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**Philippine Research on Trafficking and other ICT - facilities GBV (2016 to March 2022)**  
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## **Cases of Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation (2017 to March 2022)**

by

Jean Enriquez & Athena Jeanne Rosales

### **ABSTRACT**

Significant increase in trafficking for prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation has been documented by the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women – Asia Pacific (CATW-AP) in the last five years (since 2016), even as a more systematic and pro-active documentation was started nine months ago, in June 2021.

In a project on online sexual exploitation and abuse with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – Philippines, CATW-AP and partner survivor groups brought their services online. Sex trafficking survivors, including CATW-AP staff/consultant, took the role of peer facilitators of thirty (30) support groups.

With the lockdowns imposed in relation to the Covid19 pandemic, abusers contacted women and girls for sexual exploitation via information and communications technology.

Victims-survivors of sex trafficking were disproportionately women and girls, while perpetrators were men, the profile of some were included in the research. The majority of victims-survivors of online trafficking were young women aged 15-24, and among these 84% were adult women.

The support groups also documented the interventions within comprehensive case management, as well as the limitations in services from government, as mandated by the anti-trafficking law, Magna Carta of Women and international standards.

Utilizing the standardized form from the Inter-Agency Council on Violence against Women and Children (IACVAWC), the support group facilitators also systematized the data in a logsheet/tool developed by CATW-AP. Case summaries prepared by the survivor case managers and validated by the survivor, a registered social worker and CATW-AP, were bases of the data.

### **Trafficking Data as Gender Statistics: Framework**

The study uses the United Nations framework on trafficking and sexual exploitation, including the 1949 Convention on the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons and the 2003 UN Secretary General's Bulletins on Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment.

The study refers to the 2017 regional ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and to national legal frameworks such as the 2003 Anti-Trafficking Act (RA 9208, and amended in 2012 as RA 10364), the 2004 Anti-VAWC Act which includes punishing the act of prostituting a woman or child, and the Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710).

The legal frameworks agree that the act of receiving a person, through abuse of vulnerability, for the purpose of sexual exploitation is an act of trafficking, regardless of the presence or lack of a third party. The element of “force” is immaterial, following the definition of trafficking under the UN Protocol where consent is immaterial, therefore covering all acts of prostitution as trafficking.

The trafficking cases are gender statistics because:

1. The majority of victims are women and girl-children.
2. The root causes of the trafficking cases are gender stereotypes, such as the sexual objectification and commodification of the victims by their perpetrators. Their victimization in trafficking is part of a continuum of gender stereotype-based violence from girlhood, where they were also abused by older male relatives as the latter’s sexual properties. The individual biographies of the victims-survivors reveal grooming of the women to accept their victimization in sex trafficking as their lot, or increases their vulnerability to accept the victimization as a natural course of life.
3. The majority of the perpetrators are men who are privileged with purchasing power (and mobility for men in uniform during lockdowns), and the gender stereotyped ideas of higher rank in society with power to abuse women sexually on the basis of their purchased consent.

Therefore, the cases of violence against women were recorded from a human rights perspective. The rights violated and methods of violence were identified and categorized based on women’s experiences.

Finally, the cases are recorded from a gender perspective, with recognition of the layers of oppression of women, therefore their added vulnerabilities were identified. Our analysis is underpinned by intersectional/integrated structural perspective on women’s issues, decades of direct experience in comprehensive empowerment programs for victims-survivors, as well as by engagement with law enforcers in prosecuting perpetrators and other service providers in assisting the victims-survivors.

## **Sharp Rise in Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation: Profile of Victims-Survivors**

The timeframe of the study (June 2021 to March 2022) showed the rise in the number of victims-survivors to one hundred and fifteen (115) women and girls (and some boys) a month being brought to the attention of CATW-AP and affiliated survivors' groups in 2021, compared to thirty (30) in one month in 2016.

**During the time period of nine months, we recorded the cases of 1,042 victims-survivors of gender-based violence, the majority of which are trafficking for sexual exploitation.** Only three (3) are boys/young men, and they are aged 14, 15 and 21.

Of this number, 952 or 91.3% are aged 18 and above, and therefore, considered as adults.

According to the United Nations, youth is defined as those aged 15-24 years old.<sup>1</sup> Within this category, four hundred and ninety eight (498) of the N=1,042 or 47.8% would be included as youth. Of this number, 423 or eighty four (84%) of the young people are 18 years old and above.

