



BRAZIL: CSEC

Annual report 2024-2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Brazil hotspot aims to tackle the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) through the Freedom Fund's Com.Direitos ("With Rights") program. The program supports frontline partners in the Recife metropolitan region of Pernambuco state to promote legislative changes at national, state and municipal levels, challenge social norms that tend to permit abuse of children, support civil society networks addressing CSEC and provide services and support to survivors and children who are at risk. In 2024, as a result of effective collaboration within the local Working Group to Combat Trafficking in Persons (which was set up by the Freedom Fund in 2022, with 16 public institutions and civil society organisations), the Pernambuco State Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons was officially created and government representatives were nominated. Meanwhile, the Working Group continued to conduct joint actions to address trafficking including regional and international seminars to frontline staff, law enforcement and judicial authorities in collaboration with the Regional Labour Court and NGOs.

The Freedom Fund also continued to provide technical advice and support to staff of municipal and state governments, especially regarding prioritising care and referrals for children and adolescents. During the year, our frontline partners provided support and assistance to 4,222 survivors and children and adolescents at risk of CSEC. This included counselling and psychosocial support, as well as access to education, life skills and vocational training. We also reached more than 26,000 children and adolescents through school-based training on CSEC risk awareness, protection and prevention. In addition, 1,137 family and community members received support to strengthen their ability to protect children from the risk of CSEC. A total of 1,264 health workers, educators, social workers, law enforcement and justice officials received training to improve their ability to identify, report and assist survivors of CSEC. Our partner provided governments and frontline services with key support in implementing the Protected Listening Law, which provides for comprehensive care for child victims or witnesses of CSEC and other forms of violence, while ensuring they are not revictimised in the protection services, while holding accountable and prosecuting perpetrators. Our partner helped develop the referral pathways, protocols and guidelines for professionals working on the frontlines to tackle CSEC, which impact around 49,000 children in the Recife Metropolitan Region.



OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Elections in Recife. The re-election of João Campos (PSB) as Mayor of Recife in 2024 reinforces the continuation of his political agenda. It implies a new mandate to increase integration between the municipal, state and federal governments, which could favour public investments in the city and the implementation of strategic projects. However, the city continues to face enormous challenges such as combating social inequality, a housing deficit and urban mobility issues.

Improved economic context. In 2024, Brazil's economy experienced moderate growth, driven by strong consumer spending and a resilient labour market. The country's GDP expanded by 3.5% while unemployment reached a historic low of 6.1%, reflecting job creation and economic recovery. However, inflationary pressures persisted, leading the central bank to raise interest rates to 11.25% to control rising prices. Fiscal challenges also emerged, as increased government spending contributed to a growing budget deficit, prompting spending cuts to stabilise investor confidence. Additionally, Brazil's decision to join OPEC+ highlighted its strategic focus on the energy sector, balancing economic growth with environmental commitments.

Significant changes in the Human Rights Ministry. In 2024, Brazil's Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship underwent significant leadership changes, with the President dismissing Minister Silvio Almeida following allegations of sexual harassment, and appointing Macaé Evaristo, who has a history of advocating for educational and racial equality. Her appointment reflects the administration's commitment to addressing human rights issues amidst internal challenges.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SYSTEMS CHANGE

Policy/legislative

NATIONAL LEVEL

The Ministry of Justice and Public Security launched the IV National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP). In 2024, public agencies, civil society organisations (CSOs), academic institutions and citizens were invited by the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons (CONATRAP) to provide suggestions for the IV National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons. The Freedom Fund, our hotspot and SLF partners, and Freedom Rising leaders provided input for the development of the ten-year plan, which was officially launched in July.

STATE LEVEL

The State of Pernambuco moves forward with Anti-TIP Policy. In 2024, the Pernambuco State Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons was officially created and government representatives were nominated. This is a crucial step to implementing the anti-TIP policy and to wage effective efforts to address human trafficking in Pernambuco. Additionally, the Working Group to Combat Human Trafficking continued to conduct joint actions to address trafficking, including regional and international seminars for frontline staff, law enforcement and judicial authorities in collaboration with the Regional Labour Court and NGOs.

