Resolution defines actions and establishes specific recommendations for public authorities, companies, civil society, and financial institutions for large infrastructure projects that require that special attention be given to children and adolescents, who may be victims of serious violations such as sexual exploitation.

<sup>131</sup> Ministry of Human Rights/ National Department of Rights of Children and Adolescents/General Coordination of the National Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents. Federal Government of Brazil (2018). RESOLUTION NO. 215, OF NOVEMBER 22, 2018. Federal Official Journal. Available at: [https://www.childhood.org.br/pge\\_bidinvest](https://www.childhood.org.br/pge_bidinvest)





## Lessons Learned

**Childhood Brasil's** experience in large projects is extensive. By conducting surveys, liaising with public authorities, and advising the private sector, its learning comprises all the complexities of preventing and fighting sexual violence against children and adolescents with emphasis on the risk factor of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in this context. The development and consolidation of this experience is the foundation for the working methodology included in this publication.

Over these 14 years, **Childhood Brasil** has gathered a series of lessons with respect to the vulnerabilities of children and adolescents, the influence of the territory in such vulnerabilities, the threats posed to vulnerable populations by the lack of worker care, and the importance of including this issue as a corporate value for ensuring the protection of children and adolescents.

A summary of the main lessons learned are presented below:

### **Large projects can increase the vulnerability of children and adolescents to sexual exploitation**

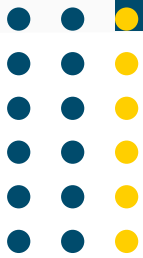
- Social impact assessments elaborated in a context of environmental licensing rarely includes a look at childhood and adolescence.
- Children and adolescents, because of their special developmental condition, are the first group to suffer these impacts the most.
- Major infrastructure projects exacerbate some pre-existing situations of risk and vulnerability and contribute to an increase in cases of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- The sexual exploitation of children and adolescents is a complex and multi-causal phenomenon that requires a look at the different players involved, the available structures and existing relationships from a more cooperative aspect by developing external partnerships and working with civil organizations.
- When protecting children and adolescents from sexual exploitation is not part of a public commitment from the company's senior management it is more challenging to establish prevention and risk mitigation measures.

### **Territorial fragilities increase the vulnerability of children and adolescents**

- The normalization of sexual violence against children and adolescents in a territory exposes children and adolescents to higher levels of risk.
- Pre-existing networks of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents increases the risk of involvement of children and adolescents in the territory and neighboring municipalities.
- The demand for jobs generated by the project is hardly ever met by the local population, which engenders a significant inflow of predominantly male labor to the region.
- Massive worker migration has a major impact on a local community.
- The temporary surge in population due to the project raises the demand for basic social services in the communities surrounding the construction sites, which are often already insufficient for the local population.
- Fragile or absent services and public policies to ensure the rights of children and adolescents leaves children and adolescents with marginal care.
- A lack of integration of child and adolescent support services through predefined flows and protocols hinders suitable care.
- Poorly articulated or nonexistent civil society organizations do not lead to actions and measures to guarantee the rights of children and adolescents.
- Strengthening local public policies helps prevent and protect children and adolescents from sexual violence.

### **The lack of care for the worker increases the risk of their involvement in situations of sexual exploitation.**

- Dealing with the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents requires a huge amount of effort to change the beliefs, values,



and behaviors of the group of workers regarding sex, sexuality, gender, and human rights in order to denormalize behaviors that are ingrained in their minds.

- It is essential to take care of the worker's quality of life, their lodgings and leisure offers, as well as to reduce the time between home visits.
- The position against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents must be made clear at the time of integration of workers from all hierarchical levels.
- The strategies to raise awareness and engage workers in the protection of children and adolescents must be done by organizing discussions and citizen training, in which the issue of sexual exploitation is addressed inserting the issue into topics of interest to workers.
- Addressing issues of human rights and workers' life humanizes work relations, improves the relationship with the community, and reduces the risk of involvement in situations of sexual exploitation.
- Outsourced companies and suppliers of the project also need to be involved in worker awareness actions.

**The social impact management framework of projects must guarantee the protection of children and adolescents**

- The inclusion of the protection of children and adolescents from sexual violence, encompassing the mission, value, codes of conduct, contractual clauses, and indicators in the sustainability plans, is essential to guaranteeing the deployment of actions.
- The commitment of the senior management is crucial in ensuring the implementation of the **Intervention Project**.
- Although corporate social responsibility and the sustainability agenda are already part of the companies' reality, there is a gap between the implementation of the **Intervention Project** and the implementation of programs

and projects that aim to mitigate or prevent the impacts.

- It is necessary to involve the entire value chain of the project such as employees and suppliers.
- The sooner the work to mitigate the risks of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents begins, the better the results will be.
- The successful implementation of protection actions for children and adolescents involves ensuring suitable human and financial resources.

