



2021

ECPAT-USA



ANNUAL
REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHO WE ARE
LETTER FROM THE CEO
PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
2021 AT A GLANCE
THE ECPAT-USA TEAM
2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT



WHO WE ARE

ECPAT-USA is the leading organization in the United States seeking to end sex trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children through awareness, advocacy, policy, and legislation. ECPAT-USA is a member of ECPAT International, a network of organizations in 104 countries with one common mission: to eliminate the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children around the world.

Legislative Advocacy

We advocate for federal and state policies that prevent exploitation, protect children, and guarantee that any child who is subjected to sex trafficking will not be prosecuted in the courts for prostitution and related offenses.

Youth Education

We empower youth to take the lead against human trafficking by equipping them with the knowledge and tools necessary to stay safe and help them become activists against this terrible trade.

Private Sector Engagement

We provide tools to help companies incorporate measures to protect children in their business structures.



WHAT
WE
DO

MISSION



Our mission is to protect every child's human right to grow up free from the threat of sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Dear Friends of ECPAT-USA,

Following a year of unprecedented challenges, 2021 offered a welcome time of revival. Communities rebuilt in the face of a worldwide pandemic, students returned to the classroom, and families and friends reconnected after countless virtual get-togethers. As the world began to reopen, the child protection work championed by ECPAT-USA's staff, Board of Directors, and Survivors' Council became more important than ever.

The expanded role of the internet in keeping us connected also, tragically, fostered a malignant proliferation of child sex abuse material (CSAM). A record 29.3 million items of CSAM were found and removed across the internet in 2021 – a stunning 35% increase from 2020. Statistics like these illustrated the urgent need to continue our preventative education programs, and our [Education Department](#) responded wholeheartedly by creating new educator and parent workshops that are available free of charge to participants in both English and Spanish.

One of the surest indicators that we had adapted to our new reality was a steep uptick in travel. As tourism experienced a much-needed rebound, ECPAT-USA deepened our work with the industry to prioritize child protection. Thanks to generous support from our private sector partners, as described in this report, our [training for travel professionals](#) became available at no cost to participants for the first time, and our hotel training surpassed 800,000 users.

This year also marked a watershed moment in holding prominent individuals accountable for child sex trafficking and exploitation. In 2021, [R. Kelly](#) and [Ghislaine Maxwell](#) were convicted on trafficking-related charges, as federal anti-trafficking laws make clear that anyone who buys, sells, or benefits financially from the commercial sexual abuse of a child is a trafficker, regardless of their power or privilege. Long after these jury verdicts, ECPAT-USA and our Survivors' Council will continue to advocate for justice.

If the past two years have shown us anything, it is that, while we cannot predict the challenges that we will face, ECPAT-USA remains committed to protecting and advocating for every child's right to grow up free from the threat of sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Jai

LETTER FROM THE




CEO

CEO LORI L. COHEN



PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS



YOUTH EDUCATION

This year, ECPAT-USA's Education Department conducted the Youth Against Child Trafficking (Y-ACT) program through a combination of virtual and in-person workshops in states across the country. In 2021, Y-ACT led workshops for approximately 3800 youth. In its lifetime, Y-ACT has worked with over 10,500 youth.

PARENT AND EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS



ECPAT-USA's Education Department expanded our offerings to include a [workshop series focused on parents and guardians](#) and a "train-the-trainer" program for educators. The parent/guardian curriculum is focused on youth and online safety, managing difficult conversations, and utilizing the community as a resource. All of our educational programming is available in English and Spanish at no cost to participants. In 2021, our Education Department reached nearly 400 educators and over 260 parents.



THE Y-ACT ART CONTEST

In partnership with a non-governmental women's protection organization in Russia, ECPAT-USA's Y-ACT Program launched its first Art Contest in Spring 2021. Students were invited to create a piece of art, whether a drawing, sculpture, short video, or painting, that highlights the danger of online exploitation and hope to end trafficking. [A gallery of all the finalists was featured on our site.](#)

A person is seen from behind, sitting in a lecture hall or classroom. They are holding and reading several sheets of paper. The room is filled with rows of empty, light-colored chairs, suggesting a quiet study or reading session. The overall tone is educational and focused.