The Pernambuco State Plan to Address Sexual Violence Against Children (SVAC) is drafted with civil society input. Our NGO partners have played an important role in a special commission formed by civil society and government that is developing the Pernambuco State Plan to address SVAC. With our support, some of them serve on the commission and during the year actively participated in the development of the draft version of the plan, jointly advocating for increased public participation in the process and ensuring the commission organised public consultations in four regions of the state. After submitting the draft for the public consultation, the commission worked to incorporate feedback. The plan is expected to be launched in 2025.

MUNICIPAL LEVEL

Recife City Hall launches new plans to protect survivors and children at risk, developed with participation of children. In 2024, the City of Recife launched three significant municipal plans aimed at protecting children and adolescents over the next decade. The Municipal Plan for Preventing and Combating Homelessness Among Children and Adolescents (2024-2034) focuses on addressing the root causes of homelessness and ensuring access to shelter, education and social services. The Municipal Plan for Preventing and Combating Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents (2024-2034) seeks to strengthen the protection of children, the promotion of their fundamental rights, advocacy and accountability, violence prevention, child and youth participation, and integrated actions. The Municipal Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour and the Protection of Adolescent Workers (2024-2034) aims to eliminate child labour through education, enforcement and support for families, while also ensuring that adolescent workers have safe and regulated employment conditions. Some of our partners were actively involved in the development of these plans, which reflect Recife's commitment to safeguarding children's rights and promoting their well-being. Survivors and at-risk children beneficiaries of our partners' activities were involved in the consultations.



Political will/public awareness/attitude change

Norms Study. During the 18 May Campaign to Combat Child and Adolescent Sexual Exploitation (see page 7), the Freedom Fund launched a formative study on social norms and behaviours of perpetrators of CSEC, specific to the local context. Its main findings and recommendations were shared with public authorities, implementation partners and key stakeholders to serve as evidence to be used in design of future campaigns to reduce the acceptance of CSEC and other actions that contribute to changing attitudes and social norms.

Government performance

Commitment of state and municipal governments. Pernambuco state government, Recife City Hall and the Freedom Fund have continued to work together to implement joint actions agreed in an MoU signed in 2022. In monthly meetings, the Freedom Fund and our partners monitored government progress and provided technical advice to government staff at the municipal and state governments, especially regarding prioritising care and referrals for children and adolescents.

Improving the effectiveness of the child rights guarantee system.

Childhood, a Freedom Fund partner, provided coordination and technical assistance to support the implementation of the Protected Listening Law in the Recife Metropolitan area. Progress was achieved in three cities:

- **Recife:** The protocol for implementing the law was completed.
- **Olinda:** The referral pathways and protocol for care, health, justice and law enforcement to assist child victims or witnesses of violence have been developed. The protocol is in its final stages of review and approval and signoff is expected in 2025.
- **Cabo de Santo Agostinho:** A management committee for the Protected Listening Law has been established, a comprehensive assessment of bottlenecks in child protection has been completed and the development of referral pathways has commenced.

National Forum on Professional Apprenticeship. After five years, the National Forum resumed its activities on June under the coordination of the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MTE) in Brasília. This tripartite and consultative space aims to foster dialogue with society to improve the Apprentice Law (Law 10.097) in Brazil, creating opportunities for decent work for young people. Our partner Instituto Aliança, in recognition of their outstanding work with inclusion of survivors and adolescents at risk of CSEC, was invited to join the forum as one of the five organisations across the country representing the civil society.

Business performance

Survivor inclusion. Our partner Instituto Aliança met with ten companies to sensitise them to include CSEC survivors as apprentices through the special quota of the Apprenticeship Law. This initiative, in partnership with the Regional Labour Court, training institutions and Recife City Hall, resulted in the hiring of 68 CSEC survivors, who graduated from the life skills program, to work in private companies and public institutions. Including adolescent survivors in decent jobs has proved to be an effective way of building alternatives to CSEC and drug abuse and trafficking.