## Cases



- **COMPANY:** Camargo Corrêa Infra (CC Infra)
- **SECTOR:** Construction/Infrastructure
- **LOCATION:** Started in Porto Velho, Rondônia but has expanded into other projects in Brazil.
- **PARTNERSHIP WITH CHILDHOOD BRASIL: Large Projects for Childhood Program (Programa Grandes Obras pela Infância - PGOI):** Preventing and fighting sexual violence against children and adolescents.
- **PERIOD OF PARTNERSHIP:** 2010-2015

### How was the Large Projects for Childhood Program created?

The **Large Projects for Childhood Program (PGOI)** was created in 2010 by **Construções e Comércio Camargo Corrêa**, known as **Camargo Corrêa Infra (CC Infra)** since 2017, with the purpose of developing actions to prevent and fight the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the municipalities where large construction projects are under way or are managed by the construction company. Developed through a partnership with **Childhood Brasil** and the Camargo Corrêa Institute,<sup>132</sup> the main actions of the **PGOI** included the development of integration policies for local workers, raising workers' awareness of the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents as a violation of their rights, and strengthening the local policy and network for protecting the rights of children and adolescents.<sup>133</sup>

### How have the principles of child and adolescent protection been incorporated into the company's management process?

The **PGOI** was restructured in 2015<sup>134</sup> to become a management system process used for all projects in which the company was the consortium leader.<sup>135</sup> The **PGOI** is implemented whenever a new construction project is planned and proposed in a bidding process and its planning considers the characteristics of the surrounding area. The company recognizes that even with different levels of vulnerability, all are small municipalities, which have some amount of risk that can be aggravated by a large construction project that brings into the area thousands of professionals from other places. The main actions include awareness-raising activities and the training of the internal audience and suppliers through multipliers, as well as the strengthening of local institutions - either public or from civil society

<sup>132</sup> The Camargo Corrêa Institute is a non-profit organization responsible for Camargo Corrêa Infra's social investment initiatives with its partners.

<sup>133</sup> Instituto Camargo Correa & Childhood Brasil. (2015) Grande Obras Pela Infância. Available at: [https://camargocorreainfra.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Livro\\_PGOI\\_8\\_digital-Final-.pdf](https://camargocorreainfra.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Livro_PGOI_8_digital-Final-.pdf)

<sup>134</sup> The information below was gathered from interviews conducted by Childhood and IDB Invest with CC Infra employees.

<sup>135</sup> A consortium refers to an association of different companies that come together to work on the same project. These companies may or not be under the same leadership of one or more companies that are part of the consortium.

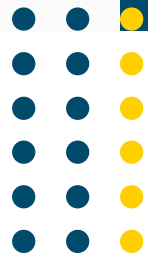
- that deal with this issue inside the areas where they operate. Although the internal area of the company in charge of implementing the project is socio-environmental management, all employees, including the senior management, are responsible for the success of the initiative.

In 2019, **CC Infra** created a social key performance indicator (KPI) to be used in all its projects that includes as a key variable the implementation of **PGOI**. The company was also a pioneer in creating the “Socio-Environmental Golden Rules,”<sup>136</sup> a set of six rules that apply to all workers and subcontractors. The sixth rule mentions zero tolerance for sexual violence, with the clear consequence of immediate dismissal if confirmed. **CC Infra** also has a code of ethics and conduct applied to all workers, who sign the receipt and acceptance of the rules at the time of employment. The execution of the **PGOI** is valued by the construction company’s clients because it enables risks to be identified early and a structured plan for the implementation of actions to protect children and adolescents within the project to be drawn up. In cases where the client stays longer in the territory, the implementation of the **PGOI** favors the establishment of a good relationship with the municipality starting at the construction stage of the project and enduring into the operational phase.

### What are your main recommendations for other companies?

- The commitment of senior management is essential to ensuring that the protection of children and adolescents from sexual exploitation is part of the company’s values.
- Communication about the project and the company’s values need to be made very clear with all stakeholders.
- Conducting the study and risk assessment of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the territory is crucial to structuring and planning the intervention.
- Having an annual calendar to address the topic with quarterly campaigns keeps the matter on the agenda.
- Working only with the internal audience is not very effective. It is essential to work inside and outside the walls of the company simultaneously.

<sup>136</sup> For more information about CC Infra’s Socio-Environmental Golden Rules, visit: <https://camargocorreainfra.com/camargo-correa-infra-implanta-novas-regras-de-ouro-socioambientais/>





**Klabin**

- **COMPANY:** KLABIN
- **SECTOR:** Pulp and Paper Production
- **PROJECT:** PUMA PROJECT Setup of an industrial complex for pulp and paper production.
- **LOCATION:** Ortigueira (project site), Telêmaco Borba and Imbaú (municipalities in DAI) in Paraná.
- **PARTNERSHIP WITH CHILDHOOD BRASIL: Puma Project For Childhood** (Projeto Puma Pela Infância): Preventing and fighting sexual violence against children and adolescents.
- **PERIOD OF PARTNERSHIP:** 2015 - 2017

**How is the issue of sexual exploitation against children and adolescents part of the company’s culture?**

The protection of children and adolescents is included in **Klabin’s** Code of Conduct through its positioning against any type of slave and child labor. The company believes sexual exploitation falls under this category because it is considered one of the worst forms of child labor by the ILO. Since this issue is well developed by the corporate policies and codes, there was no internal resistance towards working for the protection of children and adolescents against sexual exploitation in the projects. However, every plant requires a different response that is tailored to the risks of that specific territory and size of project. The number of workers combined with the lack of local services are considered important factors in this equation.

