Safe Online

Principles and *Investment Directions* for Addressing Technology-Facilitated Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Donor funding is most valuable when it acts catalytically – helping national actors build institutions, relationships, evidence, technical capability and financing arrangements that can ultimately be owned and sustained domestically.

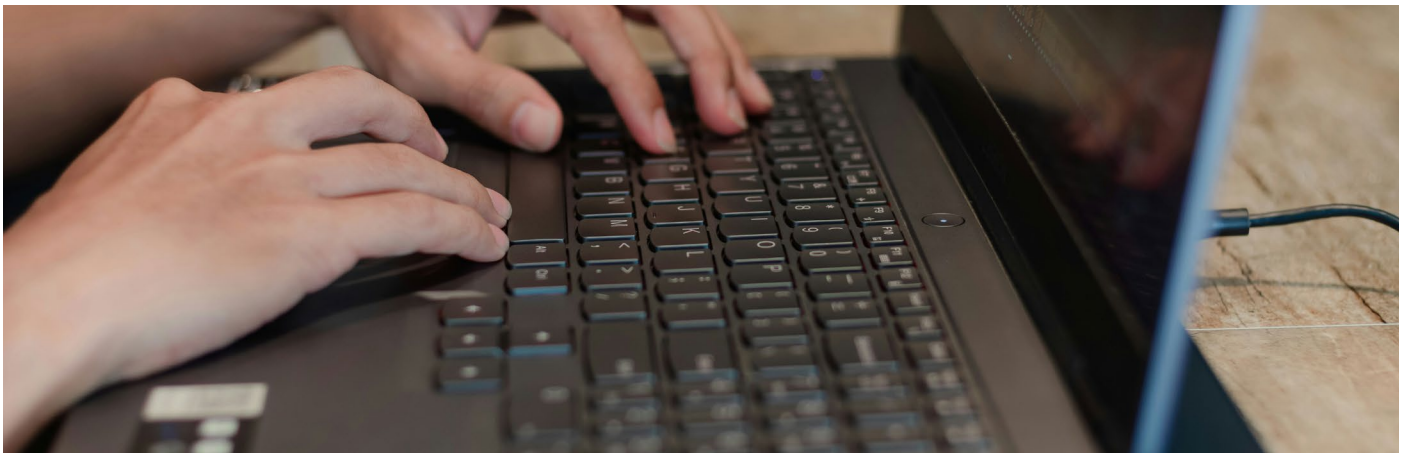
The **seven principles** generated in this paper are drawn from the lessons learned from the Philippines[1] and Kenya[2] case studies. They articulate ways that donors can strategically use funding to catalyse stronger, locally-owned and sustainable national responses to TF-CSEA.

The principles highlight where investment can be targeted to strengthen domestic ownership and collaboration; impact legislation and regulation; increase industry accountability; enable equitable and responsive service delivery, improve evidence and learning and promote sustainability.

Principle	How to Operationalise
Donor investment should strengthen government ownership of core TF-CSEA responsibilities by building political commitment, institutional capability, local implementation and sustainable financing	**Promote Ownership at All Levels of Government** • **Political Leadership:** Support efforts to elevate TF-CSEA to the national agenda as a priority, demonstrating political commitment and enabling adequate, integrated, sustained and practical allocation of resources. • **Institutional Ownership:** Integrate child digital safety responsibilities into the core functions and essential services of central government institutions. • **Government Implementation and Ownership:** Support local authorities and frontline systems to translate national frameworks into context-specific practice, including coordination between law enforcement, social services, health, education, civil society, community actors and industry actors. • **Support Costing and Resource Planning:** Help relevant agencies identify recurrent costs associated with TF-CSEA responsibilities and incorporate these into their own appropriations and systems to move away from reliance on external donor-funded responses.

[1] Kavenagh, M. Gacengo, B. & Singsakhorn, S. (2026). Decade of Change: A Stocktake of the TF-CSEA Ecosystem in Kenya. Safe Online.
[2] Kavenagh, M. & Singsakhorn, S. (2026). Decade of Change: A Stocktake of the TF-CSEA Ecosystem in the Philippines. Safe Online.

Principle	How to Operationalise
Donor investment should help governments keep legal and regulatory frameworks aligned with evolving forms of TF-CSEA and translate legal duties into implementable procedures, responsibilities and institutional duties.	**Support Reform of Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks** • **Future-proof legal and regulatory frameworks:** Support periodic legal gap assessments so laws and regulatory powers keep pace with emerging forms of TF-CSEA, including synthetic or AI-generated CSAM, AI-facilitated grooming, encrypted and ephemeral services, evolving platform architectures and virtual-asset-enabled offending. • **Clarify statutory and operational responsibilities:** Support regulations and implementation frameworks that clearly allocate responsibilities across relevant public authorities and, where appropriate, define enforceable duties for platforms, telecommunications providers, financial institutions and other regulated private-sector actors. • **Fund implementation alongside legal reform:** Donors supporting legislative change should also plan for the regulations, institutional procedures, implementation guidance, capacity-building and resources required to make the law operational, with timelines and responsible institutions named. For example, the Philippines' RA 11930 included a defined timeframe for issuing Implementing Rules and Regulations, illustrating how implementation planning can be built into legislative reform.
Donor investment should prioritise and incentivise meaningful tech industry responsibility for addressing the technological dimensions of TF-CSEA as duty-bearers alongside governments.	**Role of Industry Actors and Government Interactions** • **Strengthen platform safeguards and detection infrastructure:** Support clear, measurable and accountable industry expectations for platform safeguards and detection systems for proactive prevention and responding to TF-CSEA. • **Enhance industry accountability:** Support effective detection and reporting obligations, transparency reporting, responsible data-sharing, and meaningful private-sector engagement in preventing and responding to TF-CSEA. • **Ensure legislation and regulatory frameworks keep pace with emerging technologies such as AI-generated child sexual abuse material:** Work collaboratively with technology companies, regulators, law enforcement and child-protection actors to ensure legislation and regulatory frameworks remain adaptive to emerging technologies while establishing clear and enforceable responsibilities for industry.