ONGOING PARTNERSHIPS

Building on relationships from the previous year, the Youth Education Department continued its work with the Brentwood Union Free School District to create a train-the-trainers anti-trafficking curriculum and to offer the Y-ACT programs to youth at Graham Windham, an NYC-based organization focused on children in the foster care system. Students from these and other partnerships were invited to be part of our new youth internship program, in which students were given further tools to become advocates and leaders in their communities.

ECPAT-USA Public Policy Department works with federal and state lawmakers to improve the nation's ability to prevent child exploitation and to respond when children are identified as victims of trafficking. Members of ECPAT-USA's Survivors' Council inform these conversations, and some key areas of advocacy are expanded upon in the following pages. Our Public Policy Department participates in both anti-trafficking and child protection coalitions to seek improved protections for vulnerable youth.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY



BUILDING A SAFER INTERNET

ECPAT-USA has been at the center of advocacy efforts for federal legislation that will protect kids and stem the dangerous proliferation of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) on the internet. One such bill is [the Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies \(EARN IT\) Act](#), which seeks to protect children through two main actions: revoking immunity that interactive computer services claimed under the Communications Decency Act, Section 230 and establishing new a commission focused on preventing online child sexual exploitation. ECPAT-USA worked with other advocates to organize support and urge others to contact their members of Congress in support of the bill.

ENDING THE CRIMINALIZATION OF CHILDREN

The criminalization of child sex trafficking victims continues to be an issue throughout this country. Far too often, the judicial system penalizes sexually exploited children, without considering the horrific abuse they endured. In response, ECPAT-USA's Public Policy Department focused heavily on advocating for Safe Harbor Laws and Sara's Law, which promote trauma-informed practices in the criminal justice system and prevent child victims from being prosecuted.



ADDRESSING THE INTERSECTION OF TRAFFICKING AND THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

In any given year, there are approximately 400,000 children in the child welfare system, and it is generally understood that foster youth are disproportionately impacted by trafficking. As such, ECPAT-USA's Public Policy Department supports legislation aimed at addressing gaps in community and federal responses. We are committed to ensuring safe and stable connections for foster youth by collaborating with lawmakers and advocates.



REAUTHORIZATION OF THE TVPA

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) is a crucial piece of legislation that provides the legal framework for the U.S. to combat, monitor, and prosecute human trafficking crimes. Each reauthorization of the law allows for changes to be made and new provisions to be added that better address these issues. Representatives Chris Smith and Karen Bass invited ECPAT-USA's Public Policy Department to join in the introduction of the [Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2021](#).

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

ECPAT-USA's partnerships with the private sector ensure that businesses understand how human traffickers exploit victims within their industries and help identify, develop, and/or deploy tools and best practices to protect children. Our Private Sector Engagement Department works with companies in industries such as healthcare, hospitality, meetings and events, technology, travel, tourism, and transportation.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING TRAININGS

The background image shows three people in silhouette standing in a modern office with large windows. They are looking out at a city skyline. The office has a polished floor and a large, curved structural element. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the city lights providing the primary light source.

[Your Role In Preventing Human Trafficking](#) is focused on those who work in the hotel industry, produced by Marriott International in collaboration with Polaris and with support from the American Hotel and Lodging Association. The e-learning was translated into 17 languages and is offered for free to all members of the hotel and hospitality industry. It includes information on sex and labor trafficking, follows major city and state ordinances on anti-trafficking training at hotels, and guidance for a response protocol if trafficking is suspected. **At the end of 2021, over 800,000 hotel associates had accessed the program.**

Thanks to a new partnership with the Carlson Family Foundation, our e-learning for travel and meetings professionals was made available to participants at no cost. The program, [Preventing and Responding To Human Trafficking and the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children](#), is focused on the impacts of human trafficking, the signs of trafficking, and how to take action with clients and suppliers.

