Annual Report for 2018
ECPAT Foundation

Executive Summary

This year has been transformational. Our activities, our energies, our efforts have gone to new heights, extending our agency well-beyond our programs of the past. In addition to continuing projects that we have specialized in over the Foundation’s history, we have started new programming, journeyed into new areas, and have taken on new and exciting challenges. In working with migrant and sometimes stateless people, in teaching high risk children residing in high stakes areas, while expanding upon our tried and trusted peer-to-peer model, and in meeting lawmakers at the Parliament Building in Bangkok, we have seen an astonishing increase in our productivity this past year. This includes, in part, an expansion in staff, funding, project numbers, and project reach. The purpose of this Annual Report is to broadcast this expansion.

To be clear, 2018 was an important year for ECPAT Foundation. We solidified our work on the national level while not sacrificing the quality of our local-level programming, which we’ve also been able to export to other areas outside of northern Thailand. At the national level, we published our very first Annual Legislative Agenda (in English) with the supporting research and policy proposals (in Thai) sharing it with duty bearers in the Ministries of Justice, Social Development and Human Security, and Digital Economy and Society. And still, at the local level, we challenged youth to breathe life into their own advocacy campaigns and awareness raising projects.

What this year has continued to teach us is the importance of inviting every stakeholder to the conversation. Success can largely depend on the partnership and mutual knowledge sharing that exist between child rights organizations, government agencies, the business sector, social workers and child care providers, teachers and community leaders, and of course children themselves. Through the Foundation’s work as a whole, we have engaged all stakeholders in pursuit of our aim of eliminating child sexual exploitation in Thailand.

It has been a global effort, so we send our utmost gratitude to our international funding partners in Germany, in the Netherlands, and in Sweden. We have benefited immensely from their advising and capacity building and look forward to developing these partnerships even more over the coming years.

Vision
Our vision is the realization of the right of all children in Thailand to live free from all forms of sexual exploitation.

Mission
Increase awareness, participation, and capacity of all relevant stakeholders at the local, national, regional, and global levels so stakeholders are equipped to tackle all manifestations of child sexual abuse.
About SEC

Fundamentally, children are entitled to personal autonomy and freedom from sexual violence, sexual manipulation, sexual abuse, and sextortion. We use the term SEC – the sexual exploitation of children – to refer to the broad array of behaviors that violate that fundamental right. Accordingly, it’s important to note that all manifestations of SEC require our attention and steadfast commitment to eliminating.

Whether the exploitation occurs in the real world or over the web, whether the exploitation is commercial or non-material, whether sexual abuse materials are created or evidence is limited, whether children are trafficked or are kept locked in a marriage, all forms of sexual exploitation against children must be stopped.

For more information on the various manifestations of SEC, such as the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (SECTT) or online child sexual exploitation (OCSE), please check out our Foundation’s website.

Spotlighting our Projects

Down to Zero: Fighting the Sexual Exploitation of Children
With support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this project works with three stakeholder groups in the fight against SEC: high risk children, vulnerable communities, and businesses in the tourism sector.

Promoting Rural Opportunities for Children’s Empowerment, Education, and Development
The aim of the PROCEED Project is to empower the most vulnerable children, especially those from ethnic minority groups and those who are stateless, providing them with skills and trainings to protect themselves from sexual exploitation.

Safe Migration: Rights for People on the Move
To prevent exploitation against migrant workers and their families and to ensure their safe migration into Thailand, this project targets migrant youth in northern Thailand to build up their leadership potential as they raise awareness and as we explicitly encourage both the government and businesses to respect and protect child and family rights.

Together for the Protection of Children in Tourism in Phuket
This project allows us to replicate our successful youth activism model practiced throughout Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, and Phuket in high bustling city of Phuket.

The Online Safety Project – Protecting Children from Online Sexual Exploitation
With support from KNH, this project sees an expansion of ECPAT Foundation onto the national stage as we advocate for changes in policies and laws that will protect children, often with the aid of child advocates.
Program Highlights of 2018
Achieving Our Strategic Objectives

This year, in accord with the ECPAT Foundation Strategic Direction 5-year plan, we made large strides in achieving our objectives. As they were initially outlined in the plan in 2017, our objectives are to increase child participation, ensure child protection, promote policy advocacy, enhance capacity building, and establish substantive knowledge building efforts.

