



Bảo vệ
Bảo vệ Tương lai

COMPENDIUM OF CASE STUDIES

Accelerating Action to End Violence Against Children in
East Asia and the Pacific: Evidence-based and
promising practices

Volume II 2021

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COMPENDIUM OF CASE STUDIES

Accelerating Action to End Violence Against Children
in East Asia and the Pacific:
Evidence-based and promising practices

Volume II 2021

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Introduction

At least one billion children globally experience some form of violence each year. In the East Asia and Pacific region, violence, including physical, sexual, and emotional violence as well as neglect, is a daily reality for millions of children. Violence against children has short, medium- and long-term impacts on children, affecting their development, health, mental health, and educational outcomes. Without addressing violence against children, national and global efforts and investment in education, health, and early childhood development will continue to be undermined and we will not achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, violence is preventable and there is a growing evidence base on what works to effectively prevent and respond to violence against children in all settings. INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children, developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and partners including UNICEF, is an evidence-based resource representing a select group of strategies based on the best available evidence to help countries and communities intensify their focus on the prevention programmes and services with the greatest potential to reduce violence against children.^{1,2} To support implementation, the INSPIRE Handbook: Action for Implementing the Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children and the INSPIRE Indicator Guidance and Results Framework were developed.^{3,4}

To learn more about the INSPIRE Strategies, multisectoral delegations from 20 countries in East Asia and the Pacific region joined the first Regional INSPIRE Conference in October 2018, hosted by the Royal Government of Cambodia, with the support of UNICEF and WHO. Three years later, while the region has taken significant steps to tackle violence, the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 threatens to slow progress and, even worse, reverse the progress made. To reinforce commitment to end violence against children, place ending violence high on the recovery agenda, identify ways to accelerate action against this backdrop, and share evidence-based and promising practices from the region, UNICEF and WHO jointly organized the Second Regional Virtual Conference to Strengthen Implementation of the INSPIRE Strategies During COVID-19 and Beyond in East Asia and the Pacific between 1-5 November 2021.

This Compendium highlights a selection of evidence-based and promising practices from the East Asia and Pacific region. The first Compendium was published after the 2018 INSPIRE Conference, capturing the case studies shared during the conference itself. This second Compendium updates the first set of case studies and expands the examples, including the case studies shared at the 2021 INSPIRE Conference. In addition, this compendium includes additional case studies not presented at the conference, reflecting the expanding promising and evidence-based examples from the region. All case studies illustrate the impact that prevention and response strategies can have to accelerate action to end violence against children. The case studies are structured around the seven INSPIRE strategies:



- Implementation and enforcement of laws
- Norms and values
- Safe environments
- Parent and caregiver support
- Income and economic strengthening
- Response and support services
- Education and life skills

The compendium aims to serve as a tool to support countries in the region to reduce the prevalence and impact of violence against children for use across agencies and sectors, including government stakeholders and policymakers interested in evidence-based and promising practices to address violence against children. The case studies can help to facilitate action to protect children from violence by offering examples of and experiences in how to design and implement initiatives and programming across similar contexts. The compendium also enables stakeholders across the region to showcase their contribution towards achieving the violence-related Sustainable Development Goals at the national level.

¹ <https://www.who.int/>

² INSPIRE technical package <https://www.who.int/teams/social-determinants-of-health/violence-prevention/inspire-technical-package>

³ INSPIRE Handbook <https://www.who.int/publications/item/inspire-handbook-action-for-implementing-the-seven-strategies-for-ending-violence-against-children>

⁴ INSPIRE Indicator guidance and results framework <https://www.unicef.org/documents/inspire-indicator-guidance-and-results-framework>

CHINA

Amendment to the Law on Protection of Minors



Why is the intervention important?

China ratified the Convention of the Rights of the Child in 1991. Subsequently, the first legislation dedicated to protection of children's rights, the Law on the Protection of Minors, was formulated. While the Law and other national and subnational legislation that draws on the principles of international child rights laws have been improved in the last several decades, there continue to be significant gaps, particularly in protecting children from all forms of violence. However, the law does not provide strong protection or response measures and lacks clear standards and procedures of accountability, leading to varying interpretations and practices in enforcement. Further, there is no dedicated executive body with primary authority for the Law's implementation, hampering operationalisation.

Over the past 10 years, there have been increasing concerns as to children's safety and well being, including due to a number of extreme cases of child abuse and neglect. In addition, there are growing concerns for the 69 million children who are left behind by migrant parents, often without proper care and support and consequently at heightened risk of

Implementation and Enforcement of Laws

violence, sexual abuse and abduction. Additionally, as 169 million children aged 6 to 17 years in China have access to the internet, online safety for children and adolescents is another area requiring action.

What was the intervention?

After a decade-long advocacy effort driven by child protection actors including UNICEF. The National People's Congress of China (NPC) initiated the amendment of the Law on Protection of Minors in 2018. The revised law was approved and came into effect on June 1, 2021. The new law radically changed the legal framework of the Law on Protection of Minors, including significantly increasing the number of articles from 72 to 130, and adding two new chapters for strengthening statutory protection and online protection. It intends to improve the protection of children's rights in all settings and circumstances in which children survive and thrive: the family, schools, the community, and the online. The Law also strengthens special protection measures by the state and protection of children's rights in the justice system.

The amended law set out, in detail, protective measures to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children. Core elements include: 1) reiterating parental responsibility and the arrangements that need to be made if parents leave their children behind when they migrate for work; 2) charging the local civil affairs authorities with responsibilities to perform the child protection function in the case of child abuse and neglect, including in emergency circumstances; 3) defining mandatory reporters for suspected child abuse and neglect; 4) defining sectoral and institutional responsibility for child protection e.g. education bureaus are to establish mechanisms to address school bullying and sexual assault, and child and youth service institutes are to undertake criminal records checks when recruiting staff; 5) strengthening protection services for child victims and witness in the justice system; 6) defining a comprehensive framework specifying responsibilities of the state, the school, the family, and internet service providers, to promote a safe online environment for children and protect the personal data of children.



What is the expected impact?

The amended Law has had a major impact on strengthening governance structure of child protection systems. The Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) has led the establishment of an inter-ministerial steering and supervisory team under the State Council to improve the effectiveness of the law enforcement on the ground. As of the end of June 2021, all the 31 provinces in China had established a subnational multi-sectoral coordination mechanism and a county level child-protection service system. The system includes a protection of minors committee, who are charged with a duty to coordinate the provision of services for children in need and their families. There are three levels of statutory and community services networks, including a child protection centre transformed from child welfare institution, a township-level minor's protection station and/or social work stations, and Child Directors ("barefoot social workers") at the village level. 670,000 Children's Directors are being recruited.

The Law is also been instrumental in accelerating action in key sectors. For example, the Ministry of Education has developed its first set of stipulated regulations for the protection of children. The regulation defines rules and procedures for the prevention, identification, and response to bullying at schools, and for the prevention, reporting, and addressing of sexual abuse

and harassment, including the establishment of mental health support services, and introducing school social workers. The Supreme Procuratorate and the Supreme Court issued policies for improving child sensitive procedures and has been working with the Ministry of Public Security and education authorities to conduct criminal records checks and establish a database. A regulation on protecting children online is also under development by the Cyberspace Administration in line with the chapter in the Amended Law on online protection.

How will we know the intervention worked?

While the statement of violence prevention and response has been reflected in a number of key national policies, such as the National Plan of Action for the Development of Children (2021-2030), UNICEF is working with MCA to strengthen indicators and mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of Law enforcement. To this effect, UNICEF has supported different sectors in generating baseline data to measure prevalence of violence, and working with MCA to develop a robust monitoring and evaluation framework, including tools and indicators in nine counties of modelling the integrated child protection system, which serves as an integral component for MCA to scale up the model in the country and contribute to measuring impact of the Law.

What you should know...

The process to develop and improve provisions of the Law has also been an advocacy process for strengthening political will and commitment by law and policy makers and administrators for the protection of children's rights. However, there are still challenges to be addressed to advance implementation of the laws. There is still insufficient investment in China's social welfare and protection service system, leaving a huge gap between children in need of support and services provided, a shortage of qualified child protection social workers with proper training to match significant emerging needs. Moreover, internet service providers generally lack motivation and comprehensive understanding of the importance of aligning their efforts with provisions in the chapter of online protection, which presents a challenge for the enforcement of the Law.

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LAO PDR

Strategic planning to implement laws and policies and forge multi-sectoral partnerships to end violence against children



Why is the intervention important?

The Violence against Children Survey in Lao PDR (2016) revealed 15 per cent of girls and 17 per cent of boys are physically abused before they turn 18, and 24 per cent of girls and 18 per cent of boys experience emotional violence at home. Furthermore, 7 per cent of girls and 12 per cent of boys are sexually abused as a child. Witnessing violence is also common for children growing up in Lao PDR: a quarter of girls and boys witness physical violence at home, while almost a third of boys and a quarter of girls witness physical violence in the community. The survey also revealed that only 5.2 per cent of girls know where to get help if they are sexually abused, and none reported receiving help.