**What is the impact of investing in quality housing from the point of view of the protection of children and adolescents against sexual exploitation?**

In **Project PUMA**, the company invested in the quality of the accommodations to guarantee comfort for the workers and reduce the risk of sexual exploitation and violence. The accommodations are now called ‘residential’ and offer hotel services - cafeteria, snack bar, outpatient clinic, an intense schedule of sports and recreational activities, free internet, and rooms with good quality furniture. By offering access to the internet and quality accommodations, fewer employees leave the lodgings (and do not visit or seek leisure activities in the communities). Campaigns and informative actions in this area have helped to reinforce this topic.

A survey conducted by **Childhood Brasil** with **PUMA Project** workers in 2015 suggests that there is a relationship between good housing conditions and decreased involvement in situations of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. The comparative data with the National Sample of Large Infrastructure Project Workers (See [Box The Men Behind Large Construction Projects](#)) reveal that **PUMA Project** workers are more satisfied with personal conditions and with aspects related to the quality of working conditions. From the behavioral point of view, although there are reports of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, there is low self-reporting when compared to the national sample. The workers associate the local conditions with a drop in the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. Such conditions include the structure of the construction site and accommodations but also the related community aspects, with higher income in the region and a more established guarantee of rights system.<sup>137</sup>

#### What are your main recommendations for other companies?

- Knowing the territory and the community is important to understand what kind of actions make sense in that context.
- Engaging and raising the awareness of managers and the supply chain broadens the scope of the message in relation to ways to promote the protection of children and adolescents' rights.
- Performing actions inside and outside the company (Internal and External), in an integrated way, makes a difference when reaching for more consistent results.

<sup>137</sup> Universidade Federal de Sergipe. (2015). Relatório de pesquisa com trabalhadores do Projeto PUMA, Klabin em Orti-gueira, Paraná.





- **COMPANY:** SUZANO
- **SECTOR:** Pulp & Paper
- **PROJECT:** Construction of a eucalyptus pulp production plant
- **LOCATION:** Três Lagoas, in Mato Grosso do Sul
- **PARTNERSHIP WITH CHILDHOOD BRASIL: Agent of Good Movement** (Movimento Agente do Bem): Preventing and fighting sexual violence against children and adolescents
- **PERIOD OF PARTNERSHIP:** 2016- 2018

**What were the challenges faced in implementing the Internal Actions?**

With the help of **Childhood Brasil**, the company realized that one of the most relevant risk factors in the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents would be the migration of approximately 9,000 men to work at the construction site of the project, most with no ties to the municipality. In order to raise the awareness of the workers, it was first planned to train one multiplier per construction site supplier. However, many of these companies were very small and not all were willing to work on this topic. The decision was then made to train strategic multipliers within **Suzano**, such as the social assistant from the company's **Service Center**, and the safety coordinator responsible for managing supplier contracts. Both made sure that the matter reached the workers that the Agent of Good team did not reach. In addition to them, 13 other multipliers were trained among the supplier companies to work on the front line.

The **Service Center** is the area responsible for managing the entire industrial administrative infrastructure in a standardized manner. It is responsible for executing the services of mobilization and demobilization of personnel, access control and accreditation, transport management, accommodation, republics, restaurants, social center, ombudsman, introductory training, organization of events and awards.

Since the start of the construction work, citizenship workshops were held with workers and suppliers - and, for foreign employees, the

material was translated into English. Since this is a complex and difficult subject to approach, the choice was to work with information that referred to prevention, encouraging the exercise of citizenship, and inviting people to become “Agents of Good.” All activities and events planned by the company were mapped and used for the **Intervention Project’s** actions. In the citizen training workshops, sexual violence against children and adolescents was present across the board in conversations about topics of interest to the workers: citizenship, health, family, drugs, and alcohol. Truck drivers were also involved in raising awareness thanks to the company’s involvement in the **On the Right Track Program** (see [Box On The Right Track Program](#)).

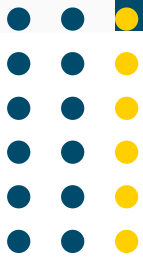
In all, 25,784 employees were impacted by the contents of Citizen Training and 585 truck drivers through the **On the Right Track Program**. Besides disseminating the protection of children and adolescents, this project has also helped improve interpersonal relationships between the people and the company.

