

Sexual Exploitation of Children in Ethiopia
Submission
for the Universal Periodic Review of the human rights situation in Ethiopia

Submitted by

ECPAT International and Defence for Children – ECPAT Nederland

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ECPAT International is a global network of civil society organisations working for the eradication of all forms of sexual exploitation of children. For the past 28 years, ECPAT has acted as the international watchdog, monitoring States' response to sexual exploitation of children, and advocating for robust international measures to protect children from sexual exploitation. ECPAT International currently has 104 network members operating in 93 countries.



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Defence for Children- ECPAT Netherlands has wide and in-depth knowledge and expertise in monitoring and implementation in all areas of the CRC, ranging from child protection and youth care, child abuse and neglect, trafficking and sexual exploitation of children to juvenile justice and alien law. Programmatic action includes research, advocacy, campaigns, lobby, monitoring, information and incorporates the promotion of multi stakeholder cooperation including private sector actors.

Justification for Submission

1. The present submission is an update to review the progress that has been made by the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) to end sexual exploitation of children (SEC) and assess the level of implementation of the UPR recommendations pertaining to SEC made in 2014.¹ New recommendations to end SEC in Ethiopia will be made. Recommendations made in this report are in line with the commitment made by the GoE to eliminate all forms of violence against children, including sexual abuse and exploitation with the adoption of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015.²
2. The content of this report is mostly based on in country work experience and recent desk research by ECPAT International and Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands.
3. The scope of this report is limited to SEC and its different manifestations, including exploitation of children in prostitution,³ online child sexual exploitation ('OCSE'), child sexual abuse materials ('CSAM'),⁴ trafficking of children for sexual purposes, sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism⁵ ('SECTT') and, child, early and forced marriage ('CEFM').

Current status and developments of sexual exploitation of children in Ethiopia

4. With an estimated population of 102,5 million inhabitants,⁶ Ethiopia is the world's 13th most populous country and the second most populous African country as of 2016.⁷ In 2016, the child population in Ethiopia corresponds to almost 50 million, making up thus 48% of the country's population.⁸
5. Even though Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing economy of East Africa, it is also one of the poorest countries with a per capita income of 783USD.⁹ A third of the population lives below the poverty line, while another third lives in severe poverty conditions.¹⁰ Recently, some parts of the country have been severely affected by droughts, increasing the economic hardship.¹¹ The country ranked 174 out of 188 countries in the latest Human Development Index released in 2017 and based on estimates for 2015, which gives it the status of a low human development country.¹² The new government set up in April 2018 has however started to take economic measures, opening the market to private companies, and in the coming years will need to continue to implement these economic policy changes if the country's economic growth is to be beneficial to the population.
6. To escape poverty, limited education and employment opportunities, droughts, violence at home, early marriages and abusive relationships, many children migrate from rural areas to urban areas, but also to other countries, in the hope of better opportunities. Those migrating children are extremely vulnerable to trafficking and other forms of exploitation, including prostitution, as the Child Right Committee noticed.¹³ Due to cultural taboos, many girls, who have fled an early marriage and/or engaged in prostitution, cannot go back to their family, increasing their vulnerability. Children do not only migrate 'voluntarily' seduced by promises of a better life, but some children are also forced to migrate. Children, especially girls, are sent away by their families who cannot support them. They are often placed under the custody of some family relative or neighbour's relative, or sometime even of a stranger, who agreed to take care of the child and provide him or her with employment. Many children end up in forced labour situations or sexual exploitation in prostitution to cover the expenses.¹⁴ Children are also directly sold by their parents for the same reasons. This would concern around 20,000 children per year.¹⁵