The 2017 Social Indicator Survey reported that one in seven Lao children aged 1-14 are subject to at least one form of psychological aggression or physical punishment. However, the survey also reflected a significant reduction in the rate of adult caregivers who believe physical punishment is needed to raise a child, from 42 per cent in 2012 to 25 per cent in 2017.

According to the Situation of Children and Women of Lao PDR (2020), bullying at school affects around 14 per cent of secondary school children, with boys being bullied more often (15.2 per cent) than girls (11.3 per cent). Bullying mainly takes the form of physical violence (36.3 per cent).

What is the intervention?

Using the results of the national Violence Against Children (VAC) Survey as a catalyst for action, the Government of Lao PDR developed a multi-sectoral response plan containing a set of priority actions for implementation. The priority actions cover three main areas that together provide an overarching framework for ending violence against children: enhancing the enabling environment; preventing violence against children; and responding to violence against children. The Multi-Sectoral Priority Action Plan in Response to Violence against Children Survey (MSRP) underwent broad consultation across sectors and was endorsed by key government stakeholders in 2018. The actions outlined in the plan supported implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and Violence against Children 2014-2020, as well as other national strategies, policies, and legal instruments.

Implementation of the National Plans of Action was expected to contribute to a continued decrease in the percentage of children who experience violent discipline from an adult in their household and a further reduction in the percentage of adult caregivers who believe that physical punishment is necessary to raise a child. A more robust child protection system with a stronger social service workforce is being forged to provide quality promotive, preventive, and responsive services to children in Lao PDR.

What is the expected impact?

The MSRP set a good basis for cross sectoral collaboration to address violence against women and children both at the policy and service delivery level. A national multi-sectoral working committee including social welfare, health, education and justice sectors was formed to conduct the Assessment of the Child Protection System in Lao PDR (2021) in collaboration with UNICEF, development partners, CSOs, social workers, and children themselves.

A vision paper for child protection system strengthening was developed which informed the formulation of a new National Plan of Action on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and Children

(2021-2025), with four main goals:

1. Enhancing the multi-sectoral coordination and monitoring to end violence against children in all settings
2. Preventing and responding to online violence, including child online sexual exploitation and abuse
3. Preventing and responding to violence in schools
4. Preventing and responding to violence in homes and communities

Implementation of the MSRP has led to expanded allied forces for child protection and especially addressing VAC in Lao PDR. The Ministry of Information, Culture and Technology (MICT) joined the multi-sectoral VAC alliance and developed a guideline for media professionals regarding reporting on child rights and child protection. Over 10,000 copies were disseminated and 138 media professionals (F51M87) were trained on the use of the guideline in 2021. The Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES), developed jointly with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers, and Children (NCAWMC), a National Guideline on Prevention and Response to Violence Against Children in Secondary Schools in Lao PDR in 2020. Another result is the new partnership established with Lao Youth Union which joined Lao Women's Union in providing hotline services on violence against women and children and MHPSS counselling services for adolescents and youth during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. In 2021, LWU and LYU helpline services have scaled up to five provinces serving a total of 4,327 clients.

How do we know the intervention worked?

Overall changes in the levels of violent discipline and attitudes towards violence against children, to which this intervention contributes, will be measured through the Lao PDR Social Indicator Survey (LSIS) which is conducted every five years. The impact of the National Plans and MSRP will only be known after the next LSIS is completed which is scheduled in 2022 to measure the impact on the attitudes and behaviour toward VAC in the country.

The National Plans of Action have an accountability, monitoring, and evaluation framework by which progresses, and achievements can be measured and reviewed over the short, medium, and long-term.

Key indicators from the National Plans of Action are also monitored through the Lao Generation 2030, a national pledge made by the Lao Government, development partners, private sector, and Lao youth, prioritising strengthening the child protection system.

What you should know...

Other strategic documents in the finalisation process include the National Plan of Action for Child Protection System Strengthening (2022-2026) and the Strategic Guidelines for the Social Service Workforce Development in Lao PDR, led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MOLSW). These documents complement each other to forge a stronger multi-sectoral partnership to end violence through a system approach.

COVID-19 has exacerbated the preexisting vulnerabilities of girls and women in Lao PDR. The 2020 COVID-19 Impact Assessment on Women, Children and Adolescents in Lao PDR shows a dire need for gender-based violence and child protection services across the country. As adolescents tend to resort to technology to overcome the effects of isolation during the lockdown and school closure, there is a pressing need to address violence against children both online and offline, focusing on online bullying, sexual abuse, and exploitation.

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Useful Links

UNICEF Launches a Multi-Sectoral Priority Action Plan in Response to Violence against Children Survey. (<https://www.unicef.org/laos/stories/launches-multi-sectoral-priority-action-plan-response-violence-against-children-survey>)

Impact of Covid-19 on Children, Adolescents and Their Families in Lao PDR. (<https://www.unicef.org/laos/reports/impact-covid-19-children-adolescents-and-their-families-lao-pdr>)

Violence against Children Survey in Lao PDR (<https://www.unicef.org/laos/reports/vacsurvey-laos>)

The Situation of Children and Women of Lao People's Democratic Republic. (<https://www.unicef.org/laos/reports/situation-children-and-women-laoprd>)

Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS) 2017. (<https://www.unicef.org/laos/reports/lao-social-indicator-survey-lsis-2017>)

Lao Generation 2030: a pledge for future generations (<https://www.unicef.org/laos/stories/lao-generation-2030-pledge-future-generations>)

MONGOLIA

Implementing a legal prohibition on all forms of violence against children

Implementation and Enforcement of Laws



Why is the intervention important?

The passage of the Law on Child Protection (LCP) in 2016 established a legal framework for the Mongolian child protection system at national, provincial, and community levels for the first time. This law sought to provide comprehensive protection to children in Mongolia, setting out the roles and responsibilities of duty bearers across sectors in preventing and responding to violations of the rights of the child to protection.

What is the intervention?

In the years following the approval of the LCP, the Government of Mongolia has taken a number of steps to promote the implementation of the Law, with the support of UNICEF and other child rights organisations working in the country. In 2017, a multi-stakeholder permanent working group, led by the Deputy Minister for Labour and Social Protection was established to ensure cross-sectoral coordination for implementation of the LCP, the National Programme on Child Development and Protection for 2017–2021 and the CRC Committee's concluding observations. The working group systematically reviews implementation status and agrees on further steps to ensure children's right to protection.

The Government has strengthened mechanisms for identification, referral, and follow-up for children who are at risk and/or who experience violence in line with procedures and guidelines that have been developed to permit implementation of the Law. The Government has established a number of child protection services, including the 108 Child Helpline to receive reports of child rights violation including violence against children. Since the approval of the LCP and the amendments to the Law on Combatting Domestic Violence, 748 multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) have been established across the country as a community-level unit for provision of protection services and have become increasingly active. As of September 2021, 36 one-stop service centres and protection shelters have been established across the country by the police, health, and child protection agencies and NGOs providing a safe space for nearly 4,000 survivors of violence annually.

The Government has increased its allocation of resources for the implementation of the Law from 0.9 billion MNT in 2016 to 8.0 billion MNT in 2019 and 2020 respectively. In addition to the allocation from the State budget, local governments have also allocated funds for child protection interventions from their local development budgets, which is expected to improve the operational capacities of child protection services.

What was the impact?

Implementation of the LCP has contributed to positive changes in child protection approaches in Mongolia. The Law has galvanised increased recognition and prioritisation of child protection concerns in Mongolia by government officials, frontline service providers across relevant sectors and within communities. This was a significant shift from the past, when issues of violence against children, particularly within the family, were considered a private matter and were often not taken seriously.

The growing recognition of child protection concerns has contributed to an increase in the reporting and identification of cases of child abuse. The number of calls related to child protection and child rights violations reported to the 108 Child Helpline rose from 40,4164 in 2016 to 73,308 in 2020; and the number of cases which required a case management response rose from 2,437 to 9,192.



Data on the number of child protection cases addressed by multi-disciplinary teams also paints a positive picture, suggesting that since the LCP came into force, there has been a steady increase in the ability of sub-national authorities to recognise abuse and identify child protection risk. According to figures provided by the Authority for Family, Child and Youth Development (AFCYD), multi-disciplinary teams responded to 4,537 cases involving a child protection concern in 2017 and 7,213 in 2019.

These figures indicate that the LCP has significantly strengthened the child protection system, which has increasingly fulfilled its core function, by identifying and responding to cases where children are at risk of harm.

How do we know the intervention worked?

An evaluation was commissioned by UNICEF Mongolia in partnership with the Government of Mongolia in 2020. Coram International undertook the evaluation to produce knowledge, findings and recommendations and to identify lessons learnt and good practices in order to strengthen laws, policies, and programmes, including any necessary amendments to the LCP itself. The evaluation examined the efforts and commitments of duty bearers at national, sub-national, and community levels (soum and bag) in Ulaanbaatar and Bayan-Ulgii, Khuvsgul, and Umnu-Gobi provinces from 2016 until mid-2020.