Community organisation

The Network to Combat the Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Pernambuco is a key coalition in the fight against CSEC in the state. The Network brings together more than 30 government agencies and NGOs working on the front line to prevent CSEC and protect children. Through our support for the Network's executive secretariat, the effective participation of Freedom Fund partners and the advocacy training offered, the Network has enhanced its advocacy actions to influence the state government on its agenda, particularly for the drafting of the State Plan to Address CSEC. The Network also continued to lead the local efforts of the 18 May Campaign, as well as other actions in defence of the rights of children and adolescents and advocacy for improved policies to protect children.

HOTSPOT OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Headline results for 2024

66 survivors of modern slavery were provided with support for recovery such as life skills training and referral to other services, including apprenticeship programs.

700 adolescent survivors or those at risk were given comprehensive care to exit or avoid CSEC situations through psychosocial support, therapeutic support and training and support for inclusion in schools or work.

4,222 individuals were provided with social or legal services through our seven frontline partners, including counselling, life skills training and vocational training.

26,134 children and adolescents have increased their knowledge of sexual abuse and exploitation through school-based training, including on how to identify situations of risk and how to protect themselves.

1,137 family and community members have been reached by services to strengthen their ability to protect children from the risk of CSEC.

1,262 health workers, educators, social workers, law enforcement and justice officials have been trained and are now better able to identify, assist and report cases of CSEC.

1 participatory review of the Com.Direitos program strategy was conducted.

1 midterm external evaluation report of the program was completed.

10 changes in public policies were achieved, affecting 49 thousand children in the Recife Metropolitan Region.



Progress towards hotspot objectives

Objective 1: Improved policies to confront CSEC and greater coordination among stakeholders to hold the government accountable for their implementation

Outcome 1.1: *Government and civil society are more coordinated in tackling CSEC, setting guidelines and goals for their actions and monitoring their results*

At the national level, the IV National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons was launched in July 2024 after a participatory process of consultation with government and civil society. Incorporated in the plan were several contributions from our partners, leaders of Freedom Rising and the Survivor Leadership Fund.

At the local level, progress in the coordinated efforts to combat trafficking in persons (TIP) was achieved through strengthened collaboration between the government and civil society. This was reflected in the consolidation of the state's anti-TIP policy remodelling, which was announced at the end of 2023. The official creation of the State Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons, in charge of coordinating the policy, with designated government representatives, marked a significant step toward institutionalising those efforts.

Additionally, the multi-institutional Working Group to Combat Trafficking in Persons maintained its monthly meetings and expanded joint actions, fostering closer partnerships between public institutions and civil society organisations. These actions included regional and international seminars for frontline staff, law enforcement professionals and judicial authorities, conducted in collaboration with the Regional Labour Court and NGOs. The seminars emphasised the importance of decentralising discussions on human trafficking and enhancing professional training to strengthen prevention and response mechanisms. A key milestone was the international seminar held in recognition of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, which reinforced collective efforts toward the establishment of a more effective public policy to combat TIP and CSEC in the state. Another significant achievement of the group was the development of a high-quality, cinema-documentary distance learning course (EADOC), which will be made available on the Brazilian Public Ministry's learning academy website, ensuring broader access to knowledge and capacity building on human trafficking prevention.

The management commission responsible for monitoring the commitment of the state and municipalities to combat CSEC, expressed in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), continued its activities with regular meetings. Progress was notably strengthened through enhanced collaboration between government institutions and civil society, resulting in the launch of three municipal plans aimed at protecting children and adolescents over the next decade. These plans were developed with significant participation from some of our partners, reinforcing a collective approach to safeguarding the rights of children and adolescents.

The Network to Combat the Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Pernambuco has emerged as a pivotal force in efforts to act

against CSEC in the state as it unites more than 30 governmental and non-governmental organisations. With the support of the Com.Direitos program, the Network has strengthened its advocacy efforts, significantly influencing the Pernambuco state government to develop a participatory state plan to combat child sexual abuse and exploitation. This plan will establish comprehensive guidelines for an anti-CSEC policy, benefiting thousands of children and adolescents.