Six (6) of the victims-survivors are indigenous women – 1 Aeta, 2 Manobo, 3 Mandaya. There are four (4) Amerasian women.

Twenty-nine (29) came out to their peer facilitators as lesbians and one (1) as a bisexual woman.

Ninety-five percent (95%) are poor or has income of less than P12,082 per month set by the Philippine Statistics Authority as needed by the average family of five members to meet their minimum basic food and non-food needs.<sup>2</sup>

The most prevalent form of of online sexual and gender based violence is sex trafficking, including for prostitution and pornography, thus, the male abusers are preying on the economic and other vulnerabilities of the victims. Others are rape and rape threats, forced

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://en.unesco.org/youth>.

<sup>2</sup>

<https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/Highlights%20of%20the%202021%20First%20Sem%20Official%20Poverty%20Statistics%2C%2015Dec2021.pdf>

sexual acts online by their partners, sexual harassment, and intimidation online or by text following rape and other forms of sexual violence.

The victims-survivors' location during the time of abuse are the following:

Region	Province	City/Municipality (if known)	Number
CAR	Benguet	Baguio	1
Region 1	Ilocos Sur	Narvacan	2
		Santiago	1
		Sta. Maria	4
		Vigan	3
	La Union	Caba	1
	Pangasinan	Anda	1
		Agno	1
		Bolinao	1
		Bugallon	1
		Burgos	7
		Dasol	2
		Infanta	2
		Rosales	5
		Sison	3
Region 2	Isabela	Alicia	1
	Nueva Vizcaya	Bambang	1
Region 3	Bataan	Dinalupihan	1
		Morong	1
	Bulacan	Angat	13
		Balagtas	6
		Baliuag	2
		Bocaue	18
		Bustos	11
		Calumpit	2
		Guiguinto	2
		Malolos	5
		Marilao	30
		Meycauayan	5
		Norzagaray	1
		Pandi	155
		Plaridel	12
		Pulilan	1
		San Ildefonso	3
		San Jose del Monte	8
		Sta. Maria	9
		San Miguel	4
	San Rafael	1	
	Nueva Ecija	Cabanatuan	1
		Gabaldon	1
Palayan		2	
San Jose		1	
Pampanga	Angeles City	8	

		Apalit	1
		Floridablanca	1
		Macabebe	1
		San Fernando	3
	Tarlac	Paniqui	1
	Zambales	Olongapo City	59
		Subic	5
NCR		Caloocan	16
		Las Piñas	4
		Makati	1
		Malabon	2
		Manila	136
		Marikina	3
		Muntinlupa	2
		Navotas	5
		Parañaque	4
		Pasay	7
		Pasig	18
		Quezon City	189
		San Juan	10
		Taguig	1
	Valenzuela	12	
Region 4A	Batangas	Sto. Tomas	1
	Cavite	Dasmariñas	1
		Gen. Trias	1
		Imus	1
		Mendez	1
		Naic	1
		Tanza	1
	Laguna	San Pedro	1
		Sta. Cruz	1
	Palawan	El Nido	8
	Quezon	Lucena	2
	Rizal	Antipolo	7
		Cainta	15
San Mateo		1	
Taytay		1	
Region 5	Albay	Legazpi	1
		Tabaco	1
	Camarines Norte	Capalonga	1
Region 6	Antique	Patnongon	1
	Iloilo	Iloilo City	1
		Sara	1
	Negros Occidental	Bacolod	4
		Manapla	3
Talisay		1	
Region 7	Bohol	Candijay	3
		Catigbian	1
		Mabini	1
		Tagbilaran	1
	Cebu	Balamban City	1
		Cebu City	1

		Mandaue	1
Region 8	Leyte	Mahaplag	1
		Ormoc City	1
		Eastern Samar	Salcedo
	Samar	Catbalogan	2
		Southern Leyte	St. Bernard
		Maasin	14
		Malitbog	1
Region 9	Zamboanga del Sur	Zamboanga City	2
Region 11	Davao del Norte	Panabo	6
	Davao del Sur	Davao City	109
		Toril	4
Region 12			
Region 13	Agusan del Sur	La Paz	1
			3
	Province of Dinagat Islands	Loreto	1
		Tubajon	5
	Surigao del Norte	Surigao City	2
Oman		Muscat	6
Saudi Arabia		Al-Khobar	1
Singapore	Ang Mo Kio Planning Area	Yio Chu Kang area	1
Taiwan		Taipei	1
UAE		Dubai	1

### **Gender-based and Economic Privilege: Profile of Perpetrators**

The majority of the perpetrators are Filipinos while foreign abusers are from China, Japan, South Korea, India, Pakistan, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and the USA.