The evaluation was designed to generate evidence on relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability and equity and gender quality.¹ It applied a mixed-methods approach in order to draw on the strengths of

both quantitative and qualitative data but was primarily a qualitative study.

What you should know...

Based on the key findings, conclusions, and lessons learned, which emerged from the evaluation, more needs to be done to protect children from risks of harm, including: amendment of the LCP, the Law on Combatting Domestic Violence, and the Law on Family to clarify responsibilities of the authorities for the delivery of child protection services; and the establishment of a uniform referral system for all child protection cases. The Government will also draft a strategy for the development and delivery of targeted prevention services, and the establishment of family-based alternative care services to provide long term solutions for children who cannot return to their families. As yet, fostering services have still to be developed, as have services for sexual abuse victims, children in conflict with the law, and children with disabilities. The development of these services will enable the effective and inclusive implementation of the LCP going forward.

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¹ Based on Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) criteria the sixth criteria, impact, was not to be considered given the formative nature of the evaluation and the early stages of the implementation of the LCP. (www.t.ly/xfmU)

CAMBODIA

PROTECT (Strong Family): A communications strategy to end violence against children and unnecessary family separation



@ UNICEF/2020/Busak

Why is the intervention important?

Violence against children remains a significant issue in Cambodia. The findings of the Cambodia Violence Against Children Survey 2013 highlight that violence is a serious concern with over half of the children in the country experiencing at least one form of violence before the age of 18. The survey also found evidence of attitudes and perceptions that support the acceptability of violence against children and allow it to persist.

At the same time, institutional care has become increasingly common throughout Cambodia. Despite the Government's alternative care policy, which mandates that institutional care should be a last and temporary solution, there was an increase in the number of children in residential care from 6,254 in 2005 to 26,187 in 2016. While poverty, lack of access to education, and lack of social welfare support contribute to families placing their children in residential care, it is also driven by the belief that children will receive better care and education in institutions. Placement in residential care exposes children to greater risk of violence, exploitation, and neglect.

This intervention was designed in response to these two important child protection concerns, specifically in recognition of the need to address the social norms that support violence and those that underlie family decisions to place their children in residential care.

Norms and Values

What is the intervention?

In 2017, Cambodia adopted a government-led communication for development strategy: PROTECT: A Communication Strategy to End Violence and Unnecessary Family Separation in Cambodia, led by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) with support from UNICEF. The strategy aims to address the social and cultural norms that legitimise violence against children and normalise the belief that residential care facilities are beneficial to a child. The goal is to enable children, their parents, caregivers, and communities to prevent and respond to violence and family separation by 1) raising awareness about the unacceptability of all forms of violence and unnecessary family separation, and 2) transforming prevalent norms and attitudes that condone violence and promote unnecessary family separation, as well as 3) building skills and self-efficacy to practice protective behaviours. It is targeted at children, parents, caregivers, community members, service providers, policy makers, the judiciary, and the media.

The communication strategy is national in scope, with focused implementation in six focal provinces: Phnom Penh, Kandal, Preah Sihanouk, Battambang, Siem Reap, and Rattanakiri, as well as in the UNICEF Integrated Early Childhood Development Districts in Cambodia's Northeast provinces.

Cambodia **PROTECT** stands for:

- **P**romote a culture of zero tolerance
- **R**ecognise specific vulnerabilities
- **O**rient all duty bearers and rights holders
- **T**ransform attitudes
- **E**xplore options and alternative solutions
- **C**ommit to end violence and family separation
- **T**ake positive actions

The communication strategy, which covers a five-year period from 2019 to 2023, encompasses four major communication approaches: mass media; interactive communication technologies (ICT); community engagement; and advocacy. It builds on existing good practices in Cambodian culture and is solution-oriented rather than problem-centred. The detailed strategy is multi-layered and cross-sectoral and combines universal theories of change with suggested practices or actions tailored for Cambodia.

The Cambodia PROTECT/Strong Family campaign was publicly launched by MoSVY in February, 2020 at a high-level event supported by UNICEF.

Since the official launch of the public campaign, communication materials have been designed based on the comprehensive, evidence-based Cambodia PROTECT communication strategy and conceptual framework, focusing on changing harmful social norms that underpin violence against children. These materials have been disseminated through mass media and interactive communication technology approaches, including TV and radio spots, a series of 25 radio episodes, short messages services (SMS) messages, and printed materials reaching more than 10.5 million children, parents, caregivers, and community members (as of August 2021).

In collaboration with the Regional Think Tank on Child Online Protection and UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, Cambodia PROTECT also disseminated online educational tools and materials on online grooming, which were developed based on a Theory of Change and Evaluation Framework developed by the Think Tank. Over 1.6 million children and adults were reached with these messages between May and June, 2021. Utilising and adapting the Theory of Change and Evaluation Framework, UNICEF is planning to develop more assets based on the findings of the initial rollout.

As part of the campaign, UNICEF will also further disseminate communication materials through community engagement activities in six target provinces including Phnom Penh, Kandal, Sihanouk, Battambang, Siem Reap, and Rattanakiri planned for late 2021 and early 2022.

What is the expected impact?

By promoting a steady progression from knowledge gain to attitude change to garnering commitment, implementation of the communication strategy is expected to result in positive social and behavioural change in the target provinces – ultimately leading to lower levels of violence and family separation in Cambodia.

How will we know the intervention worked?

A detailed monitoring and evaluation framework, built into the Cambodia PROTECT strategy, provides a roadmap of planned activities and tasks with specific directives on how the intervention activities can be evaluated and monitored over time.

A baseline survey was carried out from November to December of 2018. A midline survey is planned

to begin in late 2021 to assess impact and guide the implementation of the second half of the campaign. An endline survey will also be conducted to assess the overall impact of the campaign.

What you should know...

The inter-ministerial Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children 2017-2021 was developed and launched in December, 2017. The Cambodia PROTECT Strategy is one of the key activities in this Action Plan. MoSVY agreed to establish an inter-ministerial working group to lead and coordinate the implementation of the Cambodia PROTECT Strategy. Behavioural impacts to be measured through surveys will serve as an advocacy tool for integrating the Cambodia PROTECT campaign into the Ministry's annual work plan and for allocating resources to continue the campaign in the future.

To enhance implementation of the strategy, UNICEF strengthened strategic partnerships with key NGO partners. They all signed a Memorandum of Agreement, which sets out the core principles and procedures to support the implementation of the Cambodia PROTECT Strategy. Partners can take on specific elements of the strategy and implement them in additional provinces, using the same package of branding, messages, materials, and indicators that accompany the strategy.

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Useful links:

- To view Cambodia's Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children 2017-2021 visit: (<https://www.unicef.org/cambodia/reports/action-plan-prevent-and-respond-violence-against-children-2017-2021>)
- For information on Cambodia's Action Plan for Improving Child Care 2016-2018 visit: (<https://www.unicef.org/cambodia/reports/action-plan-improving-child-care-target-safely-returning-30-cent-children>)
- For Cambodia PROTECT/Strong Family Campaign (<https://strongfamily.mosvy.gov.kh/>)
- For social media of Cambodia PROTECT/Strong Family Campaign (<https://www.facebook.com/strongfamily.kh>)

INDONESIA

Better reproductive health and rights for all (BERANI) - child marriage prevention



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Why is the intervention important?

Indonesia is ranked the 7th highest globally and the 2nd highest in the ASEAN countries for child marriage. In the past 12 years, the national prevalence of child marriage in Indonesia has slightly decreased by around 4 per cent from 14.67 per cent in 2008 to 10.35 per cent in 2020. While this represents a positive trend, this still translates into one out of nine women aged 20-24 years who were married before the age of 18 years. At least 20 provinces have a prevalence rate above the national figure.

Laws that regulate family relations in Indonesia are governed by the Marriage Law No 1 of 1974. This Law was amended through Law Number 16 of 2019, changing the age limit for marriage, from 19 years for boys and 16 years for girls, to 19 years for both. However, while the legal age of marriage (without parental consent) is 21, and 19 years with parental consent, marriage dispensation allows for children to get married at an earlier age. Available data from 2018–2020 showed increasing applications for marriage dispensation for under-19s: 12,504 in 2018, 23,126 in 2019, and 64,211 in 2020.

Norms and Values

What is the intervention?

Through a joint program with UNFPA funded by Canada, UNICEF Indonesia is currently supporting a multi-sectoral program called BERANI, or Better Reproductive Health and Rights for All in Indonesia. BERANI is being piloted in six sub-districts in Bone Regency (District), South Sulawesi, focusing on the following main strategic interventions targeting children, families, and community members:

1. Improve the knowledge and skills of adolescents through life skills education (LSE) in schools and strengthened school-based health platforms. This includes conducting a series of trainings for principals, teachers, and students and the integration of LSE in local school curricula for sustainability.
2. Build the capacity of religious and community leaders, including women's prayer groups, to enhance their knowledge of menstrual hygiene management (MHM), sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and child marriage.
3. Support for the development of village regulations and village action plans through community dialogues. At village level, trained religious and community leaders facilitated community dialogues with religious, social, and economic groups to improve their awareness, knowledge, and capacity to advocate for the prevention of child marriage.