Beyond policy influence, the Network is leading the 18 May Campaign, a powerful movement that mobilises governments and society at large to take collective action against child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Objective 2: Scientific knowledge about CSEC and survivors' voices inform policies and programmatic responses

Outcome 2.1: Local decision-makers and frontline organisations use the latest available evidence to guide responses to tackle CSEC

Three groundbreaking reports funded by the Freedom Fund – a study by Promundo on social norms and behaviour of CSEC perpetrators in Recife, a study by UFPE/University of Nottingham on CSECs and experiences of care in support services, and prevalence study by Gestos/Fiocruz of CSEC in the Recife Metropolitan Region – were largely shared and publicised to relevant stakeholders during local and national events. The studies were widely recognised by local stakeholders as contributing valuable data and insights that are crucial to filling evidence gaps about CSEC and to shaping plans, policies and programs.

In 2024, the midterm evaluation of Com.Direitos was concluded. Insights shared through interviews and group discussions indicate a strong consensus among respondents that the program is playing an important, active role in addressing CSEC in the Recife Metropolitan Area. They highlighted the importance of the program's multi-pronged approach to address a multidimensional problem.

The main recommendations from the evaluation were to:

- Review and adjust the Com.Direitos program's goals to increase its focus on improving service flows and implementing the Protected Listening Law.
- Create a digital training strategy to scale knowledge and awareness-raising efforts for frontline professionals and potential employers.
- Strengthen digital awareness campaigns for children, adolescents and communities, focusing on online safety and prevention of digital CSEC. Complement social media outreach with offline activities in public spaces.
- Deepen partnerships with schools, which were perceived by the evaluation participants as creating highly conducive environments for raising knowledge and awareness to combat CSEC. Additionally, invest in training school professionals to improve identification and response to cases of sexual abuse.
- Adjust the apprenticeship program to include activities that sensitise employers to address stigma towards CSEC survivors, as well as offer more tailored advice to survivors on workplace norms and closely monitor the apprenticeship process to resolve challenges at an early stage.
- Boost efforts to counter discriminatory gender dynamics that place the responsibility of protecting children and adolescents primarily on women. These could include media campaigns and greater involvement of fathers in family-related activities.
- Expand access to therapeutic and psychosocial support services, such as therapy circles, to meet the demand for trauma processing and emotional resilience among youth participants.

These recommendations were used as a basis for the program's strategy development for the next two years, as it is outlined later in this report.

Objective 3: Vulnerable children and survivors have more support, information and skills to protect themselves from and safely exit from CSEC

Outcome 3.1: Vulnerable children and survivors have greater access to information, comprehensive care, education and productive inclusion opportunities

In 2024, 1,262 health professionals, educators, social workers, law enforcement and justice officials were trained and are now better able to identify, assist and report cases of CSEC. Coletivo Mulher Vida trained 432 professionals, including health workers and educators, to enhance the quality of their services by equipping them with the skills to identify and appropriately refer cases of child sexual exploitation and human trafficking. The Fundação Roberto Marinho (FRM) trained 724 professionals to promote prevention actions in schools to 23,265 students, based on the Growing Without Violence curricula, while Childhood trained 106 professionals to draw up care flows for child victims or witnesses of violence in Olinda and Cabo de Santo Agostinho, as part of the steps to implement the Protected Listening Law.

Strengthening and supporting families and communities is essential to protecting children from the risk of commercial sexual exploitation. That's why Instituto Aliança, Casa Menina Mulher, Centro Mulheres do Cabo, Grupo Adolescer and Grupo Ruas e Praças reached 1,137 family and community members, sensitising them on the importance of recognising signs of vulnerability and taking preventive action. Working directly with families in this way helped build a stronger protection network, empowering families and others to provide a safe and supportive environment for children.