The [Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism \(The Code\)](#) is the world's first and only voluntary set of business principles travel and tour companies can implement to prevent the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children. The Code provides awareness, tools, and support to the travel and hospitality industry. The Code is a joint venture between the tourism private sector and ECPAT. Companies that endorse The Code are supported by ECPAT-USA to:

1. Establish a corporate policy and procedures against the sexual exploitation of children.
2. Train employees in children's rights, the prevention of sexual exploitation, and how to report suspected cases.
3. Include a clause in contracts throughout the value chain stating a common repudiation and zero-tolerance policy of sexual exploitation of children.
4. Provide information to travelers on children's rights, the prevention of sexual exploitation of children, and how to report suspected cases.
5. Support, collaborate, and engage stakeholders in the prevention of sexual exploitation of children.
6. Report annually on the company's implementation of Code-related activities.

The Code At A Glance:

Launched in North America in 2004

3 U.S. Companies joined The Code in 2021:

- Associated Luxury Hotels International (ALHI)
- LatinPlus DMC
- Events Industry Council

Total number of Code members in the U.S.: 75

THE CODE




UNPACKING HUMAN TRAFFICKING VOL. 3

We continued our groundbreaking *Unpacking Human Trafficking* series with the release of Vol. 3 in January. This updated version was more detailed, including an expanded list of other U.S. jurisdictions that have adopted ordinances related to these concerns. [*Unpacking Human Trafficking, Vols. 1-3*](#) were created in partnership with the American Hotel and Lodging Association Foundation and represent a renewed commitment to working with the hotel industry in preventing exploitation.

Our Private Sector Engagement and Education Departments teamed up with Hard Rock International and EduNetwork Partners to launch the [Social Identity Quest](#), an educational quest game that challenges youth to examine how they construct and express themselves online. The program includes guides for parents and guardians and educators on how to discuss these issues with students, generating student-driven conversations about life online to emphasize decision-making.