All them are male who have money even as students, or who earn as teachers, businessmen, engineers, seafarers, pilot. Among public employees are police and soldiers, including American soldiers.

### **A Continuum of Gender-based Violence: Dynamics of Exploitation**

Ninety-five (95%) of the victims-survivors had vulnerabilities exploited by perpetrators of trafficking and sexual exploitation. The majority of the victims-survivors told their peer facilitators of earlier sexual abuse by relatives.

The psychological impact of early abuse coupled with economic desperation, push the victim-survivors to agree to meet up with exploiters. They are contacted by exploiters through Tiktok, Facebook, dating apps such as Badoo, Tinder, Filipina Dating (Filipino2Meet), Foreigners Dating Filipina, as well as through cellphone. After technology-facilitated contact, they are physically/sexually exploited. Exploiters go to their house or pick them up (during lockdowns) or arrange for meet up. Rape or other forms of sexual violence follows.

The victims-survivors are also harassed or blackmailed by abusers to continue to succumb to their pressure for continued sexual exploitation, such as by threatening to post their nude photos or videos.

### **Impact to Victims-Survivors:**

Twenty-five of the victims-survivors are HIV positive. All of them contracted the infection during sexual exploitation. Many suffer from complications including tuberculosis and cancer. At least two of them had children who are also HIV positive.

Others were diagnosed with various sexually transmitted infections.

The women tell their peer facilitators of their worries, fears, and other difficulties. The comprehensive response program of CATW-AP and partner organizations, including direct interventions on safety, health, education of themselves and their children, livelihood, and most especially the continuing support group healing conversations address these needs as the victims-survivors feedback are documented.

### **Comprehensive Empowerment Program: Interventions**

As we know, victims of violence, especially sexual violence are still silenced by the stigma they suffer from coming out with their experience. The peer facilitators, however, prove to be accessible to the victims-survivors, as they exude trust and respect, other than being strategically located in the three major islands of the Philippines: Buklod in Luzon,

Empowered Women Survivors Collective and Bagong Kamalayan as nationwide organizations, Sowing Legacy Movement in the Visayas, Lawig Bubai in Mindanao.

The online support group members or peer facilitator-survivors are all trained on gender-sensitivity, understanding dynamics of different forms of gender-based violence especially trafficking and prostitution, women's rights laws, as well as rights-based, survivor-centered and gender-responsive approach to victims and cases.

The peer facilitators underwent continuing or regular trainings as needs arise, such as on psychological first aid (PFA), forensic interviewing, trauma-informed care, self-care, leadership and organizing.

At first contact, PFA is applied. During PFA, the victims' rights and options are presented, including the referral pathway for counseling, legal assistance, and other services as mandated by laws. The peer facilitators and our program also provide accompaniment to clinics/hospitals, facilitation of formal and informal education, livelihood and access to justice, among others. UNFPA's cash for protection provided much-needed stimulus for the women to start their recovery and rebuilding of lives towards self-sufficiency and economic independence.

### **Organizing, Advocacy and Resistance**

The women attest that the most powerful intervention are the healing conversations both individually and as groups, as well as the series of education/trainings on gender issues, trafficking and prostitution, women's rights and laws provided by CATW-AP. The online trainings where they were able to relate their stories safely with the feeling of being understood have been most important and crucial in their healing and empowerment.

Being able to join activities of CATW-AP, both online and face-to-face, to advocate for changes in their situation and of other women and children, empower them in making them understand and feel that they can change not only their own situation but also of others. Being able to see their individual lives as connected with systemic inequalities have been most important in moving forward.

### **Concluding Statements**

The data were collectively analyzed by the consortium, although completion of nuanced data and deeper analysis are ongoing. A significant number of the women were minors when they were victimized, especially those in prostitution. This related to their early sexual abuse experiences, which in counseling processes with the peer facilitators reveal the erosion of their sense of self, considering themselves as 'damaged goods' who think to themselves: "why not earn from this, since I'm used daily anyway."