In addition, BERANI has developed communication materials designed to help target audiences with poor literacy and general low levels of health awareness to enable them to understand the concepts and messages of child marriage prevention and MHM campaigns. The materials developed include modules on LSE for students and teachers, and a Ustadzah (Moslem women preachers) toolkit for religious organisations, as well as a parent toolkit for households.

What was the impact?

Endline research carried out from April to May, 2021 on child marriage and MHM in Bone, South Sulawesi indicated that the capacity of children and families to advance public dialogues through communication among religious leaders, community leaders, and government counterparts at village to district level, on eliminating practices and behaviours which



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could be harmful to children increased. Adolescent students in targeted schools had improved awareness and knowledge through LSE. The research further confirmed that teachers gained knowledge through the LSE curriculum as well as improved techniques to deliver interactive teaching methods. Moreover, students from the piloting and replication schools acknowledged that they had increased confidence and self-esteem, improved understanding of menstruation, and no longer believed that a girl is ready for marriage once she starts menstruating.

The endline survey found that as a result of village level community dialogues there was a 22.8 per cent increase in community members that expressed the view that marrying under 18 is likely to have a negative impact on girls, and nearly half (48.2 per cent) knew the regulations around marriage in Indonesia compared to the baseline study (7.6 per cent). 61.5 per cent of those in targeted intervention areas were more likely to report knowledge of child marriage regulations as compared to control areas (17.8 per cent). Moreover, the proportion of positive perceptions related to the benefits of child marriage decreased among parents. The research showed an increase in the perception of two key indicators, namely, marrying girls is not perceived as important to (i) help protect family honour reputation (72.6 per cent endline vs 62.8 per cent baseline); and (ii) resolve the financial problems in the family (82.6 per cent endline vs 70.4 per cent baseline).

How do we know the intervention worked?

- In the pilot district of Bone, marriage dispensation number decreased from 228 in 2019 to 174 in 2020 (down to 33 as of August 2021), while the national data shows that the application for dispensation for underage marriage continues to increase (see above).
- The Bone local government developed local strategies to prevent child marriage, integrating initiatives through the UNICEF-supported pilots.
- Preventing child marriage is a prioritised program in Bone, South Sulawesi.

What you should know...

In Indonesia, marriage is not only carried out through registered marriages but also through unregistered marriages, which provides a loophole in legislation enabling child marriage. Behavioral and social norm changes, targeting specifically those who facilitate unregistered marriages, will be critical to ending child marriage in Indonesia.

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Useful Links

Wibowo, H. R., Ratnaningsih, M., Goodwin, N. J., Ulum, D. F., & Minnick, E. (2021). One household, two worlds: Differences of perception towards child marriage among adolescent children and adults in Indonesia. *The Lancet Regional Health – Western Pacific*, 8 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.lanwpc.2021.100103>)

INDONESIA

Yes I Do! Ending child, early and forced marriage

Norms and Values



Why was the intervention important?

Despite Indonesia's low prevalence of Child Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM) compared to other countries in Asia Pacific (16 per cent), the country's large population means that the actual number of child brides is worrying.¹ A study shows that around 1,220,900 girls (20-24 years old) were married before the age of 18. Globally, this places the country as one of 10 countries with the highest actual number of child marriage cases.²

According to UNICEF, the progress of CEFM prevention and elimination remains slow with only a 3.5 per cent decrease in the last decade.³ Therefore, several actions have been taken by the country such as raising the minimum age of marriage for women and making child marriage prevention a national priority.

What was the intervention?

In order to empower girls and boys and enable them to negotiate and decide when and with whom to get married and to have a child, the Yes I Do project

operated in the three districts of Sukabumi, Rembang, and West Lombok.

The project was specifically designed with a gender transformative approach to address the root causes and unequal power relation around CEFM issues. Therefore, the project had some key interventions to achieve the objectives by addressing gender norms such as changing attitudes among community members and gatekeepers so that they took action to prevent child marriage, female genital mutilation/circumcision (FGM/C), and adolescent pregnancies. The project also aimed to engage with adolescent girls and boys to claim their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) as well as enabling them to take informed action on their sexual rights. Furthermore, the project aimed to give adolescent girls alternatives by optimising education and personal empowerment as well as influencing policy makers and duty bearers to develop and implement laws and policies to eliminate child marriage and FGM/C.

The project built on and further strengthened the Community Based Child Protection mechanism, a

1 UNICEF and PUSKAPA (Center on Child Protection and Wellbeing at Universitas Indonesia), Prevention of Child Marriage: Acceleration that cannot wait, January 2020, p. xi-xii, <https://www.unicef.org/indonesia/sites/unicef.org/indonesia/files/2020-06/Prevention-of-Child-Marriage-Report-2020.pdf>

2 Ibid.

3 UNICEF, Child Marriage in Indonesia: Latest statistics of child marriage in Indonesia, 4 February 2020, <https://www.unicef.org/indonesia/reports/childmarriage-in-indonesia>.

model developed by Plan International in 2006, which has been adopted and replicated by the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (MoWECP) in many districts in Indonesia. Therefore, the government could scale up the strategies and impacts to address CEFM in other regions utilising this mechanism.

What was the impact?

As a result of the project, 43,361 adolescent boys and girls had access to SRHR education and services, 3,506 young people were trained to make decisions about their future and employment opportunities where 511 of them developed business or professional plans, 1,533 adolescents participated in community learning centres to avoid school drop-out and 4,981,979 people were reached through campaign activities. The project also contextualised a Champions of Change module where 155 young people have become youth advocates. Furthermore, 1,292 adults attended workshops, trainings, and meetings with the government and other stakeholders to support children's rights in education.

The project resulted in communities undertaking 112 new initiatives including village declarations against child marriage and child marriage awareness raising through traditional art performance, community dialogue, religious sermons, and other activities. Furthermore, 12 Village Child Protection Committees (KPAD) were supported to protect and promote children's rights and 671 KPAD members were trained to become agents of change. As a result of the initiative, 175 cases of violence against children were reported to KPAD; amongst them, 111 were child marriage cases with almost a quarter of cases (22 cases) cancelled.

The government allocated 309 million rupiahs (<US\$ 21,000) to KPAD in the three districts to support the Community-based Child Protection Mechanism. Furthermore, 68 policies against child marriage were established, including village regulations, decrees, and circular letters from heads of villages. As the project ended, the stakeholders at the village and district levels maintain the model by allocating budget and implementing the approaches in their respective area.

How do we know the intervention worked?

The Yes I Do project gathered evidence in Sukabumi, Rembang, and West Lombok through an endline survey, final evaluation, and collection of testimonies (photo essays) in 2020. The project was also assessed

at the gender transformative level by using Gender Transformative Marker (design, implementation, and final stage), on six elements - gender norms, agency, condition and position, working with boys and men, diversity, and enabling environment.

What you should know...

Plan Indonesia has been actively taking part in the implementation of the National Strategy on the Prevention of Child Marriage, led by the National Planning Agency to reduce child marriage in Indonesia from 11.2 per cent in 2018 to 8.74 per cent in 2024. The Yes I Do project is one of the good practices to address CEFM. The project participants, particularly girls and young women, have become agents of change in their communities - some of them are leading KPAD and local and national CEFM-related initiatives.

In order to amplify the project's impact, Plan Indonesia has also started Gema Cita, a two-year project that aims to replicate and scale up the Yes I Do model in Sukabumi and West Lombok. Gema Cita is also essential to engage with government and stakeholders, especially to ensure long-term sustainability and secure buy-in and upfront commitments on CEFM issues.

