



Guide to preventing
and combating sexual
exploitation of
children and adolescents

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Photograph: Márcia Foletto

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Photograph: Márcia Foletto

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We present the **Guide to Preventing and Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents** with the aim of supporting and guiding our partners in the protection of children's and adolescents' rights.





Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents



Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents

Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse are two different forms of sexual violence committed against children and adolescents.

Do you know the difference between them?

Sexual Abuse

Occurs when an adult uses a child or adolescent for sexual gratification. Sexual abuse is generally committed in a family environment by a family member. It can also be committed by someone from outside the family who interacts with the child or adolescent. In this case, we refer to it as extrafamilial abuse.

Sexual Exploitation

Sexual intercourse with a child or adolescent involving payment, which can be in the form of money, a ride, food, or any other benefit, constitutes a perverse trade often linked to criminal networks.

Although aggressors are mostly male and victims are mostly female, women can also be aggressors, and boys can also be victims.

Childhood and Adolescence*:

Most important stages of human development with permanent impacts on the psychological, physical, social, and emotional dimensions of the individual.

Childhood:

Up to 12 years old

- Stage of life in which the need for protection is the greatest.
- Children depend on the family for survival.

Adolescence:

From 12 to 18 years old

- Period between childhood and adulthood.
- Protection and guidance are crucial for the development of a responsible adult.

Source: Childhood Brazil



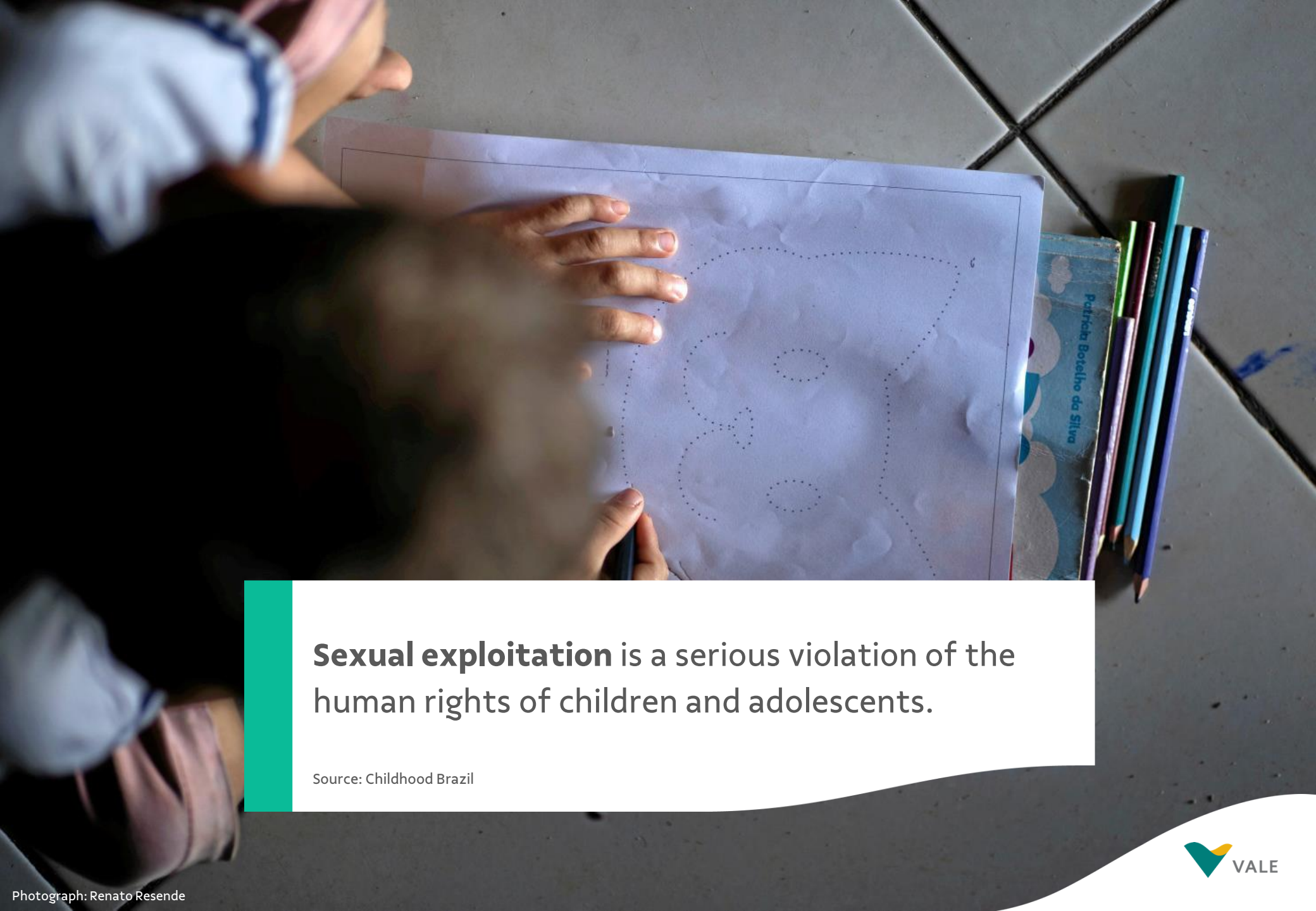
The sexual nature of this violence attributes severe characteristics to it, as it **distorts the socio-affective relationships between adults and children/adolescents.**