The context of trafficking and prostitution can be gleaned from the character of the source areas, which figure as consistently low in human development indices. This is the context of poverty. In some ethnic communities, there are still arranged marriages from which the girls escape. This pushes them to go with recruiters and land in trafficked situations.

Host or destination areas are characterized by high tourist influx such as El Nido and Davao. Most of the consumers are local but many lists foreign men among the demand side. The profile of abusers – being men socialized to privileges, with relative greater power assumed, especially as earning men – internalized entitlements over the women and the children – their bodies and their lives.

All regions have victims-survivors. While there is none recorded in BARMM, we find the Muslim women victimized in sexual exploitation outside of the region. The highest incidence are in areas with high urban poor presence such as Pandi and surrounding areas in Bulacan, which is a relocation province for informal settlers in the National Capital Region (NCR) and has been a source area of trafficked persons. With online trafficking, it is the site of all elements in the trafficking process. Olongapo City has been a historical spot of trafficking and sexual exploitation, given the demand created by the entry of US military vessels through the area. Southern Leyte has also been historically a hotspot/source area given poverty incidence and being in the typhoon route.

The areas of Olongapo, Pandi, the NCR and Davao are also base areas of our partner organizations, making it easier for them to reach survivors in the proximity. Of course, Manila and Quezon City in the NCR as well as Davao has high concentration also of demand, both foreign and local.

It is important, therefore, that policies and programmes protect and support all victims-survivors, including adult women. As all the 1,042 cases include the use of technology by perpetrators, access to justice of victims-survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation especially when facilitated by technology, should be strengthened.

The online support group is groundbreaking as it sustains the helping relationship between the peer facilitators and the victim-survivors. The survivors transition from being victims-survivors to advocates and some are already starting their own support groups as facilitators. The comprehensive empowerment program modeled by CATW-AP is necessary for genuine transformation in the lives of the survivors and towards sustained advocacy for change in the system that engenders trafficking and sexual exploitation. This is consistent with the CEDAW recommendation. The government should recognize and support the comprehensive empowerment model.

### **Case Studies (For Publication also by UNFPA)**

#### 1-2. From Home to Tiktok: Two Young Filipino Women's Stories on Digital Sexual Violence

MANILA, The Philippines – “I did not want to breastfeed. For me, I was dirty. I did not want my baby to get dirty,” said Ann (22), as she recalled her experience when she was performing sexual acts for bar customers, and in front of a camera.

Lea (22), another survivor of sexual violence, on the other hand, did not want to check her cell phone or visit the internet. “I was so afraid that I would see my photos all over,” she said.

“This is not just one incident. We’ve been experiencing this our whole lives.”

“When I was seven years old, my family would often wonder why I trembled whenever I saw my cousin,” shared Lea from Balagtas, Bulacan. “He was 22, and this went on for three years. Later on, they learned that he sexually abused me, and he was sent away by my family.”

Years later, Lea, at the age of 18, decided to study in Apalit, Pampanga. Since she came from a low-income family, she worked in a canteen to provide additional funds for her daily needs and school expenses. One day, her housemate asked if Lea wanted quick cash. “She just told me to dress nicely. Then we traveled to Angeles, Pampanga (a former US-military base located one and a half hours away from Apalit, and went to a bar with many foreigners. I met a man from Brazil, and he asked me to do ‘certain’ things, and he gave me money. I was just shocked,” said Lea. “I did not want it to happen,” she said while sobbing.

Just like Lea, Ann narrated the incident of her first sexual abuse. As a farmer's daughter, she understood that their family did not have enough income to send her to school. She agreed to stay at her relative's house when her uncle volunteered to sponsor her studies at 16. "My uncle was so kind, and he paid for my tuition fees," said Ann. Then her voice started to break, "After two years, he started abusing me. I could not tell anyone because he threatened to kill my parents."

She ran away without telling her family. Homeless and destitute, Ann did not know how to survive without money. One of her friends asked if she would like to become a waitress. "Of course, I said yes, and I went with her. Little did I know that she meant it included entertaining men in a high-class bar – foreigners, politicians, policemen, rich and old men, and do whatever sexual acts they wanted me to do." Ann shared, "One abuser even got me pregnant."

From Face to Face to Online: The Shift to Online Sexual Violence and Abuse During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Lea eventually graduated from a two-year college course and thought she could change her situation by applying for jobs. "Unfortunately, COVID-19 happened, and we all needed to stay at home."

