

Safe Online

Building a *National Response* to Address Technology-Facilitated Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Lessons from Kenya and the Philippines

What is Technology-Facilitated Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (TF-CSEA)?

TF-CSEA encompasses abuse that occurs through, or is enabled by, information and communication technologies.

TF-CSEA harms millions of children worldwide through online grooming, the production and distribution of child sexual abuse material (CSAM), live-streamed abuse, sexual extortion, and other forms of exploitation. It is fast-evolving, and new forms such as generative AI-enabled CSAM, continue to emerge.

Why Invest Now?

A decade of investment in research has been critical to advancing understanding of the scale and nature of TF-CSEA and to informing the upgrading of laws and policies, and improving the responses. In 2026, Safe Online undertook case study analyses in Kenya and the Philippines to analyse a decade of grant-making support and identify national progress, and its catalysts and constraints.

In Kenya and the Philippines, stronger coordination mechanisms helped connect investments in policy, justice, services, evidence and prevention. Lessons learned showed that these relationships can increase the coherence of otherwise fragmented investments, although progress also depended upon contextual circumstances and core system conditions such as active connection and alignment with international actors; reforms and responses regarding TF-CSEA; domestic government ownership; political commitment; and sustained national and subnational access to funding.

Pathways Towards Stronger National Responses

Over the past decade, Safe Online-supported projects in Kenya and the Philippines were part of wider investments and reforms that contributed to changes to the TF-CSEA ecosystems of both countries. The case studies indicated that sustainability is more likely when interventions become embedded in government institutions, routine professional systems, coordination arrangements and domestic financing – rather than standalone projects.

The two case studies illustrate different pathways to system changes. The Philippines shows greater institutionalisation and domestic ownership – including emerging domestic financing, while Kenya has established foundational systems and partnerships and continues to work towards stronger government ownership and domestic financing.

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[1] ECPAT, INTERPOL, & UNICEF (2026). Disrupting Harm: Evidence on Technology-Facilitated Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: Country Reports. Safe Online.
[2] Kavenagh, M. Gacengo, B. & Singsakhorn, S. (2026). Decade of Change: A Stocktake of the TF-CSEA Ecosystem in Kenya. Safe Online.
[3] Kavenagh, M. & Singsakhorn, S. (2026). Decade of Change: A Stocktake of the TF-CSEA Ecosystem in the Philippines. Safe Online.

National Responses at Different Stages of the Journey

Pillar	Philippines	Kenya
Overall	**Transitioning from externally supported initiatives to government ownership** through legislation, domestic investment, and national coordination mechanisms, enabling implementation from the national to the local level.	**Built national systems through multi-stakeholder partnerships**, gradually strengthening government capacity, institutional ownership, and coordination across national and local levels.
Evidence generation	**Used research and operational evidence to influence legislation and policy** while beginning to strengthen routine administrative data and inter-agency data systems.	**Generated context-specific evidence** through participatory research, using international technical and financial support to inform policy and build shared ownership.
Governance	**Strengthened and formalised government leadership** through a mandated national coordination body, sustained public investment, legislation and regulation reform which enables implementation beyond political transitions.	**Strengthened multi-stakeholder governance** mechanisms to enable implementation while progressively increasing government leadership despite limited domestic resources.
Law enforcement & justice	**Specialised justice sector capacity** for TF-CSEA through introducing standard operating procedures, dedicated units, multidisciplinary approaches and inter-agency coordination, while beginning to decentralise expertise beyond specialist centres.	**Built institutional capacity** through specialised training, international operational partnerships, and standard operating procedures to improve investigation and prosecution. However, capacity largely remains centralised.
Child-centred services	**Emerging integration of child-centred approaches into service delivery** with emerging examples of practices that reduce re-traumatisation, strengthen multidisciplinary responses and continuous learning through practice.	**Expanding access to child-centred services** through technology-enabled support, referral mechanisms though this remains somewhat limited to urban centres.
Industry engagement	**Established stronger mechanisms for private sector engagement** by integrating industry into national coordination mechanisms, regulations and reporting requirements.	**Mobilised industry through voluntary guidelines**, multi-stakeholder collaborations, and collaboration with government to review and develop national plans.
Awareness & education	**Expanded integration of prevention** structurally into the education system, community engagement, and nationwide awareness campaigns to strengthen digital safety.	**Promoted online safety into community** education through context-appropriate learning materials, tools, and local implementation.
Financing & scale-up	**Increasingly integrated TF-CSEA into national and local government budgeting systems**, supporting sustainability and long-term scale-up.	**Strengthened government capacity for planning, budgeting, and resource mobilisation**, using external investment to catalyse longer-term securing of funds.

External investment can catalyse system change, but domestic government ownership must sustain it. Analysis of Kenya and the Philippines demonstrates that integrating TF-CSEA into routine government plans and existing performance indicators, management and budget systems, can strengthen the broad ecosystemic response and improve investment efficacy.

Recommendations for Investment

1. Policy, Legislation, and Governance



Legislation and policies are only the starting point for addressing TF-CSEA. Sustainable implementation requires strong institutions, effective governance, and the integration of TF-CSEA into routine government systems.