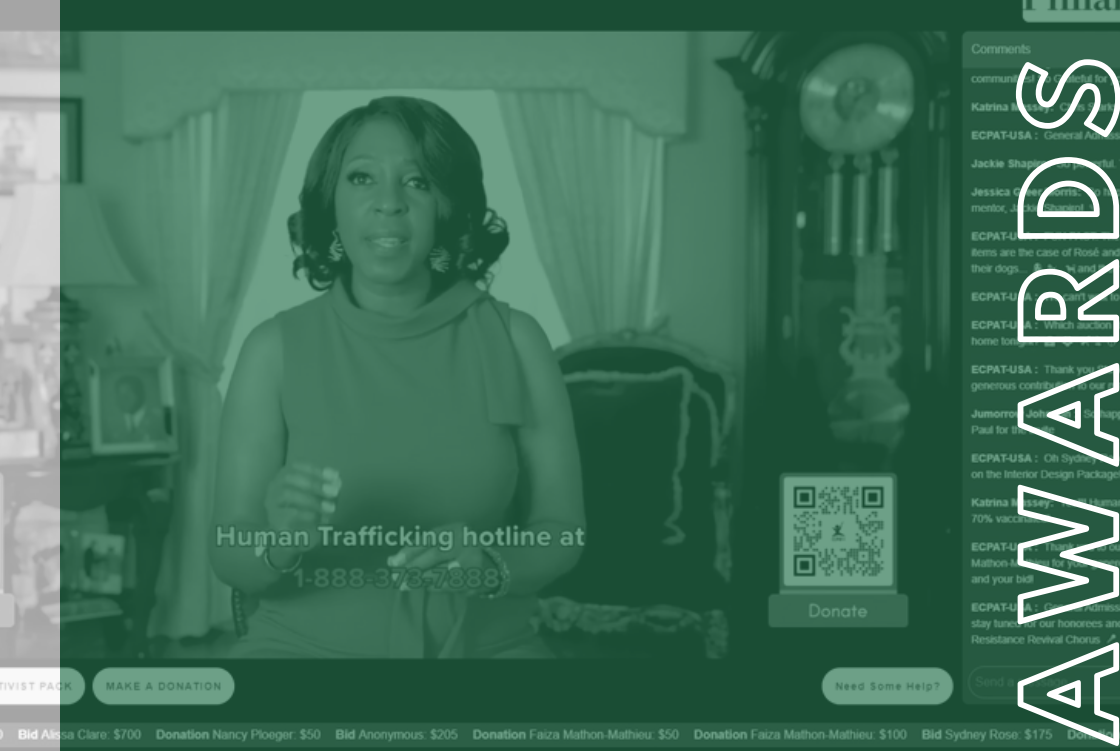
SOCIAL IDENTITY QUEST



THE SURVIVOR SOLIDARITY RIDE

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The ECPAT-USA [Survivor Solidarity Ride](#) is focused on raising awareness that child trafficking is happening in every corner of our nation. In 2021, the event was held on May 31 across Suffolk County, Long Island. The ride began in Riverhead and traveled east to the Shinnecock Reservation, where participants met with tribal leaders and activists to learn more about the movement addressing and raising awareness of the epidemic of violence and exploitation against Indigenous women and children. The route for the event then returned to Riverhead, where leaders from the Empowerment Collaborative of Long Island (ECLI) and officials joined the cyclists outside the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department to speak about efforts to address this issue on Long Island.



FREEDOM AWARDS

The [2021 Freedom Awards](#) brought together advocates, private industry partners, and other special guests for a virtual celebration in honor of leaders in the anti-trafficking movement. More than 300 people attended the event. It was hosted by award-winning news anchor and author Cheryl Wills and included a special performance by the Resistance Revival Chorus.

The recipients of the 2021 Freedom Awards were:

- Freedom Award - Chip Rogers, President and CEO of the American Hotel & Lodging Association
- Defender Award - Rose Muckenthaler, NYPD/FBI Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force
- Survivor Advocate Award - Tina Frundt, Executive Director and Founder of Courtney's House

The event was made possible by the generous support of:

- Gold Sponsor - American Airlines and Carlson Wagonlit Travel
- Silver Sponsors - American Hotel & Lodging Association • American Airlines / AmexGBT • Bloomberg Philanthropies • Hilton Hotels • Hyatt Hotels • Lisette Cooper • MGM Resorts International • Microsoft Federal • Seminole Gaming and Hard Rock International • Sydney Rose • Uber • Karen and Joel Weiss
- Friend Sponsors - Carlson • Friends of Esther Bernstein and Danielle Rose • Maritz Global Events • MPI • PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP • Red Roof • Travel + Leisure Co.

PANEL SERIES

OUR PANEL SERIES HAS BROUGHT A GROWING AUDIENCE INTO THE CONVERSATION ABOUT CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES.

CYNTOIA BROWN IN CONVERSATION ON RACE AND THE CRIMINALIZATION OF TRAFFICKED YOUTH

Trafficking victims of color are often dismissed as criminals, instead of being recognized as individuals in need of our protection and support. The disproportionate impact of trafficking on BIPOC - in both victimization and criminalization - is often overlooked in conversations around the issue. In February, ECPAT-USA hosted a discussion on these issues with Cyntoia Brown (now Brown-Long), civil rights attorney Justin Moore, and ECPAT-USA Board Member and Survivors' Council Member Katrina Massey.

[Watch highlights from the panel.](#)

LEAVING NO CHILD BEHIND: ENDING SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION THAT MAKES CHILDREN VULNERABLE TO TRAFFICKING

Child traffickers often seek to lure children into their activities by exploiting real or perceived factors in their lives. ECPAT-USA's UN CSW Parallel Event from 2021 explored some of the situations of marginalization that put children at risk and some effective programs to ensure that no child will be left behind.