### How can the Agent of Good Movement be implemented in other enterprises of the company?

**Suzano’s** experience has proved that its existence in any municipality must be combined with respect for the rights of children and adolescents. In 2018, the **Agent of Good Movement** received a national award, the Neide Castanha national award, due to its relevant social responsibility value. In 2019, **Suzano** joined the **On the Right Track Program** expanding the strategy of protecting children and adolescents beyond construction sites and, as of 2021, the **Agent of Good Movement** will be a Program that will gradually introduce the strategy into all the municipalities where **Suzano** operates and that are priorities for the company. The priorities are analyzed according to the social vulnerability indexes and the importance and impact of the company’s operations in the municipality. Even if a particular undertaking does not have the same budget as a construction project, it is possible to develop mechanisms and simpler ways to get started but that promote the same kind of engagement and contribute to local public policies for the protection of children and adolescents within the municipality.

### What are your main recommendations for other companies?

- It is common for children and adolescents not to appear in socio-environmental impact studies or in the environmental conditions of licensing processes. Even if the institutional policy on human rights does not say anything specific about or for this audience, the issue of child and adolescent protection can usually be supported by this



guideline and can be considered within the reputational risk of the company during the construction project.

- The inclusion of social and environmental issues within the governance of the project's construction management is crucial when working with assistance for children and adolescents. The involvement of the company's CEO in presenting the project's progress to suppliers in Brazil and around the world was extremely important in placing the movement on the same level of relevance as the stages of construction work and the actions to protect the rights of children and adolescents.
- The work involved in fighting the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents must be considered within the complexity and logistics of the project.
- It is extremely important for the purpose of priority for the company to have a targeted, technically prepared team, who is fully aware of the issue.



- **COMPANY:** PORTOCEL
- **SECTOR:** Port
- **PROJECT:** Aracruz Port Terminal Operation
- **LOCATION:** Aracruz, Espírito Santo
- **PARTNERSHIP WITH CHILDHOOD BRASIL: Project LD for Rights (Projeto LD pelos Direitos):** Agent of Good Movement: Preventing and fighting sexual violence against children and adolescents and women.
- **PERIOD OF PARTNERSHIP:** 2018-2021

### Why did Portocel decide to take up the cause of protection of children and adolescents against sexual exploitation and why did it understand that this would be important in a port operation?

**Portocel** manages a port operation in the city of Aracruz, and is controlled by two large companies in the pulp and paper sector: **Suzano** and **Cenibra**. The successful implementation of the “Agent of Good” movement in Três Lagoas (see the [Suzano case](#)) has led the company to expand its activities to other types of projects where the risk of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents might be a factor.

The **Agent of Good Movement** in Aracruz started from the recognition that the high volume of people connected to the port activities could aggravate the risk of sexual exploitation in the vicinity of the Port. Considering that the company’s operation is long term, **Portocel** saw the opportunity to start a discussion about the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents to create a safer future.

### How was the work in the area performed?

Aracruz’s study and risk assessment pinpointed challenges and shortcomings of public services in the care of children and adolescent victims of sexual exploitation and the guarantee of their rights. Through the **Agent of Good Movement**, meetings were organized with the Mayor and the main municipal departments to validate the study and present the **Intervention Project** with the aim of securing the commitment and involvement of the local public authority with the planned “External Actions.”

With support from **Childhood Brasil**, a situational diagnosis of sexual violence against children and adolescents was conducted in the municipality of Aracruz in 2018 and training sessions were held with the main public services for child and adolescent care and the prevention of sexual violence. In 2019, working groups were set up to support the development of a Municipal Plan to Fight Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents with clear attributions and integrated flows to offer support services to children and adolescent victims of sexual violence. In September 2020, the Municipal Plan was approved by means of the publication of Municipal Law no. 4.325 (published on September 24 in the Federal Official Journal of the Municipalities of Espírito Santo) opening opportunities for the Municipality to gather the funds to address sexual violence. The consolidation of this plan is a positive legacy of **Portocel** in Aracruz.

#### **What are your main recommendations for other companies?**

- The principles of social responsibility and sustainability need to be part of the company's values.
- The commitment of senior management is vital in engaging all audiences and maintaining the investment in times of crisis - such as the coronavirus pandemic.
- It is crucial to secure resources and have an in-house team dedicated to developing the **Intervention Project**.
- The involvement and awareness of frontline workers are crucial elements in preventing situations of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the area.



- **COMPANY:** LD CELLULOSE
- **SECTOR:** Pulp and Paper Production
- **PROJECT: Amadeus Project:** New soluble pulp plant
- **LOCATION:** Indianópolis (headquarters), Estrela do Sul and Araguari (DAI) in Minas Gerais
- **PARTNERSHIP WITH CHILDHOOD BRASIL: Project LD for Rights (Projeto LD pelos Direitos):** Prevent sexual violence against children and adolescents and violence against women.
- **PERIOD OF PARTNERSHIP:** 2019-2022

### What are the advantages of developing a child and adolescent protection strategy in the construction planning stage?

**LD Celulose** began its partnership with **Childhood Brasil** during the planning stage of the project, before the start of the construction. This ensured more time for the stages of study and risk assessment and the planning of actions within the **Intervention Project**.

