# Methodology: National Desk Reviews and Legal Analyses

Background

Disrupting Harm is a large-scale multi-country research project delivered by three partnering organisations, and 14 local organisations in Southeast Asia and Southern and East Africa. The bold scale of the project provided an unprecedented and unique opportunity to gather and consolidate a truly comprehensive picture of OCSEA in each of the target countries. Planning and undertaking research on this enormous scale in the short timeframe required careful planning and delineation of tasks.

Disrupting Harm was therefore planned as a set of nine research activities (see diagram below) that are complementary and interconnected, and fit together to tell a complete story. They are not intended to be considered as stand-alone activities. The three partnering organisations focused on their strengths, networks and collaborations to divide the data collection within each target country. Together, the combined project team then embarked on an analysis phase where cross-comparisons and triangulation was undertaken together as a team to result in the final comprehensive country reports. Triangulating and cross-analysing the data points also reduced reliance on face validity of single activities that sometimes occurs in such research (e.g. taking informant interviews as objective fact with little chance to scrutinise/triangulate what's reported in them).
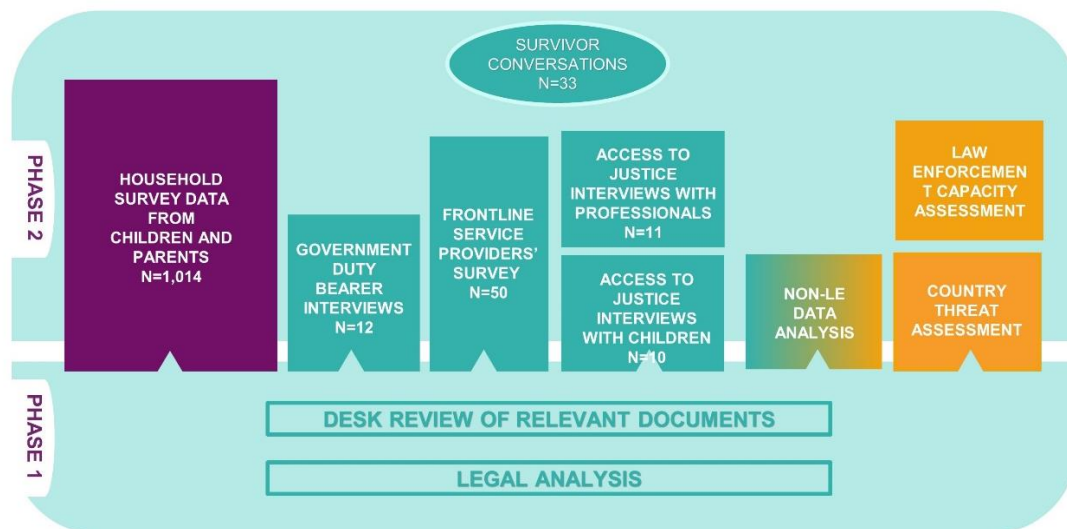
UNICEF undertook large-scale, population representative surveys of internet-using children and their caregivers in each country. INTERPOL gathered and analysed existing law enforcement case data and conducted capacity analysis of the personnel making up the national law enforcement response to OCSEA. ECPAT's role focused on describing the context in which OCSEA occurs, along with carefully and ethically consulting samples of young people who had lived experiences of harm from OCSEA.

ECPAT conducted four primary research activities in phase two as depicted in green in the diagram (the access to justice activity was split into two parts during the course of the project).

These Activities

During phase one of *Disrupting Harm,* comprehensive desk reviews were undertaken to identify and critically appraise any published and grey literature related to OCSEA in each of the target countries.

Comprehensive analysis of the specific laws, regulations and policies with relevance to addressing OCSEA was also undertaken.

Desk Reviews

The desk reviews were undertaken as a first preparatory phase for *Disrupting Harm* during the first year, with the intent to inform and direct the primary data collection activities that followed. Given the scarcity of policy, research or other documentation directly relevant to OCSEA in the target countries, the review was exploratory and pragmatic in design rather than heavily systematic. A wide net was cast, via searches of publicly available data sources, via the project partners, and via ECPAT member organisations and UNICEF country offices to identify relevant documentation. A simple database to catalogue and manage the identified sources was developed by the team.

While English is predominantly used for many publications of this nature, documentation in local languages was also included. In these instances, ECPAT members and field teams assisted with analysis and some documentation was translated.

Analysis was undertaken by ECPAT's Research Officers, and validated with the field teams and ECPAT member organisation staff. The objective was to compile a useful national picture of what is already published about OCSEA, as well as highlighting gaps and clarifying lines of enquiry for the primary data collection activities - by refining and anchoring interview schedules within the national picture of the issue.

A key principle of *Disrupting Harm* is to generate quality, but concise and relevant outputs. Therefore, the desk reviews were not published in full – their usefulness was informing the deeper dive of the primary research activities. However, throughout the national reports, relevant citations identified in the desk reviews are described and linked to in footnotes.

Legal Analyses

Initially planned as part of the desk reviews, analysis of the legislative and policy framework was split into a separate activity. The legal analyses for each target country were undertaken by junior legal research staff, validated with the field teams and overseen and approved by the ECPAT Legal Research Officer. Each legal analysis also underwent a final review performed by the Disrupting Harm Legal Advisor.

The documentary analysis of the legal framework addressing online child sexual exploitation and abuse, was conducted utilising a method and tools developed by ECPAT International and adapted for the purpose of this project. In particular, a checklist including approximately 90 points and sub-points was created to support the development of the analysis and ensure its comprehensiveness as well as consistency across countries.

Again, for the sake of brevity, only key highlights of the legal analyses relevant to the presentation of data are presented in the final national reports. However, the national legal analyses will be published as preliminary reports at the same time as national reports.