[Watch the full panel.](#)

BREAKING DOWN SYSTEMIC BARRIERS: TRAFFICKED YOUTH & THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

When children who are victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking become involved in the criminal justice system, the system often fails to recognize their vulnerabilities and overlooks the functional difficulties imposed on them as a direct result of their experiences. This discussion focused on the intersections that affect CSEC youth victims in the juvenile justice system by highlighting the following topics: alternatives to incarceration, diversion programs, assessing adverse childhood experiences (ACE's), and prevention/trauma-informed practices to better serve at-risk youth.

PROTECTING CHILDREN AS WE MARK WORLD TOURISM DAY

The COVID pandemic almost totally shut down tourism, which had a profound negative impact felt worldwide. However, while the growth of tourism is on pause, governments, businesses and civil society have a unique opportunity to work together to better identify and build in effective measures to end the sexual exploitation of children which has frequently infiltrated tourism-related industries.

Our panel of experts will offered examples of initiatives being put forth to promote international awareness and strengthen the capacity in travel and tourism to protect every child.

[Watch the full panel.](#)

2021 AT A GLANCE

JANUARY

Participated in 2021 SFCaHT Press Conference to Kickoff Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Partnered on campaign advocating for release of trafficking survivor Zephi Trevino

New Director of Public Policy joined ECPAT-USA team

New Creative and Administrative Coordinator joined ECPAT-USA team

Published “Unpacking Human Trafficking, Vol. 3”
Featured on “IHG Human Trafficking Awareness Virtual Panel Discussion Event”

Featured in “Human and Child Sex Trafficking for the School Nurse” training

FEBRUARY

Hosted “Cyntoia Brown in Conversation on Race and the Criminalization of Trafficked Youth” panel

Participated in annual End It campaign to raise awareness of trafficking

Presented during “Impact of Human Trafficking on the API Community” training

MARCH

Associated Luxury Hotels International (ALHI) joined The Code

Hosted “Leaving No Child Behind” panel
Featured on “Racism + Misogyny: The Exploitation of Asian Women in the Massage Industry” panel

Featured in “A Survivor-Centered Approach to Identifying and Serving Trafficking Victims Involved in Illicit Massage” training

APRIL

Featured on “Intersectional Violence & the AAPI Experience: Looking Beyond Atlanta” panel

Launched Parent Workshops

Y-ACT Art Contest Opened

Presented during “A Survivor-Centered Approach to Investigation & Prosecution of Illicit Massage Businesses” training

MAY

Hosted “Breaking Down Systemic Barriers” panel

Hosted second annual Survivor Solidarity Ride

Spoke on “Pornography and Human Trafficking” panel discussion

JUNE

Hosted Freedom Awards virtual event

JULY

LatinPlus Joined The Code

Events Industry Council joined The Code

New Youth Associate joined the ECPAT-USA team

Announced over 500,000 hotel associates have accessed anti-trafficking training

Invited on CWT’s “Business Travel on the Fly” podcast

AUGUST

Attended Maritz Global Events’ NEXT& Conference

New Project Manager joined the ECPAT-USA team

Issued responses to the State Department’s 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report

SEPTEMBER

Hosted “Protecting Children As We Mark World Tourism Day” panel

Invited to be part of introduction of the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2021 press conference

Launched free version of travel professionals training with Carlson Family Foundation
Issued response to conviction of R. Kelly

OCTOBER

New Private Sector Engagement Associate joined ECPAT-USA team

New Youth Associate joined ECPAT-USA team

NOVEMBER

Attended IMEX America conference

Attended 2021 GBTA Convention

Launched Social Identity Quest with Hard Rock International

Presented workshop on familial trafficking at JuST Conference

Hotel anti-trafficking training approved by Iowa officials

Participated in Giving Tuesday

DECEMBER

Partnered with other organizations in support of A Rally for Survivors in Solidarity with the Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell Survivors