The study and risk assessment of the **Amadeus Project** revealed that the issue of sexual harassment and exploitation of children and adolescents posed a significant risk due to the massive inflow of people to the region. The peak of the project anticipates 6,000 to 8,000 workers, mostly non-residents in the direct area of influence. The project planning included benchmarking with local companies in the sector to study the best market practices and to boost the **Intervention Project** within the project. This survey influenced the choice of some actions, such as the establishment of residential model accommodations, the creation of an internal **Management Committee**, the creation of a socio-economic monitoring committee with the involvement of the municipalities in the DAI, the adhesion to the [On the Right Track Program](#) to reach truck drivers and help in disseminating in the area the public policies for the protection of children and adolescents against sexual violence.

### What was the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on the project's actions?

The Covid-19 Pandemic made the company review the actions planned in the project's DAI with the added challenge of creating a remote awareness model capable of engaging and keeping people "connected" with the protection of children and adolescents against sexual exploitation. The decision was made to prioritize the actions within the company, starting with the online training and awareness-raising of the **Management Committee** and the internal and administrative teams in 2020, and then the organization of awareness-raising for other workers and suppliers in 2021. Currently, the workers are introduced to this topic at the time of their integration, when it is explained that involvement in situations of sexual violence is inappropriate behavior and repudiated in accordance with the company's public commitment to human rights, especially when perpetrated against women, children, and adolescents.

### What are your main recommendations for other companies?

- Develop a child and adolescent protection strategy as early as possible.
- Get technical advice from someone who is experienced in the human rights of children and adolescents. Even though corporate policies do consider this topic, having professionals who understand the subject has helped to engage other areas.
- Have human rights policies, codes, and guidelines that make sense throughout the organization from the top down to all levels and that emphasize the prevention of sexual exploitation.

## Box 15

## On The Right Track Program

The **On the Right Track Program** was developed by **Childhood Brasil** with the purpose of promoting a wide combined effort to prevent and mitigate risks of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents related to road and waterway cargo transportation in Brazil. When the **Program** was developed in 2006, it brought the *Business Pact against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents on Brazilian Highways (Pacto Empresarial contra a Exploração Sexual de Crianças e Adolescentes nas Rodovias Brasileiras)*,<sup>138</sup> a voluntary public commitment by companies, developed by **Childhood Brasil** in partnership with the Instituto Ethos de Empresas e Responsabilidade Social and the support from the ILO. The **Program** offers support and guidance to companies participating in fulfilling these commitments, in addition to promoting broad intersectoral mobilization.

At the time, demands of the Corporate Social Responsibility agenda constituted a favorable environment for the creation of the initiative that was a precursor to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the SDG. The convergence of the Business Pact with the SDGs is expressed in three main targets: Target 5.2, Target 8.7, and Target 16.2.

The development of this **Program** was motivated from the results of the Research on Trafficking in Women, Children, and Adolescents for Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Brazil (2002),<sup>139</sup> which revealed the existence of 241 routes used for internal and international trafficking of people for sexual purposes. The study also identified truck drivers as “facilitators” of this trafficking and, at the same time, users of prostitution (practiced by adults) and sexual exploitation of children and adolescents on the roads.

With the confirmation that highways were a propitious environment for this violence, and that truck drivers were key actors within this environment, **Childhood Brasil** developed in 2005 the first national survey aimed at creating a profile for truck drivers in Brazil.<sup>140</sup> This study revealed that truck drivers

<sup>138</sup> More information on the Business Pact against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents on Brazilian Highways available at: [http://www.namaocerta.org.br/ing\\_index.php](http://www.namaocerta.org.br/ing_index.php).

<sup>139</sup> EAL, M. L.; LEAL, M. F. (Orgs.). (2002) Pesquisa sobre tráfico de mulheres, crianças e adolescentes para fins de exploração sexual comercial no Brasil. Disponível em: [https://www.childhood.org.br/pge\\_bidinvest](https://www.childhood.org.br/pge_bidinvest)

<sup>140</sup> Childhood Brasil (2005, 2010 & 2015). O Perfil do Caminhoneiro no Brasil. Disponível em: <http://www.namaocerta.org.br/>



admitted having had sexually exploited children or teenagers, even though they knew the practice was wrong, under various justifications, among them the argument of “helping” children or adolescents in situations of poverty. Besides understanding better their relationship with sexual exploitation, the survey brought to light important data about the quality of life and work routine of these professionals. This survey is repeated every 5 years with male drivers randomly approached at gas stations and stopping points in different states of the country to update the data about the trucker profile and to assess changes in relation to involvement with sexual exploitation on the roads. The periodic repetition of this study is also a tool for monitoring and evaluating the impact of the **Program** with the truck drivers. Since the 2010 edition, the survey includes a subgroup of respondents with truck drivers from participating companies.