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Useful Links

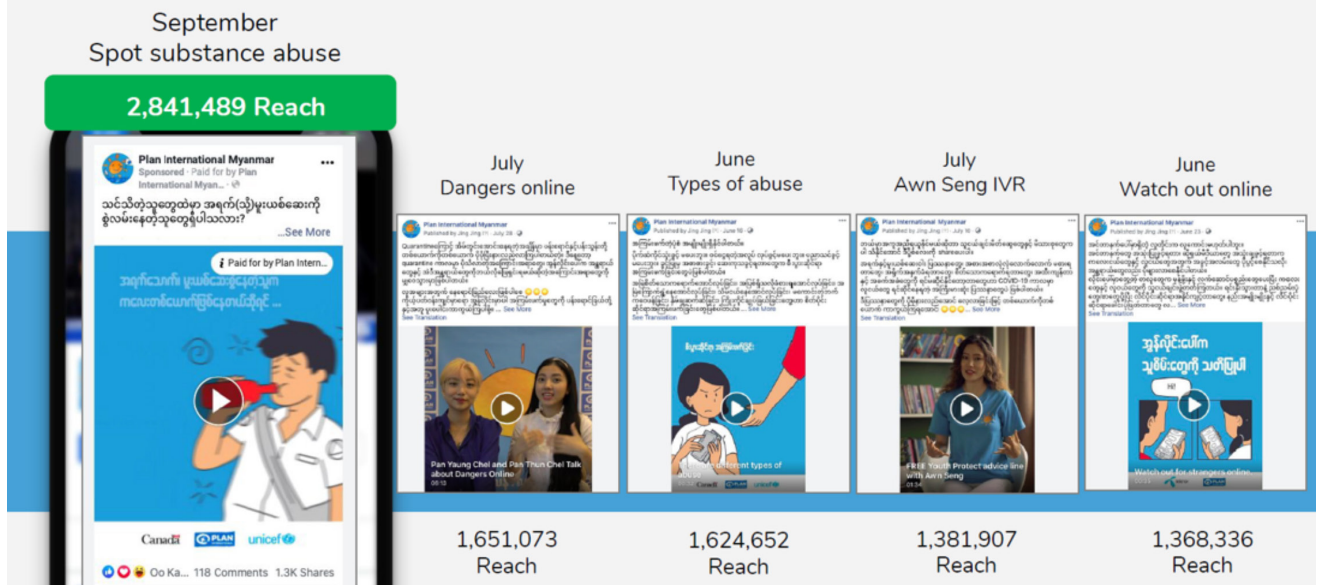
- Let's Go Digital! Using digital technology to fight, prevent, reduce and end child, early and forced marriage and adolescent pregnancy, Plan International Asia Pacific Regional Hub, 28 April 2021. (<https://plan-international.org/publications/lets-go-digital>)
- Suara Kirana, 2020, short film with English Subtitle: (<https://bit.ly/SuaraKiranaMovie>)

MYANMAR

VAC awareness during COVID-19: a youth-driven awareness and behaviour change campaign

Norms and Values

Best performing Facebook posts | Reach (Overall)



Source: Bridge X Plan Final Report (Sep. 2020)

Why is the intervention important?

Violence against children and online safety are growing concerns across Myanmar. Amongst the 96 countries that use the Global Student Health Survey (GSHS) metric, Myanmar is the only country where self-reported school violence and bullying has increased for both boys and girls. According to a 2016 GSHS report, the percentage of 13–15-year-olds who reported being bullied grew from 19.4 per cent in 2007 to 50.1 per cent in 2016.¹ As COVID-19 restrictions were introduced in 2020, children further turned to social media platforms as a means of socialising. This coincided with increased risks of online bullying² as well as gender-based violence, which increased by approximately 32 per cent compared to the final quarter of 2019.³

What is the intervention?

This intervention was built upon the findings of a 2019 study led by UNICEF⁴ which aimed to explore

the drivers of violence against children and barriers to help-seeking behaviours in Myanmar. This study included adolescent consultations with 207 participants (54 per cent female) and U-report surveys with 5,174 participants (60 per cent female) covering a wide range of topics including intimate partner violence, school-based violence, child marriage, migration, and substance abuse. These consultations were designed with the intention of building an evidence base to support the INSPIRE strategies and help stakeholders develop informed violence prevention programmes across the country.

Supported by UNICEF and Plan International, the youth-driven virtual education and protection messaging campaign had two primary goals:

- 1) To empower youth to become leaders in raising awareness about violence against children within their peer groups and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

1 Report of the second Global School-based Student Health Survey (2016) in Myanmar. New Delhi: World Health Organization; 2018. World Health Organization, Regional Office for South-East Asia and Ministry of Health and Sports, Republic of the Union of Myanmar Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO
 2 <https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/spotlight-shone-child-and-adolescent-mental-health-myanmar>
 3 <https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/myanmars-youth-call-out-shadow-pandemic-violence>
 4 Fry, D. and S. McChesney. The Drivers of Violence Against Adolescents in Myanmar: Consultations to Inform Adolescent Programming. Yangon: UNICEF, 2019.



- 2) To encourage youth, especially girls and young women, to support and protect each other from violence and abuse during social isolation.

Key messages disseminated throughout the campaign were developed in partnership between UNICEF and Plan International. In addition to using UNICEF and Plan International's social media channels, the campaign maximised its outreach through several key engagement platforms.

For example, a total of 125 (50 per cent female) young people were selected as representative youth leaders in their communities to disseminate key messages and posts through their own Facebook pages. A closed Facebook group was also used as a safe space for adolescent leaders to network, share ideas, and discuss protection issues. A U-Report "chatbot" was also used to provide answers about children's rights and protection resources. Additionally, an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) hotline was developed to disseminate information on violence against children, abuse of women and girls, online safety, mental health, reporting mechanisms, and COVID-19 safety.

What was the impact?

The campaign reached over 4.5 million people, including 1.6 million adolescents between April and the end of August 2020. Key changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours among adolescents were also tracked throughout the lifetime of the campaign.

For example, adolescents increased their understanding of different forms of violence (i.e., threats, online bullying, and hitting/kicking etc). Positive shifting trends between May and August were seen among adolescents who identified such forms of violence as not acceptable. For example, the understanding of threats being 'not OK' grew from approximately 90 per

cent to 97 per cent between May and August. Similar attitudes about online bullying and hitting/kicking grew from approximately 94 per cent to 97 per cent and 86 per cent to 95 per cent, respectively. Attitudes about help-seeking behaviours also improved. In May 2020, 37.8 per cent of adolescents felt that their friends, family, and neighbours would not support them if they reported a protection issue. By August, this figure had dropped to less than 10 per cent. Lastly, issues of violence against children were more commonly discussed among friends, families, and communities. In May, nearly 40 per cent of respondents reported never hearing their communities speak of protection issues. By August, this figure dropped to nearly 10 per cent.

How do we know the intervention worked?

This campaign used a comprehensive monitoring framework to capture knowledge, attitude, and practice trends among a sample group of adolescents. A longitudinal telephone survey tracked these changes each month with 374 and 330 participants in initial and final sample groups, respectively. In addition, the campaign captured its overall outreach through indicators measuring social media reach, engagement, saliency, frequency, as well as listening duration of the IVR platform.

What you should know...

Due to significant operational and safety constraints following the military takeover in February 2021, the expansion of this peer-to-peer mobilisation was cut short. Today, the safety of children and adolescents remains a grave concern as reports of violence against children continue to emerge amid the ongoing political crisis.

Reach, knowledge, and changes to attitude and intention are all visible using this youth-driven groundwork and mobile campaign. Monitoring could be improved, however, by randomising groups to minimise contextual factors, and incorporating shorter and more focused surveys. Additionally, training youth to survey peers in their community could be a useful means of capacity building for future campaigns.

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PACIFIC ISLANDS

Safe churches for children pilot in Fiji, the Solomon Islands, and the Marshall Islands



©Pacific Conference of Churches, 2021/Wada

Why is the intervention important?

The Church plays a central role in the life of Pacific Islanders. It is strategically positioned as a voice of influence on matters of Christian spirituality and practice in communities and families. Due to the priority given to the Christian faith in Pacific families and communities, the Church can play a powerful role in preventing and responding to child abuse.

The Pacific region records some of the world's highest rates of violence against women and girls, with almost two out of three women impacted by physical or sexual violence in their lifetime.¹ Recent studies have also shown exceptionally high levels of violent discipline of children ranging from 72% to 92%.²

There has been a conscious effort by Pacific churches to "decolonise conservative theology that has hampered their pastoral and prophetic (advocacy) roles in island communities while engaging with

Norms and Values

issues affecting society."³ To this end, the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) has sought to promote the elimination of violence against women and children. PCC's Strategic Plan 2020-2024 provides that, "Pacific Churches advocate child protection and safe spaces for children" in its partnership with UNICEF Pacific.

What is the intervention?

The Safe Churches for Children work is represented by the lead message: "let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for they are precious gifts from God." This is a culmination of Psalm 127:3 and Matthew 19:14 which calls the Church to bring children to the forefront of its ministry work and protect them from violence. There is a growing belief that when churches instil measures that reduce the risk of child abuse and violence through the church and into the wider community, then a new generation of future Church leaders will advocate against practices and beliefs that violate and harm children.