A. Child Participation: Ensure the participation and empowerment of children and youth, especially those at risk of exploitation as well as child victims themselves, so that they become active agents for change by influencing policy, shaping societal attitudes, and helping protect other children.

B. Child Protection: Promote and monitor the implementation of child-protection mechanisms at both the local and national level that guarantee intervention when SEC is uncovered. Provide direct support to child victims of SEC.

C. Policy Advocacy: Press for improvements in both national policy changes as well as the legal frameworks that are put in place to protect children while firmly establishing partnerships with government officials, civil society actors, UN agencies, law enforcement officers, and academics.

D. Capacity Building: Enhance the awareness of CSOs, government agencies, and private sector actors so they understand their roles and undertake actions to best protect children within those roles.

E. Knowledge Building: Inform national efforts against SEC through the generation of knowledge, evidence, and grounded research detailing the scope, scale, and trends involving SEC as well as the best practices and lessons learned for us and our partners.

Child Participation

One of the fundamental tenants undergirding our work at ECPAT Foundation includes soliciting and securing child participation and child inputs. That is, we value the role that children play in brainstorming, coordinating, implementing and monitoring projects. Their ideas, their voice, their actions speak volumes, so we do our best to amplify their reach by ensuring children feel empowered to “become active agents for change.”

This past year, we have enhanced child participation in many respects. First, we enlisted the help of five Core Youth from Chiang Rai who served as child representatives in drafting the Children’s Report of Thailand. In this assignment, they supplied their own recommendations for the Report, delivering important notes and assessments to the CRC Committee, the body responsible for overseeing Thailand’s implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It also reflects our aim of introducing children’s voices into the conversations happening at the highest levels of policymaking and child rights enforcement.
But our commitment to child leadership extends well beyond these five kids. In fact, a larger group of 121 child leaders – 40 boys, and 81 girls – is being raised up trained across Thailand. These children were chosen because of their particular vulnerability to exploitation, either given their immigrant status, their membership in a small ethnic group, or proximity to high stakes areas such as Phuket and Bangkok. Others are actually child victims of sexual exploitation who are carefully cared for and coached as they step into leadership roles. Evaluations demonstrate that these youth take full advantage of our training programs and understand sexual exploitation significantly more than their peers, and as such are able to share and spread that knowledge at both the local and national level often with their friends, schoolmates, family members, village members, community members, or tourists.

Through a series of peer-to-peer training modules and youth-led activities, in 2018, our core leaders have served their communities in a variety of unique, context-specific ways. Some have organized clubs for after-school gathering. Others have been able to disseminate information through booklets, comics, posters, and games they’ve designed or through social media campaigns they’ve launched or through short film videos they’ve created. Together, in tandem with the small grants provided by Defend for Children, these child leaders have impacted well over 3,000 children across the country of Thailand, reaching both boys and girls in regions from as far north as Chiang Rai to as far south at Phuket.

One example we’re proud to show off is the “Short Film Campaign to End Online Child Sexual Exploitation” imagined and implemented by partnering youth at the Freedom Story Foundation. Through their impressive writing skills, strong visual storytelling abilities, and solid project management, these youth worked together to produce a film they’ve shared with children that tells a story about how better awareness among children can go a long way in preventing and combating OCSE. You can check out their video on YouTube here!

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<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Down to Zero</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROCEED</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Together for the Protection of Children in Tourism in Phuket</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>Safe Migration: Rights for People on the Move</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>40</td>
<td>81</td>
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We are proud of also working with migrant children who themselves have conducted many advocacy-raising activities for their villages and communities. Many of these children live in Sai Thong in the northern reaches of the Chiang Mai province and belong to the local migrant Burmese community that resides on the large orange plantation that Sai Thong is well-known for. Nine Core Youth leaders from this area started up their own learning center for the community wherein other youth could not only learn about SEC, but could also participate in various activities for the community such as training workshops, cultural exhibitions, or sporting events. Importantly, these training sessions are conducted in the local Shan language so as to ensure no one is left behind. Additionally, migrant youth from neighboring Ban Wiang and Huey Namon created their own awareness raising materials in the form of printing and digital comic book about a family that is migrating. They shared these materials with community members throughout Sai Thong 1 and Sai Thong 2 as well as other communities throughout the north. Per their decision making, the book is available online in electronic format here!