Training peer educators is one of the Com.Direitos program's strategy to raise awareness among children about CSEC prevention. Fifty-five peer educators trained by Grupo Adolescer worked in three vulnerable communities in Recife, reaching 389 adolescents. Meanwhile, 37 peer educators from Grupo Ruas e Praças connected with 102 children, while Coletivo Mulher Vida engaged 20 teenagers at its communication centre to inform other teenagers about the risk of CSEC via social media, reaching more than 10,000 people. Working in schools has proven to be an essential strategy to raise awareness and empowering students with knowledge and protection. Coletivo Mulher Vida worked directly in 18 schools, training 2,000 students on the critical issues of sexual abuse and exploitation. By bringing this knowledge into the school environment, the initiative ensured that adolescents could recognise risks, protect themselves and seek help when needed. Students were also introduced to key institutions within the protection network, reinforcing their access to support services, by using interactive and engaging methodologies such as a confidential question-and-report box that created a safe space for open communication. As a result, reports have already been received, leading to necessary referrals and support for those in vulnerable situations.

Comprehensive care to exit or avoid CSEC situations has been offered by five NGO partners to 700 CSEC survivors and children at risk, including psychosocial assistance, therapeutic support, training and inclusion in schools and the world of work. As part of these efforts, Instituto Aliança has provided technical support to frontline professionals of four key care services in Recife and the improved quality of these services benefited 461 survivors and at-risk children and adolescents. Additionally, 168 children in vulnerability or who are survivors of CSEC have received professional training services and psychosocial and socio-academic assistance by Instituto Aliança.

Objective 4: Social acceptance and demand for CSEC is decreased

Outcome 4.1: Businesses in sectors with high prevalence of CSEC have improved their anti-CSEC practices and policies

Ten new private and public institutions have been engaged in the program by Instituto Aliança (IA) to increase opportunities for employment for young people exiting CSEC. The companies were encouraged to take on CSEC survivors as apprentices to fill administrative and service roles in these organisations. A key participant in the program has been the City Hall of Jaboatão dos Guararapes (Recife Metropolitan Region), which has hired more than 30 adolescent girls trained by Instituto Aliança under the apprentice program. Additionally, IA held an award event to incentivise businesses to participate. Companies engaged in the program were awarded a seal acknowledging their commitment to hiring at-risk apprentices. This was a crucial moment to foster networking among businesses and keep the engagement level high.

Outcome 4.2: CSEC is seen as unacceptable violence and society is more vigilant and protective of children

The 18 May Campaign to Combat Child and Adolescent Sexual Exploitation brought together young people, child protection professionals and civil society through a series of events and discussions organised by the Network to Combat the Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Pernambuco. By organising seminars, symposiums and public demonstrations, the campaign created spaces for dialogue, training and

mobilisation, ensuring that youth voices played a central role in the fight against exploitation. These collective efforts not only expanded awareness but also reinforced collaboration among key stakeholders, fostering a stronger public stance against child sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

At national level, with the Freedom Fund's support, our partner Childhood, in collaboration with the National Committee to Combat Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents and the federal government, developed awareness-raising events as part of the 18 May Campaign, including a march led by children and members of Parliament and the symbolic planting of flowers in front of the National Congress in Brasília.

The 18 May Campaign serves as a crucial entry point for long-term engagement with public authorities and professionals in the Child Rights Protection System, many of whom face challenges in sustaining year-round mobilisation. By leveraging this period of heightened attention, the Network successfully strengthens institutional partnerships, expands training opportunities and directly engages society in recognising and addressing child sexual exploitation. These advocacy actions are not isolated efforts but part of a sustained strategy to ensure lasting systemic change and stronger protection mechanisms for vulnerable children and adolescents.

Outcome 4.3: Law enforcement officials are better prepared to conduct investigations of CSEC-related cases and prosecute perpetrators

With technical assistance from partner Childhood, the cities of Recife, Olinda and Cabo de Santo Agostinho are in the process of implementing Law 13.431/17 (protected listening law), which aims to increase their capacity to offer comprehensive care to child victims or witnesses of violence while ensuring they are not further revictimised, while holding accountable and prosecuting perpetrators. The implementation of this law represents an important systemic change to the functioning of the child protection system in those cities.