7. Poverty is thus a major contributing factor to exploitation in prostitution and children, especially girls, from rural and remote areas are vulnerable to trafficking and sexual exploitation. In addition, trafficking and exploitation are facilitated by the fact that less than 3% of children were registered at birth in Ethiopia in 2016. With no proof of age or identity, children are susceptible to child trafficking, as they simply disappear, unnoticed by the authorities, and without at least the protection of a birth certificate to protect them against early marriage, child labour or criminal prosecution as an adult. With the registration system set up by the new government in 2016, this rate would have however increased up to 18%, a welcomed progress.¹⁶
8. Under Ethiopian laws, procuring children for prostitution and engaging in sexual activities with minors is illegal and criminalised by the Criminal Code.¹⁷ Yet **exploitation of children in prostitution** remains widespread across the country and is prevalent in most urban areas of the country.¹⁸ However, accurate estimates of the number of children exploited in prostitution are not available. The last official numbers are from 2002 when the Women's Affairs Department in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs estimated that 90,000 females were involved in commercial sex work. Approximately 20% of them were aged between 12 and 18 years.¹⁹ Since then, the engagement of children in commercial sex work appears to have increased in urban centres,²⁰ where many young girls, but also boys, can be found working in brothels, hotels, bars, rural truck stops and in resort towns.²¹
9. Ethiopia is known to have a high rate of trafficking and is a country of origin and transit²² to three migration routes in Africa - Northern, Southern and Eastern.²³ Research revealed that Ethiopian **children trafficking** mostly takes place through overland border crossings with neighbouring countries before children head to the Arabic Peninsula, where they are subjected to forced labour and prostitution. Internal trafficking is also widespread. Not only are Ethiopian children at risk, but Ethiopia also faces an important influx of migrants that transit through the country. Amongst them, more than 45,000 unaccompanied children, increasingly from Eritrea. These refugee children are also at great risk of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, including human trafficking.²⁴ The International Office of Migration estimated that at least 1.2 million children are victims of trafficking in Ethiopia every year.²⁵
10. In Ethiopia, accessibility to information and communication technologies is limited. While half of the population has a phone, only 15% of the population was connected to internet in 2016.²⁶ Only 31% of the adolescent population make use of the mass media. There is no study on the phenomenon of **OCSE** and it goes largely unnoticed. However, connectivity is growing fast and the new government has already embarked in the project of restoring mobile internet in the country.²⁷
11. Regarding **SECTT**, while, there is no official data, international research revealed that the phenomenon of **SECTT** is a concern in Ethiopia²⁸ as it appears that there are travellers and tourists having sex with children who are being exploited in prostitution.²⁹ According to the study, sex tourists often ask their guides to serve as sex brokers and many guides are involved in such a deal. On the other hand, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has recently set up a five-year strategic plan aimed at developing the tourism sector,³⁰ which has been suffering from poor facilities and civil unrest. Ethiopia is also becoming the host for different international, continental and regional conferences with a large number of participants coming from different parts of the world. Hence, the phenomenon of **SECTT** is at risk of increasing.

12. In terms of **early and forced marriage**, data collected by UNICEF from 2010 to 2016 verified that 40% of Ethiopian women aged between 20 and 24 years were married for the first time or in some forms of union before they were 18 years old, and 15% before their fifteenth birthday.³¹ According to UNICEF, the practice is on the decline, with rates going from 49% in 2007 to 40% in 2017. However, the phenomenon remains worrying and pervasive, especially in rural areas. Thanks to the support of UNICEF, through its Global Program to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, more than twice as many cases were reported in the Afar region in 2016 compared to the previous year. In Amhara, 232 planned child marriages were annulled as a result of interventions from women’s development groups before police were involved, and 457 marriages were annulled by the court in Amhara, while 405 were approved due to a lack of evidence of the child’s age.³²
13. Out of the 36 recommendations concerning child rights in the last UPR review in 2014, none of them addressed the different SEC manifestations, to the exception of the issue of early marriages. There were however a series of recommendations addressing sexual violence and trafficking that are relevant to SEC.