The research on the profile of truck drivers was a crucial element for the development of the **On the Right Track Program**, bringing as a result an innovative approach that establish the relationship between the workers’ living and working conditions, their role as citizens and the phenomenon of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

Together with the Business Pact, a strategy to raise the awareness of truck drivers was developed through a Continuing Education Project. The implementation of this project is the responsibility of the signatory companies and includes the training of employees to act as multipliers through a training course offered by **Childhood Brasil**. The multipliers’ actions within their companies aim to inform and raise the awareness of truck drivers about how sexual exploitation manifests itself on highways and how to act to protect children and adolescents. The **On the Right Track Program** has developed a series of educational and communication materials to further this dialogue. The materials place the issue of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents on highways into all areas of interest of the truck drivers’ daily life. Since its launch, the **Program** has already reached more than 1 million truck drivers through the member companies.



A new form of participation in the program was created in 2017: the **Waterway Modal**, designed to raise awareness among workers in the waterway modal of cargo transport. The work with waterway workers was created with the objective of expanding the prevention and fight against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents on Brazilian waterways, following the same work methodology but with specific materials targeted at this specific audience.

The recommended approach for cargo transport professionals, whether they are water transport professionals, drivers, and/or truck drivers, is to offer them guidance about the scenario of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents on roads and waterways, and at the same time, to invite them to act as agents for the protection of children and adolescents' rights wherever they go. Even though traveling and with little time to take ongoing action, the cargo transport professional can be responsible for the first step of the reporting process so that the entities in charge can be called into action in accordance with what is provided by law and as described in the official assistance protocols.

Large projects can be responsible for huge gatherings of cargo transport professionals, which represents a risk factor for the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the area. When this is the case, it is recommended to engage those responsible for the logistics operation of the On the Right Track Program and, through trained Multipliers, implement communication and awareness-raising actions for the protection of children and adolescents.



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# Guidelines for the Agribusiness Sector

This Sector Briefing presents specific guidelines for adapting the **Intervention Project** methodology for the agribusiness sector, considering its specific characteristics and the main risks associated with it. It combines **IDB Invest's** experience with social risks and lessons learned from **Childhood Brasil's** methodology for preventing sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

### CORPORATE PUBLIC COMMITMENT

The first, and most essential aspect to consider, is the company's **Corporate Position (Step 1)** regarding the prevention of sexual exploitation and the protection of vulnerable groups and children and adolescents. As shown in the **Step-by-Step** of the **Intervention Project**, the corporate public commitment must be supported by the company's senior management and should be disclosed publicly.

Over the years, many agricultural companies have made a commitment to respecting human rights, especially regarding the risks of labor rights violations, poor working conditions, forced labor conditions, human trafficking for the purpose of forced labor, and child labor.

In most cases these commitments are established as a result of the identification of risks and impacts associated with the

project and are essential in defining measures to prevent and mitigate possible negative impacts.

In other cases, companies have established human rights commitments as part of their corporate social responsibility strategy. In these situations to include clear commitments to prevent sexual exploitation and protect children, adolescents and other vulnerable groups can strengthen the company's corporate position and its positive legacy in the territory.

### PRODUCTION SEASONALITY

Agricultural projects are usually associated with different seasonal periods that require a larger workforce, brought about by the temporary migration of workers who have no ties to the area. In many places, however, due to the development of production technologies, agricultural projects are able to continue being productive all year due to crop rotation. Many enterprises have largely mechanized the planting and harvesting stages but there are certain types of crops that still require a seasonal intake of workers.

As such, the company must first evaluate when the hiring of temporary workers will occur, and better understand their ties (or lack of) to the territory. The surge in incoming workers with no connection to the region can

lead to an increased risk of sexual exploitation. **Territory Mapping (Step 4)** should consider those different periods of production and harvest and estimate the ways in which differences in workers presence in the region can impact the territory and increase risk. The **Internal Actions (Step 5)** should consider such periods, establishing a schedule of activities and actions that are aligned with the seasonality of production, focusing most of the activities in periods of greatest flow of workers. The **External Actions (Step 6)** should consider the strategies for strengthening the protection services of children, adolescents and other vulnerable groups against sexual exploitation and associated public policies, in view of the variations in demand for this protection network. The **Communication Actions (Step 7)** must be stepped up during periods of greater circulation of workers.

In cases where the number of workers does not significantly change during different production periods (which probably indicate that the amount of migrant workers with no ties to the territory remains low), it is possible that **Steps 5, 6, 7 and 8** be adjusted to adapted to a lower intensity phase of action. It is important, though, to maintain the processes of assessing, monitoring, and reviewing (**Steps 8 and 9**) in order to keep internal awareness and engagement.

## RELATIONSHIP OF PRODUCTION WITH THE OUTFLOW OF GRAIN AND PRODUCTS

One of the risk factors associated with the agribusiness sector refers to the transport of grains and products. In many cases, a single company will coordinate production and distribution. However, it is also possible to see agribusiness companies specialized in production who partner with logistics companies that take charge of the outbound activities.

In those cases, the transportation and logistics are connected to the agribusiness company. Roads and port structures are places that present a high risk for sexual exploitation. It is important for the company to consider the risks associated with this activity in the **Territorial Mapping** and to plan Internal Actions and Communication with the employees and suppliers who work with these activities. When the company is not directly in charge of logistics, it can also establish contractual clauses and codes of conduct with its key suppliers and train Multipliers who operate with the suppliers, as explained in the **Internal Actions**. It is also recommended to establish **Communication** strategies and **Actions** that reach this audience.