In each city, this work was started and is in different stages. In Cabo de Santo Agostinho, Childhood assisted the setup of the management committee responsible for leading the implementation of the law and the development of eight service workflows by key sectors, including education, social

assistance and the public defender's office. The next step involves integrating the workflows and establishing a comprehensive protocol to ensure cohesive implementation. In Olinda, significant additional progress was achieved, as the development of referral flows and a draft version of the protocol were completed. In Recife, the final steps have been completed and frontline professionals were trained in the new guidelines for implementing the law.

Objective 5: Frontline organisations and survivor groups are strengthened to work together and improve their responses to CSEC

Outcome 5.1: CSOs in the hotspot are strengthened in their financial and programmatic capacities

The Freedom Fund continued to invest in advocacy and influencing, engaging an expert to work closely with partners, government and our own team. Additionally, support for financial capacity enhancement was provided by the Finance Manager in our Brazil office. Partners also learned from each other in the quarterly communities of practice meetings (details below). Additionally, in 2024 the Freedom Fund supported the institutional development of partner NGOs through OCAT (Organisational Capacity Assessment Tool), conducting the analyses of partners' organisational capacities followed by organisational development plans.

Outcome 5.2: Voices of children and survivors are included at the centre of the anti-trafficking movement

A child advisory group was set up with child beneficiaries from seven partner NGOs to engage in the midterm evaluation and strategy review process. Highlights of their contributions include the relevance of working systematically and continuously in the schools and the need for psychological support to the children and adolescents enrolled in the program.

SUPPORTING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

During the year, four community of practice meetings were held, bringing together all the Com.Direitos partners for collective learning. The meetings discussed several important aspects and learnings of partners' collective work, including:

- Reflection on the program's midterm evaluation.
- Collaborative decisions around the strategy review of Com.Direitos.
- Support for the development of new proposals for the second phase of the program.
- The importance and the role of the Child Advisory Group (GCA) in the program.
- Moments of self-care as a strategy to strengthen the teams of partner NGOs.
- Coordination among partners for the 18 May Campaign to Combat Child and Adolescent Sexual Abuse and Exploitation.
- Coordination of collective advocacy efforts among partners to ensure broad civil society participation for the development of the Pernambuco State Plan to Address Sexual Violence Against Children.
- Consultations on the Freedom Fund Strategic Plan 2025-2030.
- Organisational sustainability of the partners.

CASE STUDY

Ana, 16, is a CSEC survivor who in 2024 took part in the second cohort of life skills training offered by NGO partner Instituto Aliança. The teenager was referred to Com.Direitos by the Popinho Centre, a service of the Protection Network that caters to children and teenagers who are homeless and highly socially vulnerable. She used to go to Centre with her siblings to eat, as her family lived in food deprivation, poverty and high social vulnerability, as well as a troubled family life, with her mother suffering from severe mental disorders and one of her siblings diagnosed with autism.

At first very shy, reserved and beset with difficulties socialising and engaging with others, Ana arrived at Com.Direitos with age-grade delay and having abandoned school. She was immediately enrolled and returned to school. While she initially found it very difficult to trust people, as time went by she began to show a high degree of resilience.

Even in the face of so many difficulties and a deprived social context, Ana began to demonstrate a high level of engagement in the project, becoming more friendly and caring. With 100% participation in activities and an aptitude for the job placement, she successfully completed the training and is now employed at a supermarket chain – her first job under the Apprenticeship Law. She continues to be monitored by Instituto Aliança, enrolled in school and her family monitored by the services of the Protection Network (CREAS and Centro Popinho).

“At first, it was a bit difficult because I’m a very shy person and, you know, I was very embarrassed to communicate and I thought people would judge me. So it was difficult to do group activities, but as time went by I began to open up more, starting to talk and take part in a lot more activities. There were days (a few) when I arrived a little late because of the traffic, but I always tried to be there, always on time, always arriving on time, doing my activities and respecting others. I learnt a lot on the course, like how to communicate better, how to respect other people’s speech, how to behave, about the job market, about my personal self-knowledge, you know, I just have to thank Instituto Aliança and everyone there. I loved it so much.”