General measures of implementation

National Action Plans and overall Strategies

14. In the last country’s review of 2014, Ethiopia supported the recommendation of Myanmar to “*further pursue the national strategy and the action plan on the elimination of harmful traditional practices and FGM*”.³³ Rwanda made a similar recommendation. In 2014, at the Girl Summit in London, the Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister committed to eliminate harmful traditional practices by 2025, which include early and forced marriages. The same year, with the support of the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office of UNICEF (ESARO), a programme mapping and qualitative data analysis was completed in Ethiopia, with the aim of contributing to the establishment of a national intervention plan.³⁴ In its 2017 National Voluntary Review on the implementation of the SDGs, Ethiopia mentioned the existence of Women Policy and implementation strategies that aimed notably at ending child marriage.³⁵ However, the previous strategy on early and forced marriage expired in 2015 and it appears that it would currently still be under revision.³⁶
15. With the exception of the above national strategy, Ethiopia has no national plan addressing SEC or the crimes described in the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC). The GoE had for the period 2006 – 2010 a specific National Action Plan (NAP) focused on SEC. Little information is however available on the content and implementation of the plan, and the Government did not renew the plan, despite the evidence that SEC, with the exception of child marriage, is increasing.
16. Instead, Ethiopia has a series of national schemes that address children’s rights. There is the National Refugee Child Protection Strategy for the period 2017 – 2019 which main goal is to “*collectively prevent, mitigate, and respond to protection risks of the most vulnerable groups affected by emergencies, including natural disasters, conflicts and displacements*”.³⁷ There is also the Government’s Growth and Transformation Plan II (2015–2020) which safeguards the rights of children, and the National Action Plan to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour as well as the National Human Rights Action Plan II (2017 – 2019). The latter gives detailed direction to the government and allocates the responsibilities and work amongst the governmental institutions while setting up principles for cooperation with civil society. It also identifies vulnerable communities to which specific attention must be given.

17. However, none of them address specifically the issue of child sexual exploitation and no specific budget is allocated to combatting SEC. In addition, the total number of violations related to SEC and data on the number of prosecutions and investigations is unknown. The GoE doesn't have a comprehensive system in place to collect and report data on SEC, which greatly limits its capacity to assess, monitor and prevent SEC offences with adapted policies.

Recommendations for the GoE to:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive and systematic mechanism for data collection, analysis, monitoring and impact assessment that covers all issues dealt within the OPSC.
- Adopt a specific national plan of action on the fight against sexual exploitation of children, or on the implementation of the Optional Protocol, with clear and precise objectives, to which adequate budgetary provisions are allocated; or
- Otherwise, ensure that sexual exploitation of children is included in the various relevant national action plans with specific objectives for the fight against sexual exploitation of children, and allocate to each of these objectives adequate budgetary provisions for their realisation;

Coordination and Evaluation

18. The Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (MOWCYA) is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child ('CRC Convention'). For this purpose, Ethiopia established regional Bureaus of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (BOWCYA), as well as national, regional, zonal, and woreda level CRC Executive Committees. In total, 1149 Executive Committees were established around the country,³⁸ which are responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the CRC Convention. In addition, Ethiopia has a series of committees tasked with the supervision of the national plans and strategies that are relevant to the fight against sexual exploitation: the National Steering Committee to Coordinate Activities on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, the National Council Against Human Trafficking, the Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking, and the National Steering Committee Against Sexual Exploitation of Children. The latter was established in 1997. It is composed of the representatives of the relevant stakeholders and tasked with developing actions plans and coordinate the activities aimed at tackling the sexual exploitation of children.
19. However, despite the existence of a series of committees, there is a lack of effective implementation of the strategies and national action plans. This is due to different factors: policies are underfunded,³⁹ there is a lack of expertise, and there is a lack of coordination between the committees while their mandates overlap.

Recommendations for the GoE to:

- Strengthen the coordination and cooperation of policies designed for children and ensure that they are comprehensive, coherent and consistent at the national, provincial, district and communal levels.

