

Risk Indicators

FOR COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN



Silent no more. We will speak out.



A Homes of Hope publication,
printed by the Creating Safety
Nets Project, funded by the
European Union.

What is CSEC

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) includes prostitution of children, child pornography, child sex tourism, trafficking of children for sexual purposes, or other forms of transactional sex with children.

What are forms of CSEC?

By definition there are five types of CSEC:

1. Prostituting children
2. Trafficking children
3. Pornography of children
4. Sex tourism
5. Sex shows (private or public)

Does Fiji have cases of CSEC?

Yes, there have been two separate research reports done by Save the Children Fiji and International Labour Organization. Researchers found hundreds of victims of CSEC in Fiji.

What is sexual trafficking?

Sex trafficking is a type of human trafficking involving the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbour or receipt of people, by coercive or abusive means for the purpose of sexual exploitation. There are three elements: force; a third party benefits; and movement (even within a nation).

Does Fiji have cases of domestic trafficking?

Yes, Fiji has now convicted two Fijian men selling three Fijian girls to Fijian clients.

Fiji is now rated Tier Two on the International Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.

Who is a child?

Presently in Fiji a child is any person seventeen years old or younger. It is illegal in Fiji to have sex with someone who is sixteen years old or younger.

How to use this booklet

This booklet serves as a tool to help you identify and alert relevant authorities of possible and/or probable exploitation taking place within a community or an individual child's life.

Many of the risk indicators are subjective and the finding of one or more indicators is not necessarily proof that exploitation is happening; therefore following the reporting guidelines is of utmost importance to ensure that professional assessments are done and the child is safe.

The numbers listed at the end of each indicator are for reference when reporting.

Homes of Hope is available to conduct in-depth training on how to utilise these indicators in your community.

How to report

If you see any of the indicators listed, **immediately** alert the Ministry of Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation. Please contact +679 330 4466.

Secondly, we suggest that you file a report with the local police post.

Legal obligation

Fiji's Child Welfare Decree makes reporting mandatory for any professional who becomes aware or reasonably suspects during the practice of his profession, that a child has been or is being, or is likely to be harmed; and as far as he is aware, no other professional has notified the Permanent Secretary under this section about the harm or likely harm. (*Child Welfare Decree 2010, Part 2, Section 4 (a) & (b) & Amendment 2013*)

A professional is someone involved in the care of the public such as a health professional, welfare officer, police officer, teacher, and legal professional.

Sexual slavery [exploitation, trafficking] ... includes limitations on one's autonomy, freedom of movement and power to decide matters relating to one's sexual activity.

— Rome Statute of The International Criminal Court (1998)



TAKE ACTION!

If you see any of the indicators listed — take action! Follow the reporting guidelines on p2.

HIGH RISK INDICATORS

If you see these indicators, there is a great chance that this individual is involved or very vulnerable. Help protect these girls and boys!

- Is there evidence or disclosure that the child has been raped? ^[37]
Signs include:
 - a. pregnancy and abortion (spontaneous, induced, traditional)
 - b. sexually transmitted infections especially in a pre-adolescent child
 - c. clinical evidence of penetration, force, or sexual abuse
 - d. bruising, bleeding, swelling, tears or cuts on genitals or anus
 - e. torn, stained, or bloody clothing especially underwear
 - f. other evidence of aggressive sexual force (bruises, bites, rips, tears)
 - g. unusual vaginal odour or discharge
 - h. pain or itching in the genital area and difficulty going to the bathroom
- Is there evidence or disclosure that the child has been involved in incest? ^[38]
- Is there evidence or disclosure that the child has been sold for sex? ^[39]
- Is there evidence or disclosure that the child has been sold to someone as a possession? ^[40]
- Is there evidence or disclosure that the child has been trafficked across national borders? ^[41]
- Is there evidence or disclosure that the child has been involved in pornography? ^[42]
- Is there physical evidence of sexual violence? ^[43]
- Is there disclosure of recent or still repeated sexual abuse and/or sexual exploitation? ^[44]

- Is there evidence or disclosure that the child has been trafficked in Fiji? ^[47]
- Is there evidence or disclosure that the child has been trafficked by their family? ^[48]
- Are perpetrators still after the child? ^[49]

Here are more indicators that should bring great concern:

- Has a child been missing without knowing whereabouts for more than 48 hours? ^[51]
- Is there peer pressure to cause the child to engage in CSEC? ^[1]
- Has there been a lack of acceptance of child's pregnancy from family or community? ^[2]
- In the past: was the child raped? a victim of incest? trafficked? sexually abused? ^[6]
- Does the child have a "Felt Need" to earn money for the family or their own needs? ^[8]
- Is the child connected to another child (or people) who have been involved in sex tourism? Or involved in a forced marriage? ^[21]
- Is the child handling quantities of money, clothes, objects that are inconsistent with the family's economic status? ^[26]
- Does the child have extreme guilt and/or shame about their body? ^[28]
- Is the child acting out specific sex acts — or inappropriately play-acting? ^[31]
- Does the child have sexualised language or behaviour with peers and adults? ^[32]

*I felt so ashamed, so dirty,
so worthless ... so hopeless.
Those men stole my life.*

Survivor

MEDIUM RISK

These indicators are warning signs.