(Testimonial from J.V.B.S, 16, life skills training cohort 2024.2)

INDEPENDENT EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

From December 2023 to April 2024, an external midterm evaluation of the Com.Direitos program was carried out by a team from TT Factory, a consultancy specialising in monitoring and impact evaluation. There was a wide range of stakeholders involved, both those associated with the fight against modern slavery and the beneficiaries of the program. The evaluation strategy used qualitative and quantitative data collection from these stakeholders, applying a design based on rigorous scientific methodology and close collaboration between TT Factory and the Freedom Fund.

The evaluation identified important processes in place to shape the results associated with the program's objectives and the high effectiveness of the measures being implemented. According to main findings of the study, between January 2021 and June 2024 the Com.Direitos program has made a significant impact in the Recife Metropolitan Area (RMA), transforming the lives of thousands of people. The main advances were the revitalisation of the agenda of CSEC and activation of the Network to Combat Violence against Children and Adolescents in Pernambuco, as well as the strengthening of capabilities of frontline professionals. The evaluation has found that the program already plays a crucial role as a catalyst for solutions to CSEC and, above all, demonstrates an operating model that contributes to the prevention, identification, protection, reporting and safe exit of children and adolescents from this situation.

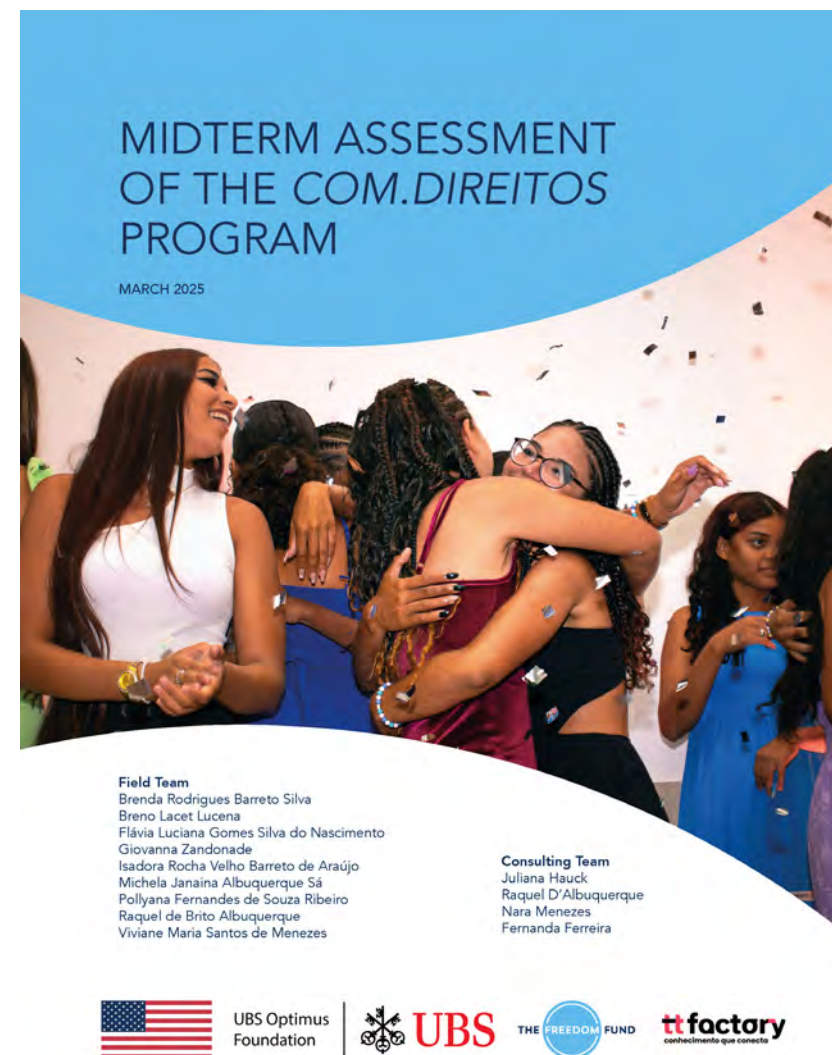


Photo: Ceremony of certification of adolescents and professionals participating in the Com.Direitos program.
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FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION EXHIBITION