Legislative framework

20. The right for children not to be subjected to exploitative practices is enshrined in Article 36 of the Constitution. In addition, in March 2014, Ethiopia acceded to the OPSC. It also adopted the Proclamation on Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in 2015 as the provisions in the Criminal Code do not comply with the Palermo Protocol. However, the country's legal framework is yet to comply with Ethiopia's international obligations.
21. In contrast with the CRC, the age of criminal responsibility is 9 years old and children between 15 and 18 years old in conflict with the law are prosecuted and judged as adults. This affects children who are – wrongfully – considered as perpetrators rather than victims, being sanctioned for acts committed as part of their sexual exploitation. This is particularly the case for children exploited in prostitution. The Criminal Code sanctions whoever makes a profession of the prostitution, without distinguishing between adults and minors.
22. Regarding the **exploitation of children in prostitution**, the Criminal Code criminalises and sets a penalty for “*whoever, for gain, makes a profession of or lives by procuring or on the prostitution or immorality of another, or maintains, as a landlord or keeper, a brothel*”.⁴⁰ Article 636 increases the penalties for procuring when the victim is a minor, sanctioning the offence of a rigorous imprisonment from 3 to 10 years. Although there is no specific offense for engaging into prostitution, the Criminal Code criminalises the act of having sex with a minor, setting higher penalties when the child is under 13. The main limitation of these provisions lies in the fact that the legislation does not define ‘*child prostitution*’. Moreover, the acts of offering and providing a child to be exploited in prostitution are not expressly covered in the national legislation, as required by the OPSC.
23. The 2015 Proclamation on trafficking reflects the key elements of **trafficking in children** enshrined in the Palermo Protocol.⁴¹ In addition, this new law strengthened the penalties and emphasises prevention and cross-border operations. It also exempts victims of trafficking from criminal responsibility.
24. When it comes to **OCSE**, Article 640 of the Criminal Code prohibits a series of acts prescribed by the OPSC and even criminalises the mere possession of writings, images, posters, films or other objects which are obscene or grossly indecent. The Article punishes more severely whoever “*for this purpose displays a simulation of sexual intercourse by minors or exhibits their genitals*” (Article 640(2)(c)). A major limitation remains in the fact that, with the exception of displaying, the legal framework does not correctly reflect the gravity of child pornography by failing to have specific criminal provisions defining, in accordance with the OPSC, child pornography and sanctioning its production, distribution, dissemination, sale, offer, import, export or possession for the above purposes. In addition, pornography is only sanctioned by simple imprisonment of less than 6 months or one year in the case of Article 640(2)(c), and simple imprisonment is defined as a sanction for crimes of not very serious nature. The legal framework also fails thus to reflect the gravity of child pornography in terms of sanctions.
25. The Criminal Code remains silent on **online grooming**, which is a significant omission that allows offenders to escape punishment in Ethiopia.
26. The Ethiopian legislation does not address the issue of **SECTT** specifically.
27. Regarding **CEFM**, the Revised Family Code sets the minimum legal age for marriage at 18.⁴² In case of serious cause, a minor above 16 might be authorised to conclude a marriage. The Code also imposes that marriage must be voluntarily decided as the consent, to be valid, must be free and full.⁴³ Those conditions are also applicable to customary and religious marriages.

Accordingly, the Criminal Code condemns the acts of concluding a marriage with a person under the marriageable age⁴⁴ and of solemnising or contracting an unlawful marriage, e.g. a marriage concluded against the will of one of the spouses.⁴⁵ The offences are sanctioned with a rigorous imprisonment, emphasizing therefore the gravity of the offence. However, considering the extent of the practice of early and forced marriages in Ethiopia, the threshold of maximum 3 years of imprisonment is not adequate.

28. In terms of **extraterritoriality**, the Ethiopian legal system enables the prosecution in Ethiopia of any person who commit abroad crimes against public moral, which includes Article 640 (pornography) and Articles 635 and 636 (trafficking for prostitution) of the Ethiopian Criminal Code. Beyond the cases of crimes against public moral as understood under Article 17, Ethiopian courts and tribunals also have jurisdiction over foreign offenders who sexually exploit Ethiopian children outside Ethiopia's territory and on Ethiopian nationals committing an offence abroad, provided that in both cases the act to be tried was prohibited by the law of the State where it was committed and by Ethiopian law, and it was of sufficient gravity to justify extradition.⁴⁶ Finally, the Criminal Code stipulates that Ethiopia has jurisdiction on all other offences committed by foreigners abroad "*if the crime is punishable under Ethiopian law with death or with rigorous imprisonment for not less than ten years.*"⁴⁷ Some cases of sexual exploitation of children are considered crimes against public moral, however not all manifestations are covered. Cases of CEFM and engaging in sexual intercourse with minors are not considered as crimes against public moral, nor are they punishable with 10 years or more, which means that the requirement of double criminality is applicable.
29. When it comes to **extradition**, the Criminal Code stipulates that no Ethiopian nationals will be extradited. They shall however be tried by Ethiopian courts under Ethiopian law.⁴⁸ Foreigners can be extradited on the basis of a law, treaty or international custom.⁴⁹ Those international agreements generally impose the act to be an offence under both Ethiopian law and the law of the requesting country, as well as a one-year imprisonment threshold for an offence to be extraditable.⁵⁰ According to the Criminal Code foreigners can also be extradited provided that the offence does not directly and principally concern the Ethiopian State as understood under Article 13 of the Criminal Code which enumerates a series of offences.⁵¹