Sexual violence, whether in the form of abuse or exploitation, causes **severe harm to the physical, psychological, cultural, and social development of children and adolescents.**



Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents





Sexual exploitation is a serious violation of the human rights of children and adolescents.

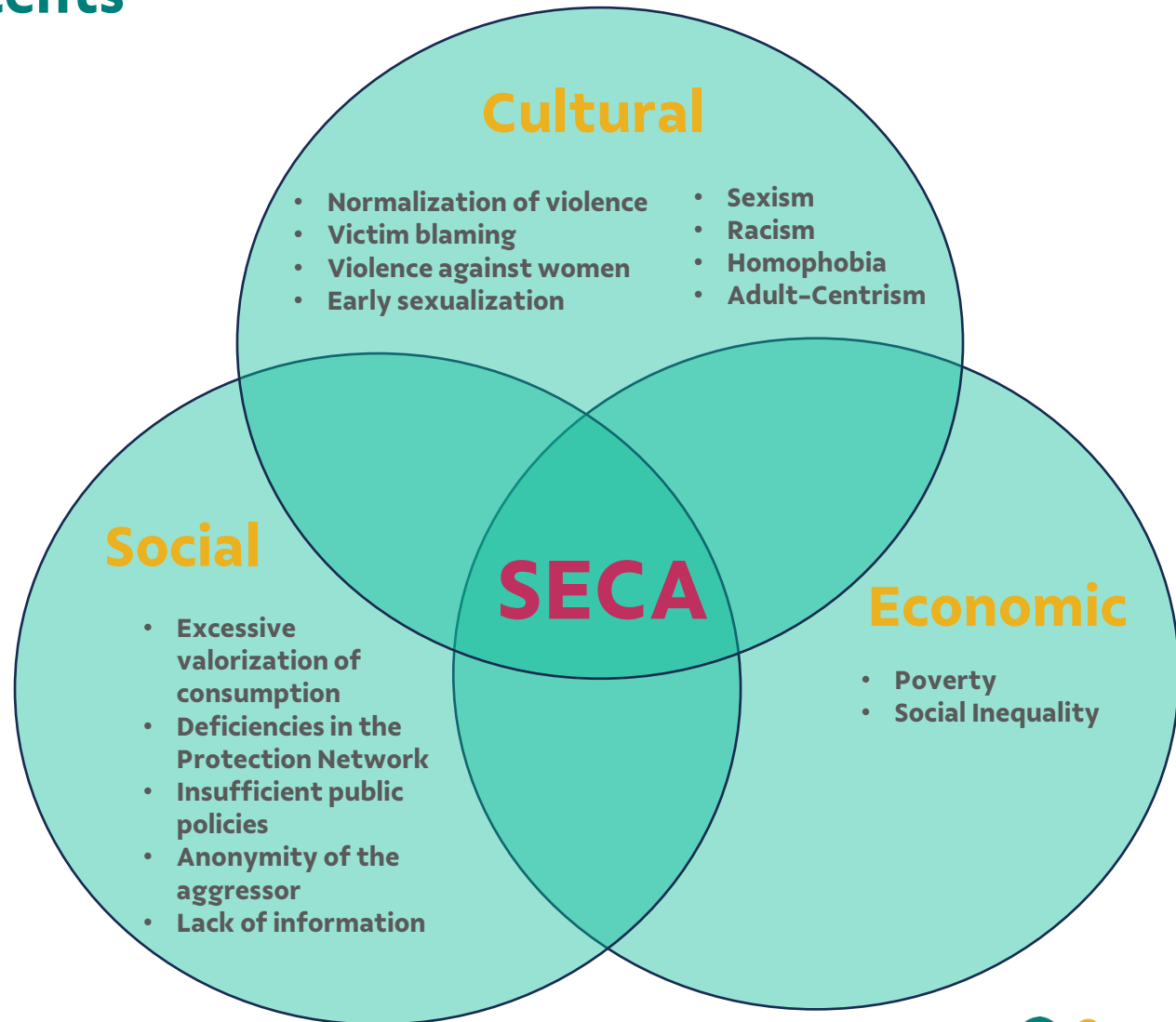
Source: Childhood Brazil

Factors that lead to sexual exploitation of children and adolescents

Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents is a complex and multifaceted problem.

