



OSEC Referral Pathway: Assessment of the Referral Pathway for Reporting Online Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Philippines

Terms of Reference: Consultant

June 2025

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

International Justice Mission (IJM) is a global organization that protects people in poverty from violence. IJM partners with local authorities in 33 program offices across 19 countries to combat slavery, violence against women and children, among other forms of violence. Our model works side-by-side with local authorities and governments to protect and restore survivors, hold perpetrators accountable in local courts, and strengthen justice systems. This model is replicable and has worked to reduce modern day slavery in programs against commercial sexual exploitation of children, among others. IJM and our partners are helping local authorities protect more than 400 million people from violence.

IJM, by collaborating with survivors, offers a distinctive perspective on the intersection of modern slavery and online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC). Since 2011, IJM has partnered with the Philippine Government, international law enforcement, and NGOs to combat the **trafficking of children to produce child sexual exploitation materials, particularly via live-streamed videos for foreign sex offenders**.

IJM's OSEC Program, initiated in 2016, aims to eliminate this form of exploitation, ultimately safeguarding vulnerable community members. IJM has been a trusted partner since 2001 providing technical expertise contributing insights into the functioning of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) pipeline, identifying gaps in survivor services, advocating for policy changes, and exploring prevention opportunities.

THEORY OF CHANGE

IJM's Theory of Change centers around the concept of deterrence, which is built upon a comprehensive understanding of a well-functioning justice system that consistently enforces the law in a just and victim-centered, trauma-informed manner. This approach aligns with IJM's best practices and is grounded in thoroughly researched, evidence-based principles. IJM's initiatives involve various aspects of the justice system, including law enforcement, prosecution, the judiciary, social services, as well as collaboration with civil society, community leaders, media, and survivor input. The most impactful reduction in crime and protection of vulnerable populations occurs when all these components of the justice system and stakeholders work together, coordinating efforts, strengthening capacities, and empowering each other to address specific crimes in particular locations.

Enforcing accountability in the CJS deters both current and potential criminals from committing future acts of violence. Through effective law enforcement and engagement with stakeholders, perceptions and beliefs within a community can be shifted, leading to increased awareness and protective responses for vulnerable individuals.

OBJECTIVES

This project aims to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the referral pathway for reporting Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) in the Philippines. The assessment will critically examine existing reporting processes, identify systemic challenges, and explore opportunities for improvement.

In collaboration with the Philippine Government, survivors, and local community stakeholders, the project will generate evidence-based, actionable recommendations to enhance the efficacy and accessibility of the referral pathway.

Primary Objective:

- Assess the effectiveness of existing referral pathways for reporting OSEC and propose recommendations to increase its efficiency and accessibility.

Secondary Objectives:

- Conduct community consultations to identify barriers preventing effective reporting of OSEC.
- Explore socio-cultural norms that influence community reluctance to report cases, despite the availability of reporting hotlines.
- Investigate strategies to foster community engagement and raise awareness about referral pathways, ensuring sustainability and cultural appropriateness.

SCOPE OF WORK

The consultant will work in close collaboration with IJM Philippines to develop the assessment, ensuring alignment with IJM's theory of change and Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning (MERL) framework. The study will provide an in-depth analysis of current OSEC referral pathways, with a particular focus on diverse locations across in the Philippines.

The consultant will:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of existing OSEC reporting mechanisms.
- Identify systemic bottlenecks and inefficiencies within the referral pathway.
- Examine socio-cultural norms influencing reporting behaviors.
- Propose evidence-based, actionable recommendations to increase the efficiency, accessibility, and effectiveness of the referral process.
- Provide recommendations to strengthen community-based reporting mechanisms and improve the capacity of local agencies to respond to OSEC cases.
- Ensure recommendations are feasible, scalable, and adaptable for broader implementation in other jurisdictions.

KEY OUTPUTS

The consultant will be responsible for delivering:

- Desk-based literature review on referral pathways and reporting mechanisms in the Philippines.
- Complete review of relevant legal frameworks, policies, and regulations related to OSEC reporting.
- Focus group discussions, interviews, and consultations with key community stakeholders.
- Preliminary assessment mapping the existing referral landscape, best practices, and gaps.
- Final assessment report, including recommendations to increase the efficiency and accessibility of the referral system.

EXPECTED IMPACT

This assessment will provide valuable insights into the barriers preventing communities from reporting OSEC cases and offer practical recommendations to improve referral pathways. By understanding socio-cultural norms, the findings will help inform targeted interventions that ensure survivors receive timely and effective support.

PROJECT TIMELINE

The consultant is expected to complete the project in a timely manner. The consultant is expected to provide a detailed estimate of the project's duration including the turnaround time for outputs. This project is expected to commence immediately once all agreements have been completed.

CONSULTANT EXPERIENCE

The consultant is expected to possess the following qualifications and experience:

- Proven experience in conducting research evaluations, or research related to child protection, gender-based violence, trafficking, or exploitation.
- Strong understanding of referral pathways, case management systems and societal norms and reporting mechanisms in the context of child protection, law enforcement, or social services.
- Experience working with government agencies, law enforcement, civil society organizations, and international organizations in the Philippines or similar contexts.
- Strong research, analytical and report-writing skills, with the ability to synthesize complex information into actionable recommendations.
- Excellent communication and stakeholder engagement skills, including experience conducting interviews, focus group discussions, and consultations.
- Familiarity with the online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) landscape and related legal frameworks in the Philippines is an advantage.
- Experience working in the Philippines or South-East Asia especially with gender, ethnic minorities, disabilities, mental health and human rights would be highly regarded.
- A strong understanding of research methodologies and ethical research practices, especially with vulnerable populations.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested candidates may express their interest in a written response to this TOR via email detailing their qualifications, experience of conducting similar studies, estimated costs, timeline, and previous partnership engagements in the Philippines.

Qualified candidates may submit questions prior to interviews. Applicants must provide:

1. A cover letter detailing qualifications, experience, and suitability for the project.
2. A portfolio showcasing similar engagements, including:
 - a. Type of work performed,
 - b. Skills applied, and
 - c. Contact information for verifiable references.
3. A technical proposal with a preliminary work plan, timeline, and financial estimate for the study.

The deadline for proposal submission is **July 11, 2025**. IJM will be reviewing proposals submitted on an ongoing basis to decide on the implementation partner to join as soon as possible.

Questions, written responses and completed applications (in PDF) should be submitted and emailed to: IJMPH@ijm.org.

For more information, please see IJM.org.ph.