Recommendations for the GoE to:

- Ratify the third Optional Protocol on Communications.
- Take legislative measures to exclude child liability for sexual offences in the context of their sexual exploitation;
- Enact provisions defining 'child prostitution' and 'child pornography' in compliance with the OPSC, prohibiting all thereof prescribed acts with adequate sanctions;
- Take legislative measures to criminalise the act of 'grooming' children;
- Undertake awareness-raising campaigns with the tourism industry and the public at large on the prevention of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and ratify the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics of the World Tourism Organization.
- Remove the principle of double criminality in cases of SEC offences committed by nationals abroad or by foreigners against Ethiopian nationals abroad;

Prevention

30. Ethiopia and international organisations have increased their efforts in raising awareness and educating people on child marriage. The Growth and Transformation Plan II referred to awareness-raising activities undertaken by the Government to eradicate harmful traditional practices and physical violence against women.⁵² With the support of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, Ethiopia continues to raise awareness and to adopt measures targeting the root causes of child marriage. 51,239 schoolgirls were reached with various interventions which included strengthening girls' clubs, strengthening school guidance and counselling, teachers' training on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence. This outreach was achieved via multifaceted programming.⁵³ In addition, under the same program, 31,400 community members in Afar, Amhara and Somali regions regularly attended community dialogues facilitated by trained community facilitators.
31. Some private travel and tourism actors have committed themselves to prevent and/or denounce sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism by becoming members of the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism, an industry-driven initiative supported by ECPAT, UNICEF and the UN. The Code counts seven members with operations in Ethiopia.
32. There have also been successful campaigns on trafficking. For example, the IOM intensified its awareness raising campaigns, primarily through the screening for university students of *Surprising Europe III* – a compilation of documentaries featuring the lives of African migrants and challenges they face in Europe, Community Conversations, and theatre tours in rural Ethiopia.⁵⁴ In addition, some NGOs are working with community based organisations and volunteer groups on awareness raising on child protection.⁵⁵
33. Beyond measures addressing child early and forced marriage, as well as trafficking, there has been little emphasis on other manifestations of child sexual exploitation.
34. Regarding youth participation, the right of peoples to participate in national development policies is guaranteed by Article 89 of the Constitution. The National Youth Policy (2004) recognises the importance of youth “*to participate, in an organized manner, in the process of building a democratic system, good governance and development endeavours, and benefit fairly from the outcomes.*” But, under the concept of youth, are only included those who are aged between 15 and 29 years old. In addition, the OECD noticed that there is little evidence that young Ethiopians are involved in the decision-making processes and the livelihoods of their communities. There are many barriers that hinder youth's active participation in political life and most youth have limited awareness of youth policies.⁵⁶ The UNHRC made similar findings.⁵⁷ In its National Voluntary Review of 2017, Ethiopia recognised that “*creating strong women and youth organizations and involving them in the national development interventions and in the building of democratic system through co-ordination with pertinent government organs shall remain major undertakings.*”⁵⁸

Recommendations for the GoE to:

- Intensify efforts to raise awareness on all SEC manifestations by designing and implementing public awareness-raising programs among children, families and groups of professionals working with and for children.
- Promote to a greater extent the participation of children in the decision-making of policies and legislation affecting them, by setting up mechanisms at all levels to facilitate consultations.

Protection of the rights of child victims

Measures adopted to protect the rights and interests of child victims by the court and law enforcement