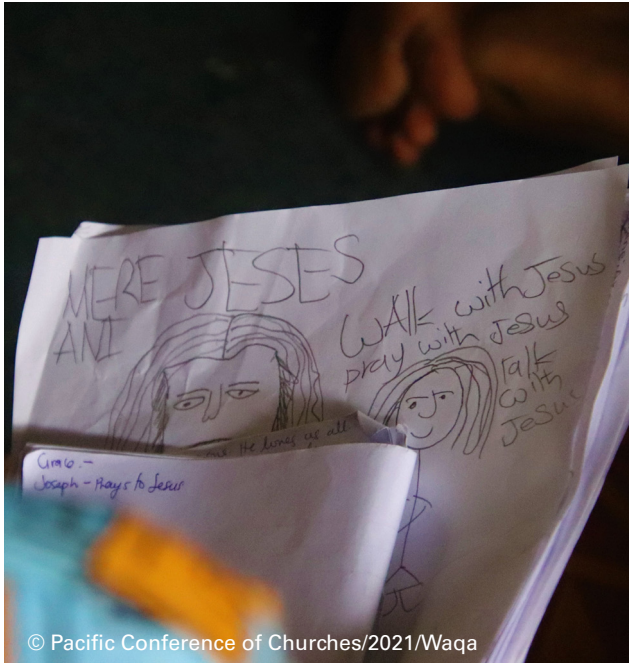
UNICEF and PCC are partnering to engage churches and church communities in child safeguarding and inclusive dialogues to promote gender-equitable, child-friendly and violence-free norms, attitudes and behaviours. The partnership and programme are grounded in Christian messages and values with an aim to provide deeper theological and biblical reflections around protecting what Christianity terms as God's precious gifts – the children.

The Church Engagement in Child Protection Framework was endorsed at the Pacific Church Leaders' Meeting in December 2020, and through wide consultation, a toolkit has been developed to inform the training of church leaders and practitioners that will be piloted in Fiji, the Solomon Islands, and the Marshall Islands in 2022. Church leaders and practitioners will be supported to utilise the toolkit to strengthen policies for safe churches and weave child protection into regular church activities that will promote positive behaviour change.

1 Solomon Islands Family Health and Safety Study 2009; Vanuatu National Survey on Women's Lives and Family Relationships 2011; Fiji -Somebody's Life, Everybody's Business! National Research on Women's Health and Life Experiences in Fiji (2010/2011): A survey exploring the prevalence, incidence and attitudes to intimate partner violence in Fiji 2013 (FWCC); FSM Family Health and Safety Study A prevalence study on violence against women 2014; 2014; Palau Belau Family Health and Safety Study National Research Project on Violence Against Women 2014.

2 Per cent of children (boys and girls) aged 1-14 who experienced any violent discipline (psychological aggression and/or physical punishment) in the past month. Source: UNICEF databases based on Kiribati MICS 2019; Tonga MICS 2019; Samoa MICS 2020; Solomon Islands DHS 2015; Vanuatu DHS 2013; Fiji CPBR 2008 Source: Know Violence in Childhood, 2017, Ending Violence in Childhood: Global Report 2017 - includes Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste

3 Manfred Ernst, "Politics, Justice and Governance in the Pacific Islands," Discussion paper presented at 3rd Mission Conference, Viwa Island, Fiji, April 9-18 2010.



© Pacific Conference of Churches/2021/Waqa

What is the expected impact?

The programme will be piloted across selected church communities in three Pacific nations, following which, the learnings from the pilot will be incorporated into a Pacific-wide programme that aims to reach a diversity of Christian communities. One goal is to support churches in their mission to become the safest institutions for children in the Pacific.

Further, the programme aims to institutionalise church engagement in child protection by including the core content into the curriculum for formation students at Pacific theological schools. Through these initiatives, the intervention is expected to demonstrate a significant increase in positive attitudes towards child wellbeing and increase the drive and capability of Christian faith leaders to end violence against children in the Pacific.

How will we know the intervention worked?

Initial engagement of church leaders in the Pacific has been positive, with historically challenging topics being openly deliberated and a commitment to address sensitive issues welcomed. Through 2021, community engagement activities began in the three pilot countries, integrating messages around fatherly roles (Matt 2:13-18), motherhood from the womb to the daily upbringing of children (Psalm 139:13-14), baptismal vows (Psalm 127:3), children being fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139), and looking to Jesus and walking with Jesus (Mark 11:4-10). Many church leaders and Sunday School teachers expressed that this was the first time for a programme to highlight children

as the central focus of engagement. Furthermore, the children themselves actively participated with many expressing through drawings the ways they experience safety or the lack thereof in their homes, churches, and communities.

Through the piloting of the programme in 2022, close monitoring and reporting will be used to draw initial lessons from the implementation, and changes in knowledge, attitudes, and practices will be measured through a comprehensive monitoring framework.

What you should know...

“We face the challenge that patriarchal attitudes and structural violence has been ingrained and reinforced in our culture and religious practice. There is also a confrontational approach in engaging the church, in a region where over 90 per cent of the population identify as Christian and hold a worldview shaped by their faith, as agents of social transformation,” said General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC), Reverend James Bhagwan at the launch of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative’s Pacific Regional Programme in October 2020.

There are many cultural sensitivities around child abuse and violence in the Pacific. However, a core network of church leaders across the Pacific has dedicated much of its time, knowledge, and experience to consultations, review processes, and validation meetings (held online due to border closures) to ensure that the programme is a true reflection of the culture and reality of the Pacific churches and people and will be an effective tool for strengthening safe churches for Pacific children.

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Useful Links

For more information about UNICEF and its work for children in the Pacific visit (<http://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/>)

PCC’s Christmas campaign video can be viewed here: (<https://fb.watch/aKTgZ2DLal/>)

CAMBODIA

Adoption of the National Action Plan to prevent and respond to Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE)

Safe Environments



Why is the intervention important?

Internet usage is already widespread in Cambodia, with an estimated 12.5 million users and 76 per cent penetration as of January 2019, and continues to grow rapidly, with a 56 per cent increase in overall penetration observed in the year up to January 2019. Children and young people are active users of the internet, particularly of social media platforms. However, as usage is on the rise, digital literacy and skills lag behind among both children and parents, placing children at risk of suffering online exploitation and abuse. The Situational Analysis on Online Child Sexual Exploitation in 2019, which asked Cambodian children about their experiences online, revealed that 60 per cent of respondents perceived a risk of online sexual exploitation and abuse when they used the internet, such as grooming or being forced to create and share child sexual abuse materials.¹ These risks have been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. As Cambodian schools have utilised online learning modalities for nearly 18 months, coupled with other containment measures, children have spent more time online than ever before for learning, socialisation, and play, increasing online risks.

What is the intervention?

To address this challenge, UNICEF and NGOs in Cambodia, including Terres des Hommes, Plan International, Action Pour Les Enfants Cambodia, and Cambodian Children's Fund, built on the momentum following the adoption of the Declaration on the Protection of Children from All Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN in 2019 and the ASEAN Regional Conference on Child Online Protection in 2020 to accelerate action on child online protection, including through support for the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OSCE). The TWG, led by the Cambodia National Council for Children (CNCC) and ten other ministries developed the National Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Online Child Sexual Exploitation in Cambodia 2021-2025, which was launched by the Government of Cambodia in July 2021. The development of the Action Plan was guided by the evidence and findings from the Situational Analysis on OCSE. The Action Plan lays out a comprehensive strategic framework to prevent and respond to OCSE, building on Cambodia's membership in the WePROTECT Global Alliance and integrating the WePROTECT Model National Response. Key strategies include: 1) strengthening effective implementation of policy and government; 2) promoting the criminal justice system; 3) promoting measures to prevent exploitation and rehabilitate OCSE victims; 4) strengthening community safety to avoid child sexual abuse and OCSE; 5) strengthening the statute for the provision of internet services; and 6) increasing dissemination and proper understanding of OCSE issues.

The Action Plan will harmonise the strategic plans of the ministries and institutions at national and sub-national levels, and promote coordination and engagement of NGOs, the private sector, parents, caregivers, and children and adolescents to prevent and respond to OSCE holistically.

What is the expected impact?

The impact of the engagement is that for the first time, Cambodia has a multi-sectoral and comprehensive

¹ Cambodia National Council for Children, Initial Situation Analysis on Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE) in Cambodia, 2019.



national strategy, responding to the findings of the Situational Analysis on OCSE, endorsed by all relevant government ministries and based on international best practices, to prevent and respond to OCSE. This strategy provides the basis for increased engagement and continued focus on ensuring that children are protected from online abuse and exploitation, while also ensuring a more comprehensive approach to a strengthened child protection system that prevents and responds to both offline and online violence.

Expected impacts as the Action Plan is implemented include:

- The enactment of a law on Cybercrime for the first time in Cambodia;
- The presence of a dedicated law enforcement unit with a clear mandate and the necessary ICT equipment and tools to carry out victim-focused investigations and prosecutions in cases of online crimes against children, staffed by trained personnel;
- A social service workforce, as well as other frontline personnel, trained to provide coordinated and multi-sectoral services to victims of OCSE;
- Safe and accessible reporting mechanisms are in place, with all reports investigated, appropriately referred to law enforcement, and harmful content removed.
- The private sector is engaged to proactively prevent and respond to OCSE;
- Children, young people, parents, caregivers, teachers, and others have increased awareness and digital literacy skills to protect children online.

How do we know the intervention worked?