"My source of income suddenly stopped with the pandemic, and I had to feed my baby I conceived from a prostitution buyer," Lea remarked.

Both Ann and Lea turned to the internet. A middleman would link them to "buyers" via a pornography site. Then, they will move to TikTok or Facebook messenger, and the buyers would ask for their naked photos or perform sexual acts in front of the camera and then pay Php 10,000 (USD200) for each session. "Seventy-five percent of that goes to the porn site or middleman. We only get Php 2,500 (USD 50)," Ann revealed.

Lea added, "We sometimes book buyers so we can get paid directly. However, some refuse to pay after. Then they will threaten that they will upload our photos and videos when we demand money."

Both Lea and Ann wanted to share that they are now living with HIV. "I wish leaders and organizations will pay attention to things that are happening even if they may not see it in front of their faces," appealed Lea. "Just like prostitution, and it's a big issue for us women

and girls coming from low-income families and having been victims of sexual abuse earlier in life.”

### Healing and Empowerment

Eventually, Ann and Lea met other women survivor leaders of EWSC, Empowered Women Survivor Collective. Here, Ann and Lea received healing conversations, accompaniment to clinics, women’s rights training, legal assistance, and livelihood assistance.

CATW-AP, an implementing partner of UNFPA in the Philippines, supports EWSC. With assistance from UNFPA and the Canadian Embassy in the Philippines, the EWSC is working to reach 1000 victim-survivors of ICT-facilitated sexual and gender-based violence through the “Improving Health and Protection Outcomes of Filipino Women and Girls during COVID-19” Project. The Project also enables awareness through online dialogues and the implementation of youth-led innovative solutions to address ICT-Facilitated SGBV.

Ann and Lea are now leaders of their survivor support groups, assisting 19 and 15 other survivors of online abuse, respectively. They underwent training on gender sensitivity, women’s rights, gender-based violence, pertinent laws, and a survivor-centered case approach. They are also leading the youth in Bulacan in an education project, also assisted by UNFPA. They both attest that they have found their true selves, and the survivors they help see them as their role models.

“You know, I thought this would be the end of me, and I was depressed. Now I understand that we can turn our life around,” Ann shared.

“ After the training and counseling, I now commit to being there for others who are in similar situations.” Lea added, “These days, I also monitor social media and report if I see any suspicious posts.”

“I can also now breastfeed my baby,” shared Ann.”I have learned to forgive myself for things that happened to me. and have become a better mother.”

### 3. Case of K and the violent war on drugs

K is 16 years old, in Grade 11 and a victim of online prostitution. It was in January 2021 when another counselee reported knowing another 16 year old who are made to perform in front of the computer and told to insert objects into their orifices.

K was rescued by MSWDO along with her 17-year-old-sister and another 17-year old male cousin, who was being told by foreign abusers online to sexually abuse her and her sister in front of the video camera. They are also being made to drink alcohol before the “show.”

K and her sister are orphaned by their father who was killed in front of her in the war on drugs. Their mother was also incarcerated for drug-related charges.

The support group assists K alongside counseling sessions with the MSWDO. Our partner organization EWSC was also able to provide livelihood capital to K and the siblings started to sell fresh vegetables and breakfast food. K was able to resume her studies and was reunited with their mother, who was also given livelihood assistance by EWSC.

#### 4. Case of Anisa, a Maranao

Anisa used to reside in the streets of Cubao with her partner who sells merchandise in the hub of the city. She has a child with him. Her partner hurts her often but she could not leave the situation as their parents force them to settle. The same partner also pimped her through social media and in Cubao. She could not tell this to her Muslim parents.

She was also forced to sexual exploitation since her mother was sick. She hated being in that situation but the police forced them out of their stall in Cubao. Her partner also got incarcerated for drugs.

When Anisa became more active with CATW-AP, she left prostitution. Services provided to her included accompaniment to the social hygiene clinic, livelihood assistance, other than the regular healing conversations.

#### 5. H: From Continuum of Abuse to Recovery

H was victim of rape when she was 10 years old. She was pimped to prostitution in 2018 and during the lockdown, was forced to remain online because of financial hardships.

H saw the activities of EWSC-CATWAP through social media and contacted Myles, the head of EWSC. From a small livelihood assistance, H worked hard and with a lot of determination, was able to expand her store. Other than continuing healing conversation, H provided testimonies on how the organization changed her life.