- Is the child stigmatized in community due to sexual abuse and/or teenage pregnancy? ^[3]
- Is the child without positive family support? ^[4]
- The child has no safe and secure shelter? ^[5]
- Does the child desire and obtain objects that cost more than the family can afford? ^[9]
- Are the parents unable to provide finances for their family—urgently, right now? ^[10]
- Is the house overcrowded, lacking in order and privacy in sleeping arrangements? ^[12]
- Is the child attending a school away from their family support network? ^[14]
- Is there a lack of support from authority figures (teachers, medical, police, adults)? ^[15]
- Are the child's friends or neighbours involved in inappropriate sexual activities? ^[16]
- Does the family have a house or household goods that are inconsistent with stated job & earnings? ^[27]
- Is there unreasonable fear of certain men/women, relatives, persons that the child knows well? (NOTE: Most victims previously have known their offenders.) ^[29]
- Is there masturbation and/or self-manipulation occurring? ^[30]
- Does the child have interest in sexual language that is not age appropriate? ^[34]
- Has there been self-destructive behaviour (self-mutilation/cutting, attempted suicide)? ^[36]
- Is there disclosure by the child of a lack of security in their home, or community? Do they feel unsafe? ^[53]

Signs of involvement

The Community Indicators were compiled from statistics from Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health; Bureau of Statistics; Ministry of Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation; and Homes of Hope.

If these indicators are prevalent, the community might be vulnerable to having their girls and boys being used wrongly as sex objects. In no way does an identified “vulnerable community” lead to the assumption that every resident therein is being sexually exploited.

Look for these high-risk danger signs:

- Is there a general lack of knowledge of existing legislation e.g. Statutory Rape, Crime Decree? Is there poor enforcement of existing legislation? ^[C1]
- Are there high rates of STIs and/or high rates of teenage pregnancy? ^[C2]
- Is there easy access to watch pornography, e.g. older brothers watching blue movies? ^[C3]
- Are there known sexual perpetrators who are unaccountable in the community? ^[C4]
- Is there general naivety & lack of awareness to trafficking within community leadership? ^[C12]
- Do children act out inappropriate sexual behaviour or are they participating in group sex? ^[C13]
- Do many families have people with physical impairment that are draining family resources? ^[C14]
- Are there cases where children have gone missing for more than 48 hours? ^[C15]
- Have individuals from community been involved in sex tourism? ^[C16]
- Are there cases where there is a sex worker in a family or are sex workers common? ^[7]
- Have individuals from community been trafficked across national borders? ^[17]
- Have individuals from community been trafficked in Fiji? ^[18]
- Have individuals from community been trafficked by their family? ^[19]
- Are there people who are demanding young children? Is there sex tourism activity? ^[20]
- Are there cases where the community accepted or “turned a blind eye” to sexual exploitation? ^[22]

- Are there children who have been forced into marriage? Are there early or forced marriages? ^[23]
- Have there been cases of rape being used as a weapon of war in the area? ^[24]
- Is it culturally appropriate to use girls as a method of pay to solve societal situations or problems? ^[25]

Here are more signs. These are negative conditions in a community. Watch and change these medium risk indicators in your community!

- Are there cases where children under the age of 15 have left school to work or loiter? ^[C5]
- Are there cases where there is no easy access to education (transport or monetarily)? ^[C7]
- Are more than 15% of the community’s youth unemployed or school dropouts? ^[C8]
- Is there a high incidence of violent households in community? ^[C9]
- Is this an isolated area; not much outside contact? ^[C10]
- Is there mental impairment of caregivers or are the caregivers bullied? ^[C11]
- Are there cases where children were stigmatized due to sexual abuse or teenage pregnancy? ^[3]
- Are there cases where the child’s caregivers are absent? Is there severe neglect? ^[11]
- Are there cases where children are not attending school? Dropped out below Class 8? ^[13]

“You may choose to look the other way, but you can never say again that you did not know.”

William Wilberforce,
a fighter for freedom

Community indicators



Acknowledgments

The CSEC Risk Indicators have been compiled specifically for Fiji. They have been endorsed by the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare, approved by the National Coordinating Committee for Children, NCCC CSEC Subcommittee, and discussed through a national consultation of government and non-government actors.

Homes of Hope would like to acknowledge the following organisations who contributed to the development of this publication, either through consultation or resource material (resource links available upon request):

- Ministry of Women, Children, & Poverty Alleviation
- Fiji Police Force
- Ministry of Education, Heritage & Arts & National Archives of Fiji
- Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations
- Ministry of Immigration
- Medical Services Pacific
- People's Community Network
- Save the Children Fiji
- Empower Pacific
- UNICEF
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Fiji Women's Crisis Centre
- UNIFEM
- Shared Hope International
- Operation Foundation, Fiji
- International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)
- HAGAR International, Cambodia [HAGAR]

**HOMES OF
HOPE**

creating a culture of freedom

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Homes of Hope and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

Compiled by Homes of Hope © 2015