And in another project organized in southern Thailand, 38 children and youth participated in a youth-led campaign they aptly named “Together for the Protection of Children in Travel and Tourism.” This event, held on Phuket’s bustling and world-renowned Walking Street, reached several thousand local community members, restaurant and accommodation staffs, and foreign and Thai tourists alike. The issue of SECTT received the much-needed attention it deserves given the brilliance on display by our youth who organized a parade, distributed brochures discussing the trafficking of children for sexual purposes, and hosted a question-and-answer forum open to the public to help address the issue in terms the target audience could understand.
Child Protection

Just as critical as child participation is child protection. It is our inherent, imperative responsibility to ensure children who are at risk and children who have become victims of sexual exploitation are immediately secured and placed in safe environments where they can instead focus on being kids, on thriving as kids. This past year, we leaned on our successful history as experts in child-safe organization trainings. We organized and hosted workshops for 13 of Diakonia’s Thai partners. While six of these organizations have already begun implementing their own child protection policies, every single partner has articulated tangible plans to develop and improve their own child protection policies. Augmenting our work at the local level, we also partnered with schools, childcare organizations, and even community leaders to establish child protection committees, such as for the Rummit community in the Mae Yao subdistrict of Chiang Rai.

This work is built on a responsibility to train all stakeholders in how best to protect children – whether in their community, school, or even within organizations that are supposed to serve children such as shelters or hospitals – so that trained staff or community leaders are able to intervene on behalf of a child at a moment’s notice. But we also work directly with children who are victims of sexual exploitation – in tandem with a multidisciplinary team. This past year, just in Chiang Rai, we worked with the local office of Social Development and Human Security to protect 19 children. We ensured they had immediate access to medical assistance, acquired safe and secure shelter (were separated from the perpetrator), and were supported in the criminal justice system, while also providing educational support and rehabilitation to the children.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Sexual Exploitation</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boys</td>
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<td>Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism</td>
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<td>Forced Child Marriage</td>
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<td>Child Pregnancy</td>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
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Policy Advocacy

Over the past year, we have felt particularly energized about this new area of growth for the Foundation. Never before have we organized this much programming at the national level, in this many regions, with this level of expansion. In 2018, we organized programming in the north, in the central, and in the south of Thailand.

Our highlight was certainly the Children’s Forum: Digital World of 2018 that we hosted and co-organized in Bangkok in conjunction with the CRC Coalition, the Internet Foundation for Thai Development, and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. We invited 29 children leaders from the Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Tak, Nakornrachasima, Phuket and Bangkok regions of Thailand. Naturally, we consider this event a massive success as, first, it helped demonstrate what meaningful child participation embodies, and it has hopefully helped set the standard for organizations in the area to follow. Second, participating children were able to jointly analyze online abuse and issues arising with exploitation. Youth converged on the issue and submitted their recommendations, collective in nature, that they believed would be most helpful in protecting children online. Children presented the “Recommendations to Address Online Abuse and Exploitation” to Mr. Wanlop Tangkananurak, the senator chairing the Social Responsibility Committee of the National Legislative Assembly. The event was held at the Parliament building and received substantial media coverage. Given the positive feedback from attending government representatives, we anticipate being able to organize an annual or bi-annual Children’s Forum allowing vulnerable at-risk youth the opportunity to push for policy change at the national level.

ECPAT Foundation also proudly works with the CRC Coalition of Thailand, a network of key stakeholders and advocates who share both knowledge and strategies amongst each other to better promote, protect, and safeguard the rights of children as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Children. Because of our work advancing the participation of children, ECPAT Foundation is situated on the coalition’s Steering Committee, meaning that we, along with other partner members, provide important, comprehensive trainings to the private and public sector on child sexual exploitation in all its manifestations. However, we’re also a member of the Child Protection Working group, as a part of the coalition. We jointly advocate on issues related to child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation, and more while documenting our concerns in the OPSC Report in order to improve the situation here in Thailand.