Featured on “How Can Technology Stop Traffickers?” panel

Issued response to conviction of Ghislaine Maxwell

OUR TEAM

Stephanie Alegado, Creative and Administrative Coordinator
Valentina Amate Perez, Youth Associate
Katisha Andrew, Project Manager
Deirdre Argast, Administrative Assistant
Emily Becker, Director of Communications
Amy Bonderoff, Director of Development
Lucy Brown, HTYPE Grant Manager and Youth Associate
Christine Cesa, Private Sector Engagement Associate
Yvonne Chen, Director of Private Sector Engagement
Lori L Cohen, CEO
Nina DeJonghe, Director of Public Policy
Carla Licavoli, Director of Operations
Katrina Machado, Board Relations and Special Events Manager
Jamilya Ramos-Chapman, IT/Digital Manager
Dan Sieling, Financial Controller
Christian Toala, Director of Educational Initiatives

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sharon Appelman
Esther Bernstein
Hon. Fernando Camacho
Robyn Conlon
Rev. Adrian Dannhauser
James Heyworth
Eric Jacobs
Natalie Volin Lehr, Vice Chair
Iryna Makuruk
Chrstina Massalay, Treasurer

Katrina Massey
Faiza Mathon-Mathieu, Secretary
Jason Matthews
Santhosh Paulus
Zoraida Rodriguez Montenegro
Sydney Rose
Joshua Rubin
Jackie Shapiro
Elisabeth Shuman
Karen Weiss, Chairperson





OUR SURVIVORS' COUNCIL

The anti-trafficking movement must draw upon the lived experiences of survivors for guidance on how to protect vulnerable youth and craft legislation that will be the most effective in preventing child sex trafficking. At ECPAT-USA, our [Survivors' Council](#) serves as subject matter experts for each of our programs, initiatives, and policy recommendations.

2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

AT A TIME WHEN THE RISKS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING AND ONLINE EXPLOITATION WERE GREATER THAN EVER, OUR DONORS' GENEROUS SUPPORT ENABLED ECPAT-USA TO EXPAND OUR SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING DRAMATICALLY, PROVIDING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO KEEP THEMSELVES SAFE.