- Establish or strengthen a national governance mechanism with a clear mandate to coordinate, monitor, and sustain TF-CSEA responses across all levels of government.
- Pursue and strengthen cross-border coordination and cooperation with international actors and mechanisms to ensure coordinated responses to the transnational nature of TF-CSEA.
- Integrate TF-CSEA into national plans, budgets, and agency performance frameworks as a routine government responsibility.
- Ensure sustainable resource allocation for TF-CSEA, including dedicated funding mechanisms at national and local levels; Decentralise implementation and support local authorities to develop context-specific responses.
- Regularly review legal frameworks to ensure they remain capable of addressing emerging technologies and evolving forms of TF-CSEA, including synthetic or AI-generated CSAM and AI-facilitated grooming.

2. Law Enforcement and Justice



Specialised units and stronger collaboration among law enforcement, prosecutors, and child protection agencies result in improved investigations and prosecutions. The next challenge is to scale these capacities across the justice system.

- Promote evidence-led investigations through greater use of digital forensic and financial evidence; Expand police and prosecutor access to digital forensic tools and provide specialised training for all regions as there can be centralised concentration and big disparities in capacity.
- Establish secure national systems for managing digital evidence while protecting children's rights and privacy.
- Strengthen collaboration and ease communication channels amongst law enforcement, prosecutors, child protection authorities, and industry.
- Ensure the perspectives of survivors inform the design and implementation of justice sector responses. For example, through structured consultation, enabling survivor advisory mechanisms or responding to feedback gathered on investigative and prosecutorial practices – including from research and administrative data.
- Align TF-CSEA responses with anti-money laundering and financial crime measures to broaden resource opportunities, strengthen investigations, and possibly benefit from related asset recovery.
- Strengthen monitoring and regulation of new technologies used to enable TF-CSEA crimes with anonymous, cross-border payments – such as cryptocurrencies and virtual assets.

3. Social Services and Survivor Support



Effective responses require strong child protection and social service systems alongside the justice system, with a skilled and supported workforce and accessible services for children and survivors.

- Strengthen child protection and social service systems through adequate workforce capacity, resources, renumeration and operational financing.
- Expand integrated service delivery at the local level to improve access for children and families, with particular attention to closing urban–rural disparities.
- Invest in continuous workforce development through digital learning, certification, and incentives; Strengthen career pathways and renumeration, professional support, and staff wellbeing to retain experienced frontline workers.
- Develop and disseminate standardised guidance, tools, and operational resources to improve the treatment of TF-CSEA cases. Support services should be designed and evaluated around survivors' needs and preferences, rather than focusing primarily on institutional capacity or even only around justice outcomes. Ways to seek and address users' feedback on services need to be built in.
- Ensure survivors have access to assistance for as long as they wish it to continue, and compensation through existing legal mechanisms.

4. Industry Engagement



Industry plays a critical role in preventing, detecting, and responding to TF-CSEA. Clear responsibilities and effective public-private collaboration are essential.

- Establish clear legal responsibilities for industry to prevent, detect, preserve, and report TF-CSEA-related information.
- Make platform transparency reporting compliance publicly visible by publishing which platforms are and are not meeting legal requirements for transparency reporting in order to build a reputationally-consequential accountability mechanism and a concrete, evidence-based basis for engagement with non-compliant platforms.
- Develop industry guidelines to support voluntary compliance while preparing for mandatory regulation where appropriate.
- Strengthen collaboration and information sharing between government and industry.
- Encourage private sector contributions to awareness raising, knowledge sharing, and prevention initiatives through CSR.

5. Public Engagement and Education



Sustained public awareness and digital safety education are essential to strengthen prevention among children, families, schools, and communities.

- Implement continuous public awareness campaigns using clear, accessible messages adapted to local contexts.
- Integrate digital safety into existing school curricula and learning programmes.
- Promote community participation and strengthen the capacity of parents, caregivers, teachers, and education personnel to promote online safety and identify risks early.
- Encourage families to engage with digital technologies together to strengthen digital skills and resilience.

6. Research, Data and Evidence

Evidence is critical for informing policy and monitoring TF-CSEA, while administrative data remains an under-used – though complex to coordinate – resource.

- Strengthen the quality, collection and use of administrative data across child protection, education, health, justice, and law enforcement sectors; Ensure safeguards for children's privacy, dignity, and protection from further harm.
- Support inter-agency data sharing and prioritise interoperability over consolidation through moves to align existing data structures, common definitions, common indicators, classification and reporting standards across existing systems. This will help achieve cross-agency data access with less disruption and cost than building and implementing single unified platforms.
- Strengthen collaboration among government, academia, and researchers to analyse data and generate evidence nationally and regionally to monitor trends and inform policy.
- Invest in monitoring and research that examines whether reforms in governance, financing, services, justice and industry practice result in meaningful improvements in children's safety, access to support, justice and recovery.

7. Financing and Resource Mobilisation

Sustainable TF-CSEA responses require stronger domestic financing, complemented by donor support, for long-term system development.

- Increase domestic financing for TF-CSEA at national and local levels and integrate TF-CSEA costs into agency plans, budgets, resource mobilization and performance frameworks to strengthen accountability and sustainability.
- Align TF-CSEA financing with anti-money laundering and financial crime frameworks to improve coordination and resource allocation.
- Use donor funding to catalyse systemic change while ensuring long-term government ownership and sustainability.



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

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