In fact, the Alternative Report on the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography in Thailand is a responsibility ECPAT Foundation shares with other reputable child rights organizations. The report is compiled by members of the CRC Coalition who each submits valuable insight into the reality of implementing the CRC OPSC at the local and national level. Although the CRC State Report is far behind its deadline, we leverage the Alternative Report to influence national agendas aimed at eliminating SEC by highlighting gaps and making recommendations to the Thai government.
Capacity Building

Included in our strategy of engaging stakeholders is a concerted effort to bring businesses and the private sector into our work of protecting children. Specifically, we partner with agencies in the travel and tourism industry so in 2018 our Foundation organized workshops for more than 100 personnel who work in hotels, resorts, travel agencies, and tourism companies. With workshops in both Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, we adequately trained these personnel while integrating their own feedback and suggestions into future training sessions. Eleven hotels that attended workshops joined onto the Child Friendly Tourism project and have not only developed their own child safety policies; they have trained their respective staff as well. One example, pictured above, was a training for the staff at the Ibis Styles Riverfront Resort in Chiang Rai.

Another important industry to involve is the tech industry. Internet service providers, content management companies, and online bankers or financiers are important partners in address exploitation that occurs online or over mobile devices. So in December 2018, ECPAT Foundation co-organized a meeting with the Department of Special Investigation (MOJ), the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, the UN Office on Drug and Crime, and TICAC (Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children. The goal with this workshop was to develop a framework of cooperation for cases that aid in the collection of evidence. Law enforcement agencies also discussed the ways they could better investigate cases that take place over the internet or on mobile devices. And with this workshop, we accomplished this goal. The respective businesses agreed to improve their cooperation with police, offered to allow officials to observe how they manage data, how to collect evidence in a timely fashion, and ensure contact persons are designated within each agency for future collaboration. They also expressed interest in cooperatively establishing guidelines for the ways in which the government and private businesses work together to eliminate OCSE. These meetings are anticipated to continue on a regular basis for the foreseeable future.
**Knowledge Building**

We have been praised by government partners and NGOs for grounding our policy proposals in research. We continued this well into 2018. In order to inform national efforts to eliminate SEC through the generation of knowledge, evidence, and grounded research, we conducted research with the Thai Hotline, the CRC Coalition, and the Thailand Institute for Justice on OCSE. The study explores various legal frames available to Thai authorities as they consider policies that can be adopted by law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, and child protection groups. Pertinent findings are as follows:

- **Current laws on cyber-bullying** are insufficient as they lack specific definitions and may inadvertently punish children too harshly.
- **Thailand lacks legislation** regulating and protecting the privacy of children online – the law should be amended to criminalize seeking out private info from children without authorized consent.
- **Due to an increase in sexting among children**, children are in danger of being prosecuted for the production, distribution, and possession of child pornography as offenders. New frames are necessary to 1) educated more children of the dangers of sexting and 2) protect children who produce and disseminate images of themselves. We want children to be educated and supported in cases where they may inadvertently spread child pornography.
- **Internet service providers** do not necessarily have to report OCSE when it is discovered in their domain. An adequate reporting mechanism must be established.

As pictured above, we met with the Thailand Institute for Justice to present our research with other experts in law enforcement. To the left is a seminar that we hosted presenting our recommendations on the ways we could improve laws and polices that will cover the gaps that currently persist. This forum’s primary goal is to introduce the new ways we can promote child protection online to ensure children are safe while perusing the internet or while using mobile devices.
Organizational Development

There are also many changes that we would like to report, beginning with our staff increase. Three new program staff and one intern were recruited during the year to administer the Online Safety Project and the Safe Migration Project, while a Financial and Admin Assistant joined us in our Chiang Rai office. With the hiring of the Project Officer overseeing the Online Safety Project, we also slightly expanded in Bangkok, conducting work throughout the major city. Our Project Officer’s proximity to the central headquarters of various ministries as well as quarterly CRC Coalition meetings allowed for richer program development and stronger organizational and agency partnerships.

In addition to this small expansion, as noted earlier, we also expanded our programming into Phuket. This represents a crucial first step in sharing our child-leader model with partnering organizations across the country, as our Phuket programming allows us to test the viability of this model in a high-stakes, high-tourist locale. It simultaneous exposes our core youth to leadership opportunities while exposing local businesses and visiting tourists to the issue of child sexual exploitation in the travel and tourism industries. We are closely monitoring our impacts as we hope the future is filled with similar expansions into other high-stakes areas in south Thailand.