The occurrence of such cases does not depend on:

- Social Class
- Level of Education
- Location (urban or rural)



Consequences of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents

Affected physical, psychological, and social development

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

Exposure to alcohol and other drugs usage

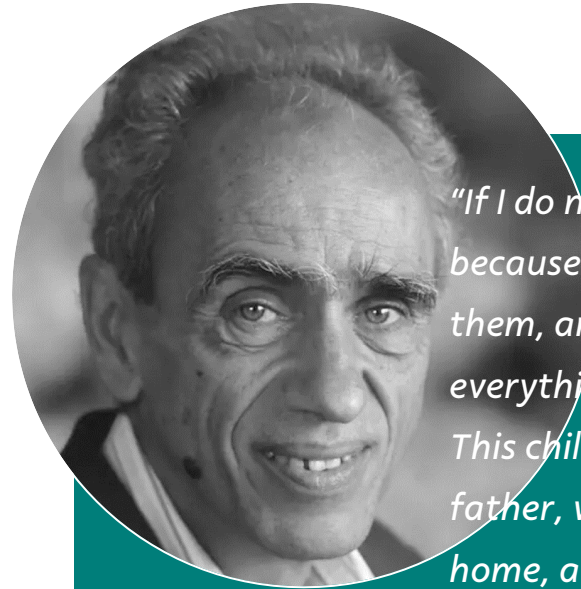
School evasion

Early pregnancy

High rate of suicide attempts

Ongoing cycle of violence

Compromised future



CHILDHOOD
PELA PROTEÇÃO DA INFÂNCIA



"If I do not see a child in a child, it is because someone has already violated them, and what I see is what remains of everything that was taken from them. This child I see on the street, without a father, without a mother, without a home, a bed and food, living the loneliness of nights without people around, is a cry, an awe.

Betinho

Herbert José de Sousa

In front of them, the world should stop to begin a new encounter, because the child is the endless beginning and their end is the end of all of us."

Childhood and adolescence are special phases of human development. This is a period in which protection and guidance are essential for the formation of a healthy and responsible adult.

How to Prevent Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents?

Policies to combat poverty

Reducing social inequalities and poverty are also ways to combat different forms of violence against children and adolescents by providing access to education and appropriate activities for a dignified, safe, and happy childhood and adolescence.

Policies for women and children

It is necessary that Public Authorities implement effective policies for the prevention and protection of women, children, and adolescents against sexual exploitation.

Raising public awareness

Disseminating information and seeking to raise public awareness about the issue is one way to contribute to the prevention and end of sexual exploitation practices.

The sexual involvement of adults with children and adolescents is a crime!

Covered by the Brazilian Penal Code and the Statute of the Child and Adolescent (ECA). The aggressor, the groomer and the intermediary who commercially benefits from sexual exploitation are all punishable. It is also a crime to maintain an establishment where sexual exploitation takes place.

Knowledge of Reporting Channels

In Brazil, the number of cases of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents is much higher than the reports made. It is the responsibility of every citizen to know the reporting channels and use them in case of suspicion of rights violations against children and adolescents.

Strengthening Protection Networks for Children and Adolescents

- Child Protection Councils
- Specialized Social Assistance Reference Centers (CREAS)
- Specialized Child and Adolescent Protection Police Stations
- Juvenile Courts
- National Program for Combating Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents (PNEVSCA)

Vale is committed

Vale is committed to preventing and combating sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, and this issue is addressed in our policies and training programs.



Human Rights Policy



Training Programs



Consequence Management

What vale expects from its employees and partners?

Report any suspicion of the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. Use the appropriate hotlines for reporting in your region.