**TOTAL REVENUE:
\$2.4 MILLION**

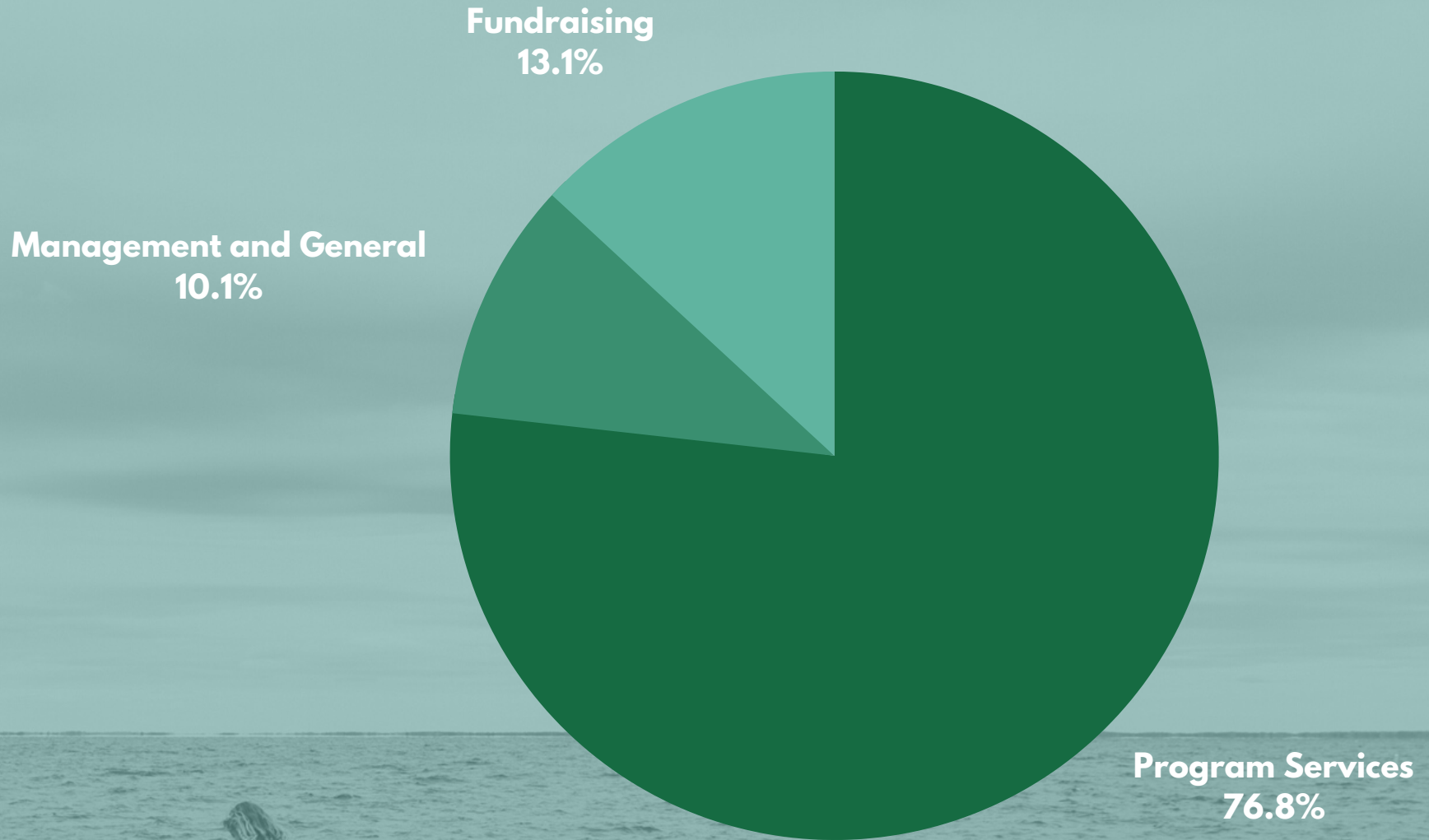
**163% INCREASE
COMPARED TO 2020**


**WE WELCOMED FIVE
NEW FULL-TIME STAFF
MEMBERS TO THE TEAM, A
GROWTH OF NEARLY 50%.**

2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES

[READ OUR FULL FINANCIAL REPORT HERE.](#)




A young child in a white shirt and dark shorts is running on a grassy field. The image is overlaid with a teal color. In the background, there are trees and a fence.

Under a grant from the Oak Foundation Children First Fund, a fund of Tides Foundation, ECPAT-USA, partnering with ECPAT-Mexico and ECPAT-Guatemala and with the support of student researchers at Yale University's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, created a risk assessment to determine how COVID-19 has exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities, including poverty, economic instability, and social instability, for Mexican and Central American children, driving their migration to the southern U.S. border. The results of this survey were used to inform recommendations for how children can be better protected at the border. Northwell Health provided essential support to a participating migrant shelter that had run out of basic necessities such as diapers, infant formula, and anti-viral medication.

© OAK FOUNDATION
CHILDREN FIRST
FUND, A FUND OF
TIDES FOUNDATION

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

A young girl with long, wavy hair is standing on a grassy area. She is wearing a dark-colored dress with white polka dots and white socks. She is looking down at her hands, which are clasped together in front of her. The background is a soft-focus green field.

This year marked ECPAT-USA's first time working with the Dressement Foundation, a collaborative movement leveraging fashion and creativity to restore dignity to victims and survivors of human trafficking. In addition to being part of their annual campaign, several members of ECPAT-USA's Survivors' Council participated in the organization's "Things Survivors Wish You Knew" series.

DRESSEMENT PARTNERSHIP



ECPAT USA