Since 2006, **Childhood Brasil** is coordinating the On The Right Track Program (Programa Na Mão Certa)<sup>141</sup> with the objective

<sup>141</sup> For more information, visit the website: [http://www.namaocerta.org.br/ing\\_index.php](http://www.namaocerta.org.br/ing_index.php).

of promoting a wide union of efforts to prevent and mitigate risks of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in connection to the logistics sector, in particular, road and waterway cargo transportation in Brazil. For more information on the program see [Box On The Right Track Program](#), in the [Specialized Note on the History and Experience of Childhood Brasil](#).

## TIMBER PRODUCTION AND REFORESTATION

The timber production sector involves a series of activities linked to the production and processing of timber, but unlike other agricultural sectors, it usually also involves forest recovery.

Forest recovery can demand increased circulation of people and truck traffic in reforestation areas that are, in most cases, remote and isolated locations. Small, sometimes traditional and vulnerable communities may be living near many of these regions. The temporary movement of people and road cargo transport near those communities has the potential to negatively impact their well-being and safety – including the risk of sexual exploitation.

The company must consider the risks associated with reforestation activities in the **Territorial Mapping**. The **Internal Actions** should consider measures focused on the

workers that will perform these activities (whether they are direct employees or subcontractor). It can be done by creating a team of **Multipliers** or through awareness-raising and engagement activities. The **External Actions** should consider the existing protection systems for these communities and look for opportunities to strengthen services and influence public policies that contemplate them. It is important that **Communication Actions** include specific measures that reach this external audience.





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# Guidelines for the Tourism Sector

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Children, adolescents, and other vulnerable groups may be exposed to risks related to sexual exploitation<sup>142</sup> in the travel and tourism industry. In many cases, tourism projects are developed near low-income and marginal communities. The development of the tourism sector in some cases may not lead to an improvement in the living conditions of the surrounding populations and may even aggravate already existing social problems at the local level.<sup>143</sup>

Tourist establishments can be associated with risks of sexual exploitation when used as accommodation for migrant workers for a particular project or company. Depending on the local context, hotel facilities may be used by criminals as a lodging option for themselves or for trafficking victims in transit.

The code of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics (WCTE), adopted by the WTO in 1999 states that the exploitation of human beings in any form, in particular for sexual purposes, conflicts with the fundamental aims of tourism and should be energetically combatted.<sup>144</sup>

Given this context, it is important for companies in the tourism industry to commit with the implementation of measures aimed at identifying and preventing sexual exploitation risks associated with their

projects and activities, not only as a corporate social responsibility strategy but as a risk management and impact prevention measure.

The methodology to prevent sexual exploitation of children, adolescents, and vulnerable groups must be adapted to the specific demands and characteristics of the tourism sector. The main difference is that the **Intervention Project** is based on a typical dynamic of infrastructure projects and large enterprises, which usually involves a specific construction period and requires a greater intake of workers and, therefore, greater risk in terms of the project. The tourism industry, on the other hand, needs to establish ongoing protective measures, codes of conduct, and engagement actions that can follow and endure the entire life of the enterprise.

Based on **IDB Invest's** experience in project investments in the tourism sector and **Childhood Brasil's** activities, a few points that should be considered in the development and implementation of an **Intervention Project** for the tourism sector are shown below.

## CORPORATE COMMITMENT

The public corporate commitment of the project **(Step 1)** for the prevention of sexual exploitation of children,

<sup>142</sup> Considerations regarding sexual exploitation of adults referred to in Chapter IV and VI also apply to the tourism sector. As mentioned earlier, while there is no capacity for consent with children and adolescents, the selling, buying and arranging of sexual services that involve adults can be carried out consensually between all parties and may even be decriminalized, legal and/or regulated. Therefore, this guide, when referring to adults, is not referring to legal sex work but to sexual exploitation as previously defined in this publication.

<sup>143</sup> Hawke, A. & Raphael, A. (2016). Offenders on the Move: Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism.

<sup>144</sup> WTO. (1999). Global Code of Ethics for Tourism. Available at: <https://www.unwto.org/global-code-of-ethics-for-tourism>.



adolescents, and vulnerable groups is a fundamental aspect in the implementation of an **Intervention Project**.

International frameworks must be considered when developing and establishing an institutional commitment. The international organization The Code is a global benchmark in fighting sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the tourism sector, and it encourages companies to adhere to the International Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism ([www.thecode.org](http://www.thecode.org)).

In order to prevent the sexual exploitation of vulnerable groups that include adults, the corporate guidelines of the company must consider preventing sexual exploitation under the framework of protection against trafficking in persons for sexual purposes, forced labor for sexual purposes, or legal milestones that target specific vulnerable groups (as shown in [Recommendations for Applying the Methodology with Other Vulnerable Groups in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)).