35. In the last country's UPR review in 2014, Ethiopia supported the recommendations made by Cuba and Angola to "*continue strengthen the existing mechanisms in the fight against trafficking in persons, particularly of women and children.*"⁵⁹ The GoE also supported Liechtenstein's recommendation to "*increase efforts to effectively enforce the provisions of the Penal Code on sexual and domestic violence and prosecute any such acts.*"⁶⁰
36. Increasing efforts have been done to train law enforcements officials. To strengthen investigations and prosecution, as well as to raise awareness on the new proclamation on trafficking in 2015, UNODC and the Justice Organs Professionals Training Centre have provided a ten-day train-the-trainers training for 70 prosecutors, judges and investigators on the content of the law and its implementation. Trained officials would in their turn train other law enforcement officials.⁶¹ IOM Ethiopia conducted a two-day International Migration Law (IML) training in November 2015 for 24 Senior Government Officials from seven regions and two city administrations.
37. The GoE has also established a Human Trafficking and Narcotics section within the Ethiopian police force, and according to the new Proclamation on Trafficking, "*any person who knows the commission or the preparation for the commission of any of the crime stipulated under this Proclamation shall have the duty to notify the police, any other relevant authority or local administrative organ.*"⁶²
38. In addition, as a result of support measures provided by UNICEF and Childline to delivery points and schools in order to improve quality of education for adolescent girls, there was a movement of individual initiatives to track cases of child marriage and FGM/C, improving enforcement of the law by identifying cases and reporting them to the police.⁶³
39. However, Ethiopia must sustain its efforts to train its officials considering the general lack of knowledge and skills necessary to conduct high quality investigations in those cases. It must also provide the necessary financial resources to increase the investigative capacities. In addition, most of the measures taken now have been driven by international initiatives. Ethiopia must progressively take ownership of the different projects.
40. There are several helplines in Ethiopia for children, two of them dealing most with cases of sexual exploitation of children. In addition, in its Growth Plan II, the Ethiopian government planned the creation of three digit telephone lines at federal and in six regional cities to support the protection of children from abuses.⁶⁴ There is little information on the effectivity of these helplines and their capacity to refer or to respond cases of sexual exploitation, even though in the past they seemed to suffer certain flaws. The ANPPCAN Ethiopian hotline (set up in 2004) for example only had one counsellor, while the ECFA helpline (2006)⁶⁵ has quite a long number to

remember. The governmental hotline does not seem to have been put into place. The IOM recently set up a pilot Migration Information Center and Hotline Service in Dessie city in 2015. The pilot project notably aims at providing appropriate information to potential migrants, providing services and successfully helped a total of 982 people from Dessie and the surrounding areas to date.⁶⁶

41. Finally, the Ethiopian justice system is evolving but is not yet fully equipped to respond to the need of children who come in contact with the law, whether as victims of SEC or as witnesses.
42. Article 36 of the Constitution reflects the principle of the best interest of the child as it states that: *“in all actions concerning children undertaken by public and private welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the primary consideration shall be the best interest of the child.”*
43. The Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code do not include specific provisions setting up child-sensitive mechanisms. Ethiopia’s government has however set up child friendly courts and child protection units in some areas of the country. First established in Adama Town, the child protection units and the child friendly benches were further expanded into six other towns in the Oromia Region in 2013. The Child Protection Unit aims to improve the treatment of children by law enforcement agencies. It is staffed by one police officer and one social worker. The police officer is provided with specialised training on the legal, operational and psychological aspects of the work.⁶⁷ In addition, the setting of the CPU has been arranged to provide rooms that are used for investigations as well as to be distinct temporary accommodation, including toilet facilities, separately for boys and girls. The purpose of the child friendly benches is to adjudicate cases involving child victims and witnesses, as well as alleged child offenders. The initiative entails a specially designed courtroom to hear those cases, with added security of close-circuit cameras, and to allow children to provide testimony without facing the alleged perpetrator.
44. Regarding protection measures, the main instrument is the Proclamation No. 699/2010⁶⁸ which contains general protection measures regarding confidentiality of information on victims, in camera hearings, relocation and change of identity. The types of measures to be taken is decided by the Ministry upon assessment of a number of considerations. The provisions in the Proclamation on Trafficking simply refers back to the provisions of the above Proclamation No. 699/2010.
45. However, important efforts still need to be made by the GoE to have its justice system fully child friendly. As the UNHRC noticed in the National Refugee Child Protection Strategy in 2016, there is still limited child-friendly procedures and mechanisms for child victims and child offenders.⁶⁹ Particularly, the Proclamation 699/2010 does not address the specific vulnerability of children.
46. Pursuant to the Ethiopian legislation, victims, including children, are entitled to claim compensation at the opening of the hearing for the injury caused.⁷⁰ However, limited information was available on cases of children successfully securing compensation in cases of SEC. Evidence suggests thus that children do not have access to effective remedies. This can be further illustrated by the fact that SEC remains underreported, despite its magnitude in the country.