#### 6. A: From a Farming Family in Bicol

A was 12 years old when raped by a relative. After high school, she was able to enroll in college but stopped because of lack of money. She very much wanted to finish college to be able to help her poor family and recover their mortgaged land.

She was 18 when she joined her cousin to Manila to work in a factory. She was able to finish two contracts with the factory but unable to save as she sends her salaries to her family in Bicol. She then applied as saleslady with SM Megamall. She got to know a recruiter while working at SM.

In 2018, this recruiter was able to entice her and her friend with promise of huge earnings at Dusit Hotel. They were provided with nice clothes and cellphones, as well as given advanced payment. They were fed and forced to drink alcohol. As she does not drink, she lost consciousness.

However, she her friend felt people around them abusing them. They could not do anything as they have no energy.

The next morning, the recruiter was very angry, saying that the Koreans complained that they were no longer virgins. A and her friend were crying as they were afraid of the men accompanying their recruiter. But both of them were made sex slaves before they were brought to Lexus Bar, where they were pushed to become dancers.

In the bar, A and her friend were injected with chemicals which they were told will make their skin lighter. They also had to take drugs. Their customers were old businessmen who also contact them online or via cellphone.

They were known to Ann of EWSC (who was also recruited to the bar before but became an organizer of EWSC), who offered help in August 2021 when the UNFPA project started.

Alyssa has resumed studies and takes care of her livelihood every Saturday and Sunday, with the help of Ann and EWSC. She is now among the leaders who assist other victims and receives regular allowance from the group. She also started a piggery in Bicol for her family.

#### 7. M: From Pangasinan

M was a victim of sexual abuse by her uncle when she was 9 years old. She was often threatened to be burned by her uncle if she would tell her grandfather of the abuse. She used to shiver and pee whenever she would see her uncle.

When M finished high school, she escaped from her province with a recruiter. She was promised work in a factory but she was pimped to a prostitution bar. She was also pimped in the streets.

She would often have police officers as buyers/abusers. When vagrancy was used against her, she would be sexually abused in exchange for her liberty. Her customers would often hurt her, too.

When she learned to fight her pimp, she left and worked as a saleslady but a previous customer shamed her while working as a saleslady. She returned to the streets but stopped in 2017.

When the war on drugs started, her partner was framed up and incarcerated. M pled with the police to free her husband. But the police asked for P17,000 and sex with two policemen through cellphone conversation. She was abused for two days and was thrown 100 pesos afterwards. While her partner was freed but went into hiding for fear of being killed.

M is HIV positive. She is being assisted by CATW-AP and is now an active leader, who educates other women actively. Other than healing conversations, she was provided medical and financial assistance. Her store co-owned with other survivors has been thriving. She wanted to share her photo below.



#### 8. Miel's (not her real name) Case during Lockdown

Miel was a victim of domestic violence. She was 17 when she got married. EWSC rescued her with the help of local police.

She was also a victim of online trafficking. Life became harder for her during the lockdowns.

Through the help of EWSC, she started a stall in the market and started sewing for livelihood. She also joined healing conversations through the support group. Among interventions provided were legal assistance, accompaniment for medical assistance, other than healing and livelihood.

#### 9. R from Bataan

R had not known her biological mother and had an adoptive mother, who brought her to Olongapo. R was a victim of rape by a bar owner when she was working as a waitress. She was eventually prostituted.

Her husband used to abuse her also.

Through Buklod and CATW-AP, R was able to receive healing conversations, join a support group and cash for protection from UNFPA. She was able to start a small store in Purok 1 of Barangay New Cabalan. The store was able to support her family's daily needs. According to her: "Sobrang maginhawa sa pakiramdam dahil kahit papaaano ay nakakaraos at nakakatulong sa pang-araw-araw."

#### 10. J: an Amerasian

J was victimized online by foreigners who asked her for nude photos in exchange for money. Through Buklod, she was able to avail of educational and food assistance as well as trainings from CATW-AP.

Through the cash programme, J started selling and delivering eggs. She also shares eggs to other youth members of BUKLOD for the latter's food. Her livelihood has since become a huge help to her and her family. She was able to buy medicines for her mother's glaucoma.

She currently saves to add rice to the goods she sells. She also assists BUKLOD in organizing survivors.