DISRUPTING HARM IN MALAYSIA

Evidence on online child sexual exploitation and abuse
Disrupting Harm: Evidence to understand online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA)
PHASE 1
DESK REVIEW OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

GOVERNMENT DUTY-BEARER INTERVIEWS N=18

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY DATA FROM CHILDREN AND PARENTS N=995

PHASE 2

SURVIVOR CONVERSATIONS N=4

FRONTLINE SERVICE PROVIDERS’ SURVEY N=50

ACCESS TO JUSTICE INTERVIEWS WITH PROFESSIONALS N=11

ACCESS TO JUSTICE INTERVIEWS WITH CHILDREN N=0

LEGAL ANALYSIS

NON-LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA ANALYSIS

LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY ASSESSMENT N=5

COUNTRY THREAT ASSESSMENT N=5

SURVIVOR CONVERSATIONS N=4

LEGAL ANALYSIS

METHODS
Situations involving digital, internet and communication technologies at some point during the continuum of abuse or exploitation.

OCSEA can occur fully online or through a mix of online and in-person interactions between offenders and children.
INSIGHT 1

At least 4% of internet-using children aged 12-17 in Malaysia were subjected to four clear examples of OCSEA which included:

- Offers of money or gifts to share sexual images of themselves
- Offers of money or gifts to engage in sexual acts in person
- Sexual extortion
- Non-consensual sharing of their sexual images
Children subjected to OCSEA

- 2% offered money or gifts in return for sexual images or videos
- 1% offered money or gifts online to engage in sexual acts in person
- 1% threatened or blackmailed online to engage in sexual activities
- 3% had their sexual images shared with others without consent
- 2% accepted money or gifts in exchange for sexual images or videos (15-17 only)
INSIGHT 2

Offenders were more often someone unknown to the child. In some cases offenders are individuals the child already knows – often an adult acquaintance, a peer under 18 or a family member.
What do children say?

- In the household survey, children who had experienced OCSEA in the last year commonly reported the offender to be someone they did not know.

- People known to children were also involved in the abuse in a proportion of cases, often a friend or acquaintance under 18, a family member or an adult friend/acquaintance.

- According to frontline workers surveyed, offenders were most often strangers (nationals), followed by parents/step parents and community members under 18.
HOW TO DISRUPT HARM?

➢ Continue to engage the public to increase awareness of violence against children including OCSEA, via existing national awareness raising initiatives.
Children mainly experienced OCSEA through the major social media providers, most commonly via WhatsApp, Facebook/Facebook Messenger.
HOW TO DISRUPT HARM?

- Improve law enforcement collaboration with global social media platforms
- Content platforms should prioritise safety by design, considering children's needs in product development processes.
INSIGHT 4

Children who were subjected to OCSEA tended to confide in people within their interpersonal networks, particularly friends, caregivers or siblings. Helplines and the police were almost never utilised to seek help.
Who do children tell?

Up to 50% of the children who had these experiences did not tell anyone.

Of the children who disclosed, most told a friend, a sibling or a caregiver.

Of the children who experienced OCSEA, only one child reported to a helpline.
HOW TO DISRUPT HARM?

➢ Raise awareness that existing helplines can be a source of information about how to support young people subjected to OCSEA.

➢ Consider expanding programmes which rely on opening dialogue among young people and encouraging peers to seek help for abuse.

➢ **Improve the capacity of frontline staff** in contact with children to better identify children at risk or that have experienced OCSEA.

➢ Ensure that responses to disclosures of OCSEA always convey that it is **never the child’s fault**.
A range of promising initiatives driven by government, civil society and industry are underway in Malaysia; however, weak interagency coordination and cooperation and limitations related to budgetary resources exist.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident Type</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Pornography (possession manufacture and distribution)</td>
<td>96,594</td>
<td>219,433</td>
<td>183,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Sex Tourism</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Sex Trafficking</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Sexual Molestation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misleading Domain Name</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misleading Words or Digital Images on the Internet</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Enticement of Children for Sexual Acts</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsolicited Obscene Material Sent to a Child</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia Total</td>
<td>96,627</td>
<td>219,459</td>
<td>183,407</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Possession, manufacture and distribution of **CSAM** (referred to in US legislation as “child pornography”) accounts for almost all of the country’s reports in the reporting period.

- Malaysia’s status as a **tourist destination** of interest to traveling sex offenders.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Electronic Service Provider</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>92,138</td>
<td>211,739</td>
<td>172,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instagram Inc.</td>
<td>1,341</td>
<td>4,077</td>
<td>6,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Google</td>
<td>1,636</td>
<td>2,469</td>
<td>3,045</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twitter Inc./Vine.co</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WhatsApp Inc.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumblr</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeWe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imgur LLC</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>92</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tagged.com</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinterest Inc.</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microsoft - Online Operations</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snapchat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discord Inc.</td>
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<td>Dropbox Inc.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td>MeetMe.com (@kamyYearbook.com)</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yahoo1Inc</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SmugMug/Flickr</td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stellaive LLC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Omegle.com LLC</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younow.com</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Facebook exceeds all other electronic service providers
- Google increased by 86%
- Instagram increased by 395%
- WhatsApp by 368%
- Reports from Twitter Inc/ Vine.co, slightly declined
- The primary data from case study interviews have indicate Facebook as a common platform for sharing CSAM.
- Dark web and peer to peer monitoring indicates high level of technical sophistication and specialist interest of potential offenders.
- Reporting from some platforms specializing in live-streaming of adult sexual activity, paid in tokens indicates probability of OCSEA with a commercial element.
Access to Justice - encounters with Law enforcers and legal professionals

- Few OCSEA prosecutions
- Delays in case processing
- Compensation not always applied for

- Special courts to handle sexual crimes against children
- Social support services available
HOW TO DISRUPT HARM?

➢ Allocate financial resources to help ordinary courts achieve the same level of child friendliness as the special courts established to handle sexual crimes against children.

➢ Equip judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers and social workers, with the technical knowledge and skills necessary to handle OCSEA cases and to implement child friendly procedures.

➢ Strengthen the Malaysia Internet Crime Against Children (MICAC) Investigation Unit with sufficient personnel and the necessary expertise to address OCSEA
INSIGHT 6

Although existing legislation, policies and standards in Malaysia include provisions relevant to OCSEA, including strong provisions regarding child-friendly investigations and prosecutions, support to implement such standards across the country and further legislative reform are needed for a comprehensive response to OCSEA.
HOW TO DISRUPT HARM?

- Criminalise live-streaming of child sexual abuse as a separate and distinct offence
- Strengthen the implementation of the Sexual Offences against Children Act
- Amend legislation to ensure that provisions establishing age of sexual consent are consistent across legislation and apply equally to boys and girls
- Ensure the creation of a roadmap towards the implementation of the updated National Child Policy and Action Plan
QUESTIONS?