In addition, associations of companies in the tourism sector in several countries have independently and voluntarily established their own ethical codes to address

the prevention of sexual exploitation. It is recommended that the company is aware of the existence of such codes not only in the country or region where it is located but also in the main countries and regions of origin of their guests.

### CREATING ASSOCIATIONS WITH OTHER COMPANIES AND TOURIST TRADE ENTITIES

Sexual exploitation in tourism can involve a network of local companies (such as other hotels, inns, restaurants and bars), and it can also be connected to travel agencies in other regions. Therefore, associating with other companies of the sector and with the tourist trade<sup>145</sup> related to the company and the region greatly strengthen the effectiveness of an **Intervention Project** in preventing sexual exploitation.

The identification of these different stakeholders can be done through the **Territorial Mapping (Step 4)**. Engaging and establishing partnerships with such parties can be reflected in **External Actions (Step 6)**. Through these associations, the local tourism sector is more able to influence and strengthen local private and public policies for the protection of children and adolescents and other vulnerable groups from sexual exploitation.

<sup>145</sup> The tourist trade includes all activities and equipment directly or indirectly associated with the tourist activity, such as lodging facilities, restaurants, bars, travel agencies, transport companies and others.

## TERRITORIAL MAPPING

**Territorial Mapping** is an important tool in detecting the main risks associated with the sector and sexual exploitation in the region, the regional dynamics and presence of vulnerable groups, as well as in identifying key players and potential external partners. As mentioned in the previous section, this mapping can be useful to identify the local tourist trade and the main stakeholders.

It is recommended to implement the **Intervention Project** even in cases where such risks have not been found in the territory. The **Intervention Project** can establish minimum procedures that are essential to any tourism company to ensure its responsibility of non-omission in the face of the risks of sexual exploitation associated with the sector.

## ESTABLISHING CODES OF CONDUCT, PROCEDURES AND CONTRACTUAL CLAUSES

The creation of codes, procedures, hosting rules, and contractual clauses are fundamental aspects in fighting sexual exploitation in the tourism industry. **Internal Actions (Step 5)** must consider the implementation of such measures. Requesting documents and registration information from guests (such as name, address, and place of origin), should be a minimum

requirement in hosting. In the case of children and adolescents, it is recommended to put in place a procedure that requires the verification of documents to prove the parental relationship with the adult companion. National laws that regulate this matter must be strictly observed.

The tourist company can also establish contractual clauses with its main suppliers and direct partners (e.g., food, beverage, event, and transportation companies) regarding the prevention of sexual exploitation. It is recommended to establish a “zero tolerance” policy towards sexual exploitation and a whistleblower policy, in which its partners are required to report any case involving sexual exploitation. Complicity or omission in such cases may be penalized with the termination of the contractual relationship and, when applicable, the legal liability of those involved.

Regarding partner travel agencies, commitments may be established, in addition to the policies mentioned above, to prohibit dissemination, distribution or disclosure of sexual services offers.

If a tourism company is approached by a particular project or company that is searching for accommodation for their workers, it is important for the tourism company to inform them of its institutional policies

and commitments regarding preventing sexual exploitation and it must require for them to comply with the codes of conduct and procedures.

### INTERNAL TRAINING AND ENGAGEMENT

In the tourism sector, it is fundamental to train and engage all employees and collaborators in relation to this topic, especially those who have direct contact with guests - such as receptionists, security guards, and doormen - as well as the housekeeping staff, which can be key in identifying suspicious cases or misconduct. As part of the set of **Internal Actions**, the workers on this front line must, in addition to being aware of the company's institutional public commitment and all the established codes of conduct and procedures, be trained to identify suspicious behavior and know how to proceed in such circumstances. Such training can be included as mandatory training for newly hired people and offered to all workers periodically. The training must be carried out by **Technical Partners** specialized in the topic of sexual exploitation risk in the sector. Although workers with direct contact with guests are a priority in terms of training to prevent sexual exploitation, it is ideal for all workers to attend the engagement and awareness-raising activities. For

example, it is important for all employees to be able to respond appropriately to a guest who requests information about activities and places associated with sexual exploitation.

The **Communication Actions (Step 7)** must, therefore, contemplate the workers and employees of the project in order to ensure that everyone is aware and able to act in a situation in which sexual exploitation risk is identified.

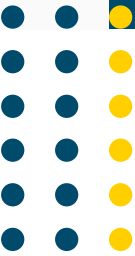
### COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGNS

Communication and engagement activities must be periodic and contemplate the various external players that are connected to the company, such as guests and clients, suppliers, partner companies, and employees associated with the tourist trade.

It is recommended for posters to be put up in the common areas of the establishment informing the public of the company's public institutional commitment and its position on the subject. Brochures and other printed materials with content about the negative impact of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and vulnerable groups in travel and tourism, in addition to the company's policies and commitments in this regard, can also be available.

Companies in the region that

use local tourist companies to accommodate their workers may formalize partnerships for the development of targeted communication, awareness, and engagement activities for the prevention of sexual exploitation. ●





[www.childhood.org.br](http://www.childhood.org.br)  
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