Photograph: Márcia Foletto

Children and adolescents **do not choose** the situation of **sexual exploitation**. They are not there because they want to be, they are exploited by adults. They are always victims. **Never blame the child or adolescent!**

The Business Sector and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents



Business Activities That May Be Related to Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents

Large-Scale Projects

The migration of labor towards large construction sites creates a concentration of men who spend a lot of time away from their families and often settle in vulnerable regions, putting children and adolescents at risk. These regions may have very weak and insufficient social policies for the demands of the project.

The behavioral characteristics of workers and the local population's culture can also be a risk factor and must be addressed through dialogues, training, and awareness-raising activities.

Men's accommodations should be kept away from vulnerable communities, schools, and environments where there is a concentration of children and adolescents. If it is not possible, workers' accommodations should be constantly monitored to prevent possible violations.

Transporting and logistics

Car and truck drivers travel long distances, crossing highly vulnerable regions. They spend long periods away from their families and frequently face poor working and resting conditions, as well as a lack of leisure activities. These conditions can make them more susceptible to involvement in sexual exploitation situations.

In Brazil, statistics show that highways and roads are places where such violations occur with greater frequency. Due to the high number of sexual exploitation cases on highways, since 2003 the Federal Highway Police has been monitoring to identify points of vulnerability.

Drivers have great potential to contribute to the prevention and reduction of exploitation cases, becoming agents of protection!



Vale is a Partner of
CHILDHOOD BRAZIL



Na Mão Certa Program

Vale has been associated with the organization since 2019 and is a **signatory of the Business Pact Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents on Brazilian Highways**. The main strategy of the program is to raise awareness among truck drivers to act as agents of protection for the rights of children and adolescents, focusing on combating sexual exploitation.

Large Businesses Program

Childhood Brazil advises the private sector in preparing for new projects arriving in the territory. A local action plan is developed that considers the company, public authorities and their services, as well as civil society.

Risk Factors for Sexual Exploitation in the Cargo Transport Sector



TRUCK DRIVER / DRIVER

- Labor Issues
- Type of contract / Risk exposure
- Risk Behavior (alcohol, drug use, and paid sex)
- Conditions of Rest and Stopping Points
- Cultural and Gender Issues
- Regional disparity



CRIMINAL NETWORKS

- Recruitment of Children and Adolescents
- Promoting sexual exploitation trade and commerce



Involvement with Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents can be related to other crimes such as cargo theft and drug, firearm, human, and wildlife trafficking.

Road Cargo Transport Professionals

Drivers and transportation professionals can act as Protection Agents to combat sexual exploitation of children and adolescents on the roads.

Truck drivers travel all over the world and often know the locations where sexual crimes against children and adolescents occur.

Transporting professionals are important partners in preventing the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents!

Risk Factors for Sexual Exploitation in Large Enterprises

Large-Scale Project Worker

- Massive migration of workers
- Structural sexism
- Use of alcohol and illicit drugs
- Lack of ties to the Territory

Protection Network

- Overburdening of local public services
- Insufficient public policies

Children and Adolescents

- In social, economic, and cultural vulnerable situations near the projects

Project

- Far from major urban centers
- Lack of comfort, safety, and privacy in accommodations
- Few activities, leisure, and entertainment spaces
- Criteria for selecting suppliers

Criminal Networks

- People who recruit and facilitate the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents

A photograph of construction workers at a site. In the foreground, three workers wearing blue hard hats, red scarves, and high-visibility vests are looking towards the right. The background shows a large construction site with a crane and steel structures under a cloudy sky.

Professionals in the construction sector

Workers often migrate to other regions or municipalities for temporary work on a construction project.

Professionals in construction can act as Protection Agents to combat sexual exploitation of children and adolescents at construction sites.

Establishing a healthy relationship with the local community is crucial for turning them into partners in the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents!



Whistleblowing Channels for Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents



How to Report Cases of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents?

Reporting leads to the identification and prosecution of aggressors. This is crucial to ensure they face legal consequences for their actions, deterring potential offenders and contributing to justice.

In addition, reporting can lead to the identification of exploitation networks, which often operate in hidden and complex ways. By reporting, authorities can investigate and dismantle these networks, protecting not only known victims but also future victims.

Reporting cases of sexual exploitation helps in breaking the cycle of violence and protecting victims. Often, children and adolescents do not have the ability to defend themselves and may be in situations of great danger. Reporting can enable authorities to intervene and remove the victim from the violent situation.

If you **SUSPECT** or **WITNESS** a child or adolescent being a victim of violence,

REPORT TO YOUR COMPETENT REGIONAL AUTHORITIES





We must all be partners in the protection of children's and adolescents' rights!



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We thank everyone involved, directly or indirectly, in the creation of this guide.

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