Recovery and reintegration of victims

47. Facing psychological trauma, and often rejection from their own families, lacking resources, victims of SEC need to be provided with strong support. However, in 2014, the NGO Save the Children observed a lack of awareness by children victim of sexual exploitation of the available resources.⁷¹ In addition, although sufficient data is not available to analyse accurately the accessibility of child victims of SEC to recovery and reintegration programmes, it seems that the availability, quality and adequacy of such services is insufficient. Studies have indeed reported children in institutions are often exposed to violence.⁷² In some of the orphanages run by the

government, some of the victims were again sexually abused.⁷³ In addition, social workers' lack of knowledge and skills hamper providing adequate care to children in need. Furthermore, services are not available throughout the whole country,⁷⁴ and this despite the fact that some NGOs complement the services offered by the government. Finally, psychological and counselling services are almost non-existing; some being provided by NGOs, but insufficiently.⁷⁵

48. In the past years, there have been some successful cases of reintegration. For example, the Salesians Congregation and UNODC launched their first initiative “Rehabilitation and Reintegration Services for Children in Conflict with the Law” in November 2015. At the shelter, the young girls and boys receive meals, warm clothing, counselling and access to basic education and literacy classes. Once ready, they participate in a skills training orientation.⁷⁶ Such services are also provided by others NGOs. In addition, the 2015 Proclamation on the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking expressly provides for measures of rehabilitation and compensation for victims of trafficking.
49. However, those efforts are insufficient and need to be duplicated, while the provisions of the new proclamation on trafficking must be implemented as well as the two sets of guidelines adopted by the Ministry of Women in 2009 and 2010 that were developed to implement child protection programmes and interventions in the country.⁷⁷ As UNICEF stated in 2016, “*the needs for recovery from violence and rehabilitation are not properly met in Ethiopia. No single sector can tackle all challenges related to violence against children – an integrated intervention must ensure both preventive and response measures.*”⁷⁸

Recommendations for the GoE to:

- Continue to integrate the concept of ‘best interests of the child’ into judicial mechanisms and protection policies.
- Continue to develop recovery and reintegration programmes for child victims of sexual exploitation that take into consideration their special vulnerability and are tailored to all SEC victims.
- Make available a systematic training on child rights for all professionals working with and for children; in particular, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, teachers, and personnel working in all forms of alternative care.

¹ Human Rights Council (2014), “Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Ethiopia”, A/HRC/27/14, 7 July 2014, accessed on 10 May 2018, https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/ethiopia/session_19_-_april_2014/a_hrc_27_14_e.pdf.

² Sustainable Development Goal Targets 5.2, 8.7, and 16.2.

³ ECPAT prefers the term ‘exploitation of children in prostitution’ instead of ‘child prostitution’ in line with the recently widely adopted Terminology Guidelines. ECPAT International (2016), “Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, Adopted by the Interagency Working Group in Luxembourg, 28 January 2016”, Bangkok: ECPAT, 29, accessed on 26 April 2018, <http://luxembourgguidelines.org/>.

⁴ ECPAT prefers the term ‘child sexual exploitation material’ or ‘child sexual abuse material’ over the often in legal context still used ‘child pornography’ in line with the recently widely adopted Terminology Guidelines. *Ibid.*, 39.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 54, accessed on 26 April 2018, <http://luxembourgguidelines.org/>.

- ⁶ The World Bank, “Data: Population, Total”, accessed 10 May 2018, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL>.
- ⁷ *Ibid.*
- ⁸ UNICEF (2017), “The State of the World's Children 2017: Children in a Digital World”, June 2016, 174, accessed 10 May 2018, https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_SOWC_2016.pdf.
- ⁹ The World Bank, “The World Bank in Ethiopia”, accessed 4 June 2018, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/ethiopia/overview>.
- ¹⁰ UNDP (2016), “Ethiopia – Human Development Indicators”, accessed 11 May 2018, <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/ETH>.
- ¹¹ United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (2018), “UN report on world economic situation launched in Ethiopia”, *Media Center*, 17 January 2018, accessed 10 May 2018, <https://www.uneca.org/stories/un-report-world-economic-situation-launched-ethiopia>.
- ¹² United Nations Development Programme (2016), “Human Development Report 2016: Human Development for Everyone”, 200, accessed 10 May 2018, http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2016_human_development_report.pdf.
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