UNICEF and NGOs are supporting CNCC and other government partners to implement the Action Plan, including support for ongoing monitoring according to the Action Plan's M&E framework, which outlines clear strategic goals, activities, and indicators. Through a new grant from the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (GPEVAC), UNICEF is also supporting the Government of Cambodia to strengthen information management and multi-sector coordination to tackle online child sexual exploitation and abuse by introducing new tech solutions and enhancing evidence generation. The system strengthening approach will integrate data on OCSE into the Government's child protection information management system (CPIMS), allowing for monitoring of trends in prevalence of OCSE, as well as ensuring cases of OCSE are referred and responded to appropriately. (Please refer to case study on p. 45).

What you should know...

In addition to the support for integrating OCSE into Cambodia's CPIMS as described above, through the GPEVAC grant, UNICEF will also support the Government of Cambodia to implement other areas of the Action Plan, including strengthening the capacity of law enforcement and judiciary to perform victim-focused investigations; ensuring OCSE victims have access to coordinated and integrated services and support; strengthening national mechanisms for reporting and referral of OCSE cases; informing and empowering children and young people to protect themselves online and supporting parents, caregivers, and educators to keep children safe online; and increasing ICT industry engagement to prevent OCSE.

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Useful Links

Official Launch of the National Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Online Child Sexual Exploitation in Cambodia 2021-2025
(<https://www.unicef.org/cambodia/press-releases/official-launch-national-action-plan-prevent-and-respond-online-child-sexual>)

INDONESIA

Integrated positive parenting in Aceh Province

Parent and Caregiver Support



© UNICEF Indonesia/2020

Why is the intervention important?

Between 2016 and 2019, data from Aceh’s Office of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection recorded 5,883 cases of violence against children. Positive parenting has been identified as an evidence-based promising practice critical to empowering caregivers to provide safe and supporting environments for children to live and thrive, free from violence.

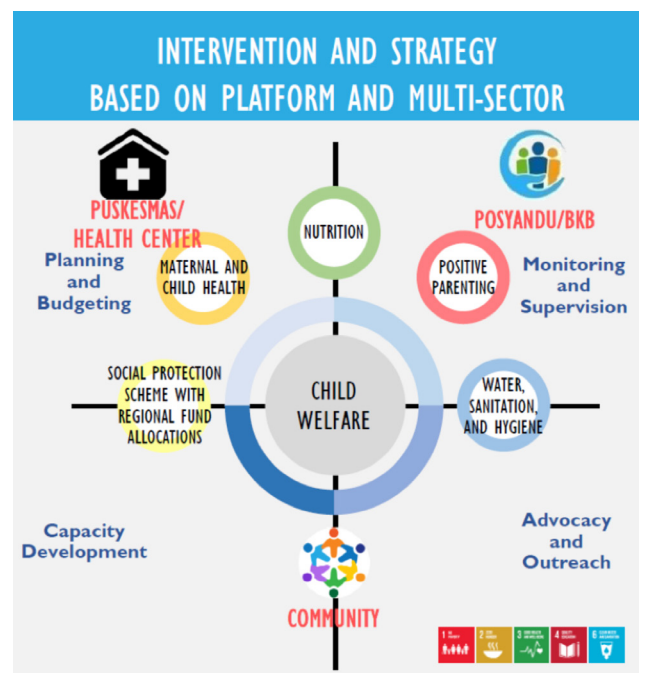
In addition in 2019, a study of the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) identified poor parenting practices as one of the indirect factors contributing to children’s poor nutrition in Indonesia. Good parenting practices were identified by National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K) as factors that could help prevent malnutrition and stunting in Indonesia.

What is the intervention?

UNICEF Indonesia is supporting a holistic programme to address child malnutrition and violence prevention through an integrated approach, with positive parenting as one of the key strategies alongside health, nutrition, WASH, and social policy interventions. The positive parenting programme component for parents of children under 5 (BKB – Bina Keluarga Balita) is implemented through the integrated Village Health Post (Posyandu). The intervention begins with the training of

key stakeholders from provincial to village levels who will deliver the parenting sessions. The trained cadres will then facilitate 13 sessions of parenting training to the parents and caregivers in their villages.

UNICEF supported the adaptation of the National Population and Family Planning Agency (BKKBN) module on *Menjadi Orang Tua Hebat* (Becoming a





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Great Parent) to the local context of Aceh province, which required the integration of specific religious and cultural values. The module also emphasises positive discipline, which has also been adapted to Aceh’s local context, to help parents and caregivers to provide a safe and protective environment for their children. UNICEF works closely with the faith and customary-based institutions and leaders in Aceh with the full support from the national and sub-national government agencies.

The parenting classes are supervised by the key stakeholders such as the District Women Empowerment and Child Protection Office staff and family planning extension workers, who provide regular monitoring support as well as coaching sessions to the cadres. UNICEF also supports the cadres and key stakeholders in advocating for parenting interventions to the other local government programme planning and budgeting.

What is the expected impact?

Through this programme, it is expected that parents and caregivers will adopt and apply positive parenting to prevent and address malnutrition as well as violence against children.

Since 2020, two master trainers, 106 trainers, and 480 cadres of Posyandu and BKB were trained using the positive parenting modules. The programme has also reached 137,438 parents and caregivers in 8 districts in Aceh province. The cadres have conducted regular parenting sessions for parents and caregivers. While

the endline study will only be conducted in late 2021, programme monitoring feedback from parents and caregivers acknowledge the parenting sessions have increased their knowledge and skills about positive parenting.

How will we know the intervention worked?

An independent endline study will be conducted late 2021 to evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention.

The endline study will assess the change in parenting practice. One of the key performance indicators (KPI) includes the change in parenting practices by caregivers—whether they have activities with children such as storytelling, drawing, counting, reading, singing, and other outdoor activities. The study will also look at change in perspectives among caregivers of corporal punishment to enforce discipline.

What you should know...

In several villages, parenting activities, including operational costs for cadres, are supported by the village and sub-district governments. The village budget allocated for parenting activities is embedded in the stunting prevention programme. The parenting intervention has already been included as one of the main interventions to address stunting in Aceh as stated in the Governor Regulation No. 14/2019. Moreover, each targeted district developed its own local regulation to ensure the sustainability and replication of the integrated interventions.

BKKBN as the national leading agency is planning to use the same model and intervention for the positive parenting in other provinces across Indonesia.

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LAO PDR

Providing parenting support for young children through the 'Love and Care for Every Child' initiative



Why is the intervention important?

The 2017 Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS-II) highlighted challenges affecting early childhood development in the country, such as inadequate immunisation coverage, poor nutrition, inadequate access to pre-primary education, declining birth registration, poor infant stimulation, and high levels of physical punishment.¹ Disparities are high between urban and rural areas, with rural households and families where mothers have little education facing significant disadvantages. Girls, children from non-Lao-Thai ethnic groups, and children with disabilities also fare worse than other children across various indicators.

In light of this situation, in 2018, UNICEF began working with the Lao Women's Union (LWU), the Ministry of Health (MOH), the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES), the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MOLSW), the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), and the Lao Front for National Development (LFND) on the development of the national Love and Care for Every Child (LCEC) initiative - a culturally responsive and gender sensitive strategy for transforming parenting practices within families and learning opportunities for

children under seven years. The initiative promotes equitable access to resources and support for all caregivers, including those from marginalised groups, parents with disabilities, and parents of children with disabilities.

What is the intervention?

The integrated LCEC package was developed based on a comprehensive needs assessment for parents with children under the age of seven. The communication channels were identified based on findings from the needs assessment and other research, and keeping in mind labour demands and caregiver availability, literacy, gender issues, and access to media.

To promote behaviours in an understandable and memorable way, the initiative grouped the most important elements of parenting into three pillars: Care, Protection, and Communication.

- **CARE:** Maternal and new-born health, sexual and reproductive health, illness management, child development, mother and child nutrition, sanitation and hygiene, education, and immunisation.
- **PROTECTION:** Birth registration, positive discipline, preventing violence, children with disabilities, and preventing child marriage.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Nurturing bonds and early stimulation.

Messages on these three pillars are conveyed using a variety of tools, including guidebooks, storybooks, videos, and audio recordings, mainly through interpersonal communication, group discussions, community-level engagement, and mass and mobile digital media.

To complement the LCEC initiatives, UNICEF supported the development of an educational TV series for young children, "My Village" in 2017, and "My House" in 2020 and 2021 containing messages related to non-discrimination, inclusive playing, and bullying. As of September 2021, the two TV series were viewed 2.7 million and 180,000 times respectively, by both parents and children.

Parent and Caregiver Support

¹ Lao Statistics Bureau. 2018. Lao Social Indicator Survey II 2017, Survey Findings Report. Vientiane, Lao PDR: Lao Statistics Bureau and UNICEF.

In addition, supported by KOICA, UNICEF Lao PDR worked with the LWU in combining parenting education with the Saving for Change (SFC). The SFC is a community-driven saving modality to organise women and men in groups to save and borrow money to help each other in tackling their financial needs. This model has been implemented in Attapeu province to empower the displaced families in Sanamxay shelters to prevent domestic violence and other harmful practices against women and children by promoting gender equality and building economic resilience at the family level. There are currently 173 (151 female and 22 male) members actively participating in SFC activities.