Principle	How to Operationalise
Donor investment should strengthen durable coordination across government, civil society, industry and international partners using policy and evidence.	**Connect Actors Across Sectors and Borders** • **Create a shared strategic framework:** Support a National Plan of Action or equivalent framework that clarifies roles, responsibilities, implementation milestones and accountability. • **Support costing of strategic inputs:** Support agencies to cost recurrent TF-CSEA responsibilities, seek domestic appropriations and integrate actions into their own plans and budgets as demonstrated in both Kenya and the Philippines. • **Strengthen systems through shared operational standards:** Support common definitions and indicators, clarify how actors work together and support consistent practice across providers. Establish monitoring and assessment mechanisms to enable service providers to continuously improve the quality of their services and report cross-comparable data. • **Include children and survivors as participants, not only beneficiaries:** Support ethically designed mechanisms for children and survivors to inform research, policy, service design and monitoring. Participation should have a clear purpose and feedback loop. Not every context or evaluation calls for direct child engagement, and its value should be weighed against safeguarding risks and burdens in each context.
Focus on actively identifying and reducing geographic, economic, technological and social barriers that prevent children from accessing reporting and response services.	**Support Equitable Service Delivery** • **Map access gaps:** Support assessments that identify geographic, financial and connectivity barriers that prevent children from reaching reporting and support services, e.g. for remote or conflict-affected areas, populations without reliable connectivity or device access, or families unable to absorb the cost of engaging formal systems. • **Adapt services and delivery models for marginalized groups:** Ensure protocols, reporting channels, and support services are designed for children who face compounding barriers including disability and geographic, socio-economic, language or other barriers, e.g. out-of-school children, displaced or migrant children, and children in informal or unregistered settings. • **Measure who is reached, not just protocol compliance:** Monitoring should disaggregate service access and quality data so geographic and marginalization factors are visible and can be addressed.

Principle	How to Operationalise
Reliable data and research are essential tools for strengthening government accountability and driving political action. 	**Invest in Evidence-based Learning, Programming and Advocacy** • **Generate evidence on the problem and on implementation:** Support research on the scale, patterns and emerging risks of TF-CSEA, alongside evidence on what works, for whom, under want conditions and at what cost. • **Translate evidence into practice:** Nationally specific research like the Disrupting Harm reports had strong advocacy cut-through in both Kenya and the Philippines. Support the interpretation and use of evidence in policy, programming, advocacy, budgeting and determining future investments. • **Link system change to outcomes for children:** Invest in monitoring that examines whether changes in laws, financing, institutions, services and industry practice improve children's safety, access to support, justice and recovery. • **Strengthen interoperable evidence systems:** Support common definitions, indicators and classifiers across existing administrative systems, with appropriate privacy and safeguarding controls to allow better utilisation of administrative data.
Donor investment should catalyse capabilities that can be institutionally and financially sustained. Donors should distinguish between time-bound catalytic investments and recurrent public functions, and support governments to progressively finance recurrent public functions through predictable domestic resources. 	**Promote Institutional and Fiscal Sustainability** • **Embed recurrent costs in domestic budgets:** Support government agencies to cost TF-CSEA responsibilities, secure budget allocations and monitor whether funding remains sufficient over time. Technical support to strategic government authorities (i.e. communications, police, education) was a stand-out success in the Philippines. • **Use flexible, adaptive funding within clear accountability parameters.** Allow investments to respond to emerging technologies, implementation learning and changing system bottlenecks.

Where Donor Investment Can Catalyse Change

Build the Foundations



Invest in strategies and mechanisms that motivate and operationalize national and local level government actions and collaboration on TF-CSEA.



Support the work that enables legislation, regulation and policy – and its implementation – to keep pace with the evolving nature of TF-CSEA.



Enable formal government expectations on tech and communication industry actors in terms of prevention and response responsibilities regarding TF-CSEA.

Strengthen the Response



Invest in solutions that enable strategy and coordination between the many actors – including children – who must play a part in ecosystemic action regarding TF-CSEA.



Fund evidence generation so that knowledge keeps pace with the rapidly evolving nature of TF-CSEA. This can include research as well as approaches that create and utilize interoperable administrative data.

Make Change Last



Support training that develops skills, approaches and accountability loops to enable costings and recurrent domestic appropriations for fiscal sustainability of TF-CSEA actions.



Invest in scaled access to services that equitably ensure even the most marginalized and hard-to-reach children can access.

Read the case studies reports
for Kenya and Philippines
and learn more at

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