The “Freedom of Expression” exhibition was held in Brazil and Bangladesh in honour of the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls. Through painting, 66 adolescents from four Freedom Fund partner organisations – Centro das Mulheres do Cabo, Instituto Aliança, Casa Menina Mulher and Coletivo Mulher Vida – expressed the meanings of freedom for each of them on collective canvases. The canvases were painted during a participatory training process in which the teenagers discussed gender violence, racism, abuse and other forms of violation suffered by women and girls in society, and how to give new meaning to all of this – building meanings of freedom and good living for themselves and the world they dream of living in.

A total of 20 collective works were created and exhibited at the exhibition, which opened on 30 July in honour of the International Day to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Seven media outlets were present to cover the exhibition, as well as representatives of public authorities, institutions, the teenagers’ families and the Freedom Fund team. The work carried out by the organisations and the issue of combating human trafficking had a great impact. The exhibition was on show at the Abolition Museum from July to November 2024 and had a highly positive impact on the adolescents, who, as the protagonists of their stories, were able to portray their sense of freedom, their dreams and everything that belongs to them as human beings, beyond the violence they had suffered. They were true artists.



"Flores da Igualdade"
A autoria coletiva, Turma A

"Quando a gente pensa em mulher preta, a gente pensa muito na dor e na luta. Mas a gente quer mostrar a gente quer mostrar que também tem leveza e beleza"

— Andrielly Nicolly, 14 anos

Ariel William Gomes de Lima
Andrielly Nicolly Oliveira Paraíso
Cleyciane Beatriz Ferreira de Moura
Eshelley da Silva Maranhão
Isabella Luisa de Assis Castro
Jamilly Ashley da Silva Alves
Larissy Clara Araújo da Silva
Lorrana Letícia de Souza Lopes
Márcia Eduarda Lima Bispo dos Santos
Mirelle Cezário da Silva
Miriam Cezário da Cunha
Rhanilly Rafaela Oliveira Andrade
Tainara Vitória Alves de Lira
Vanessa Ferreira Soares

CASA MENINA

HOTSPOT STRATEGY REVIEW

In mid-2024, the Freedom Fund’s team in Brazil conducted a strategy review through a participatory process with partners, the child advisory group and key stakeholders, building on research evidence, findings and recommendations from the midterm program evaluation. The review also considered contextual changes and the hotspot budget for the coming years.

Following on from the review, the second phase of the program will run for two years and focus on continued support for coordination between government and civil society, support to vulnerable children to avoid and exit CSEC and decrease of social acceptance of CSEC.

While the program has made considerable strides toward its goals, ongoing strategic support for partners will be crucial for achieving sustained systemic change. Supporting the improved coordination of partners’ advocacy efforts to monitor anti-CSEC policies will be key to consolidate impacts. The evidence generated from research studies will continue to guide the second phase of the program, influencing campaigns, professional training and policy development.

IMAGES

Strategy review seminar, in July 2024, with “Dream City Panel” created by children.

Cover

Recife. ©Daniel Soutinho/Adobe Stock

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Mobilisation in front of national congress on the national day against the sexual exploitation of children. ©The Freedom Fund

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Artwork from the Freedom of Expression exhibition. ©Casa Menina/The Freedom Fund

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“Diversity bounds us.” Emily, 15. Artwork from the Freedom of Expression exhibition. ©Instituto Aliança/The Freedom Fund

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VISION

Our vision is a world
free of slavery.

MISSION

We invest in frontline organisations
and movements to drive a measurable
reduction of modern slavery in high-
prevalence countries and industries.

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