Our agency acquired new funding in 2018 through Diakonia, SAVE the Children, and the TUI CARE Foundation which led to the creation of new projects in 2019, including Safe Migration: Right of People on the Move and PROCEED, promoting the opportunities for rural children. We improved our management of these projects, and all others, with capacity building training provided to our Admin and Finance Officer. She was trained in how to use QuickBooks to improve efficiency while also learning how to manage funds and maintain transparency in line with the industry standard and best practices. With her help, we also revised our Administrative and Finance Policy to present to the Board of Directors. Similarly, we have updated and modified our Five-Year Plan to submit for review by the Board.
The Children We Protect

When staff members receive reports, whether formally or informally, concerning children who may be sexually exploited, we intervene with our partners without hesitation. Sometimes this requires offering psycho social support and mental healthcare to the child. Other times it necessitates coordinating the investigative criminal response with lawyers and police officers. When a child is being exploited, we step in and coordinate support.

This year, foundation staff became informed of a case involving a 14-year-old girl who was sent inappropriate messages by her 57-year-old uncle through Facebook messenger. ECPAT Foundation assisted by providing counseling through the staff member, who also quickly collected information and evidence to refer the situation to the TICAC police who opened an investigation into the matter. The child was not ready to press charges against her uncle (likely due to his influence), so the girl was provided emotional and psychological support as the case continues through its investigation.

In December, we also joined in an operation to rescue child victims from child trafficking. Two ECPAT staff members who took part were conducting the interview and the initial screening for the victims. The offense occurred near the Mae Khong River. In total, seven girls were interviewed; four were verified to be children while the other three were waiting for age verification. All victims had originated from neighboring Myanmar or Laos. As victims of trafficking, each was sent to be protected and supported at a Ban Songkaew Protection and Occupational Development Center.

We have also assisted children who were approached online. A boy was spotted by a child abuser and offered money in exchange for sexual services. We are taking protective measure and coordinating reliable witness testimony for the court in both the criminal and civil cases that are being brought against the would-be perpetrator. Another OCSE case involved a government official who further violated a Myanmar child victim of sexual exploitation by sharing pornographic images of the child with friends of his who lived abroad. ECPAT Foundation worked with the multidisciplinary team to meet and assist the child victim. We quickly pushed to have the family relocated to ensure they were protected from threats from the offender. The case is currently being tried and the offending officer prosecuted.

To promote the well-being of child victims, we provided access to our training modules and workshops to the children if they desire to partake. This year, many have chosen to attend self-help workshops, psychological rehabilitation, and leadership trainings. As a result, many also go on to be leaders within their community who call for greater support from community leaders or village elders, who run awareness campaigns in popular tourist zones, and who teach their peers on how to be aware of and respond to potential perpetrators.

A Special Thanks To…

We would like to send a special thank you to our donors which includes Defense for Children, Save the Children, Diakonia Thailand, TUI CARE Foundation, ECPAT International, Kindernothilfe, small donors, and more.

Thank you!
Our projects and our expansion are a result of the immense support we receive from our funding partners so we share our immense gratitude for each of these agencies!

**Gallery**

We have produced many materials over the past year. Posters, booklets, stickers at promote the hotline to report SEC occurring in Thailand as well as a digital animation have all been thoroughly utilized to expand awareness.

We’ve conducted capacity building workshops for young people to help develop their leadership skills and their peer-to-peer support capabilities, from schools, to shelters, to community learning centers.

Along with children, we work with families and teachers and the general public. For example, we conducted a family camp to promote smart online usage among families.
Lastly, we always stay committed to advancing child rights. So in our meeting with the provincial government on human trafficking in Chiang Rai, in our networking roundtable with partners on the Safe Migration project, or in our workshop providing the private sector with knowledge on how to respect the rights of migrant families, we took extra care to keep the child’s best interest at the forefront.
Website Hyperlinks

ECPAT Foundation
www.ecpat-th.org

Child Advocacy Book made by Core Leaders
https://issuu.com/yonlada005/docs/______________ by_ecpat_foundation

Short Film Campaign to End Online Child Sexual Exploitation
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXcU-nlZCmM