What is the expected impact?

By the end of 2023, the initiative aims to improve social norms and behaviours related to child survival, development, and protection, including a reduction in violence in the home, through effectively coordinated C4D initiatives, technical oversight, and institutional capacity building. The LCEC initiative aims to achieve two outcomes: 1) systems and capacities are in place to enable implementation and monitoring of the LCEC pilot; and 2) measurable behaviour changes within families during the six-month pilot.

The pilot is being implemented in four districts in two provinces. The rollout of parenting packages at village level has so far reached 254 villages with 1,127 trainers being trained.

How will we know the intervention worked?

A monitoring framework has been designed to keep track of output and behaviour indicators for the various activities of the LCEC initiative. The framework consists of five tools – Home Visit Monitoring Tool, Health Facility Monitoring Tool, Pre-primary School Monitoring Tool, Community Monitoring Tool, and District Report Tool. All of these tools will be used at different phases during the pilot project. The tools aim to monitor the implementation process, to promote sharing and learning among members of LCEC initiative, and to capture lessons learned for the next programme phases. Currently, a formative evaluation is being conducted which will give important insights for replication and scale up.

What you should know...

In the next phase, the geographical coverage will be increased and the content expanded to cover monthly home visits and new activities in the communication package.

The results of the LCEC pilot will be used to help build the case for more effective policies and increased investments in improved parenting for early childhood development in Lao PDR.

The Government established a managerial structure with different ministries along with many organisations including the LWU and the LFND. They are in charge of approving all the communication materials and are involved in every step of the project.

The initiative will also continue to support the rollout of blended learning options for primary teachers and local education authorities by integrating COVID-19 prevention messages for young children into the second season of the “My House” TV series, and by adding additional learning videos on the Education TV channel and the MoES Teaching and Learning Platform.

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Useful Links

My House- Early Childhood Development TV series
(<https://www.unicef.org/laos/stories/my-house>)

My Village TV show
(<https://www.unicef.org/laos/stories/my-village-tv-show>)

Khang Panya Lao MoES Teaching and Learning Platform
(<https://www.unicef.org/laos/khang-panya-lao>)

MALAYSIA

Naungan Kasih Positive Parenting Programme

Parent and Caregiver Support



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Why is the intervention important?

UNICEF's strategy engages parents, communities, civil society, and government actors to increase their capacity to provide care and support to children. Evidence has shown that children's wellbeing is linked to parental wellbeing. Preventing child maltreatment and violence has long-lasting benefits into adulthood. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has had devastating impacts on families, making the need for parenting support even more critical.¹



UNICEF Malaysia has adopted and adapted the Parenting for Lifelong Health (PLH) Programs for Young Children and Teens designed to support families in low-resource and middle-income settings with the following outcomes: improved parental involvement, better caregiver mental health, reduction in substance abuse, and poverty reduction.

What is the intervention?

In 2019, the Naungan Kasih Positive Parenting Programme was piloted in Selangor, Putrajaya, and Sabah.² The Naungan Kasih programme is a group-based family strengthening programme for families with children ages 0 to 18 designed to be delivered concurrently to groups of parents based on the age of their children (0-23 months, 2-9 years, 10-18 years). The content of Naungan Kasih is structured around the metaphor of "Building a House of Support for You and Your Child".

The overall goal of Naungan Kasih is to promote child wellbeing by helping parents and other caregivers develop the skills to establish positive relationships with their children while reducing the risk of violence against children at home and in their communities. It aims at improving parent/caregiver sense of responsibility and commitment, parenting knowledge, skills, and sense of competence, positive parenting behaviours and discipline strategies, parental supervision of children, parent/caregiver knowledge and involvement in child development, child behaviour and wellbeing, and caregiver mental health and social support. This programme includes modules on positive parenting, child development, non-violent discipline, child protection, online safety, sexual reproductive health, and parenting children living with disabilities.

Maestral and the University Putra Malaysia (UPM) conducted a formative evaluation with various stakeholders to identify issues regarding programme content, structure, and delivery methods that may further strengthen the programmes. Core themes for inclusion in parenting programmes included supporting parents in their ability to instill knowledge, values, and aspirations; improve relationships with their children; manage challenging behaviors; and cope with mental

¹ Cluver, L. et al. (2020). Parenting in the time of COVID-19. *Lancet* 395(10231), p. 64.

² The project was initially called Semarak Kasih, then later changed to Naungan Kasih.

health problems and other challenges. Additional topics included sexual reproductive health and sexuality, supporting children with disabilities, and online child safety and use. Subsequent to this formative evaluation, the team redeveloped the two original parenting programmes of the National Population and Family Development Board (NPFDB) - the *Belaian Kasih* and *Mutiara Kasih*. The team integrated contents from the two parenting programmes with three existing evidence-based programmes supported by UNICEF and the World Health Organization – *Care for Child Development*, *Parenting for Lifelong Health for Adolescents*, and *Parenting for Lifelong Health for Young Children* - to create *Naungan Kasih*.

For more sustained and evidence-based programming for parents and caregiver support, the Government is piloting a suite of digital interventions in response to COVID-19 with efforts to learn lessons for scale. In partnership with Oxford University/PLH and UPM have adapted *Naungan Kasih* into an interactive chatbot programme – *ParentText* – to provide much-needed advice to parents on a range of topics. Parents and caregivers receive age-appropriate positive parenting messages to strengthen parent-child relationships, positive reinforcement, and stress reduction strategies for parents and caregivers.

ParentText was formally launched in Malaysia through an introductory webinar on 7 December, 2021 with the support of Oxford University and *Parenting for Lifelong Health*.

What was the impact?

As part of the COVID-19 emergency response, parenting tips were disseminated, reaching over 1.2 million people in Malaysia.

The pilot study of the in-person *Naungan Kasih* with 74 caregivers in 2019 showed positive results on reducing violence against children, changing attitudes from supporting corporal punishment, and more caregiver involvement in early child development (Lachman et al., in preparation). The more recent *ParentText* pilot with 88 families has been recently completed in 2021 with preliminary results showing less overall child maltreatment, parenting stress, and child behavior problems, as well as more parent efficacy to protect children from sexual abuse (Juhari et al., in preparation). Currently, we have global evidence, and more specifically, results from 11 Randomized Controlled Trials demonstrating positive impacts on improved parenting, child development, and financial coping, as well as reduced child maltreatment, substance abuse,

child behavior problems, caregiver mental health problems, and intimate partner violence.

How will we know the intervention worked?

Malaysia has adapted the contextually relevant content for *Naungan Kasih* and *ParentText* for initial implementation targeting 50,000 parents and caregivers through in-person, digital, and hybrid delivery platforms. This initial phase focuses on understanding what works and optimising this for future enrolment, engagement retention, and impact. A range of technical features to improve user engagement have been integrated into the *ParentText*, which will help understand how best to maximise user engagement. In addition, UNICEF Malaysia collaborates with UPM, the University of Oxford, PLH, and the National Population and Family Development Board (NPFDB) to recruit users of the *ParentText* and *ParentChat*, with mechanisms in place to gather evidence on acceptability, engagement, and satisfaction before broader dissemination and testing in the coming years.³

What you should know...

Malaysia is one of the few countries in the region piloting the digital parenting programme to develop evidence for greater uptake not only in the country but also within the region.

ParentText was officially launched in December 2021 in partnership with Oxford PLH. Due to the multi-sectoral nature of the work, it has been at times challenging to bring all sectors together to agree on an implementation strategy and ensure coordination of efforts with government partners. However, during the 7 December launch the key government partner, LPPKN, spoke at the event and expressed clear endorsement for the initiative and interest to continue to expand this important initiative.

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Date intervention started: 2019

Useful Links

Parenting Resources - A hub for parenting tips in the midst of COVID-19 (<https://www.unicef.org/malaysia/parenting-resources>)

³ In Malay, the NPFDB is known as Lembaga Penduduk dan Pembangunan Keluarga Negara (LPPKN).

PHILIPPINES

Masayang Pamilya (MaPa): an evidence-based parenting programme to reduce violence against children

Parent and Caregiver Support



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Why is the Intervention important?

The 2015 national baseline survey on violence against children (VAC) revealed that 80 per cent of Filipino youth respondents had experienced violence in their childhood, with 60 per cent of these cases occurring in the home. Mothers, fathers, and siblings were the most commonly reported perpetrators of harsh physical and psychological punishment (Council for the Welfare of Children, 2016).

To respond to the high levels of violence in the Philippines and in line with the INSPIRE strategies, the country has adopted the Parenting for Lifelong Health (PLH), an initiative led by UNICEF HQ and WHO to support evidence-based parenting programmes to reduce VAC in low and middle-income contexts. Likewise, the Philippine Plan of Action to End VAC 2017-2022 (PPAeVAC) has prioritised the development of “evidence-based parenting skills and positive discipline” as among its key result areas, the institutional lead of which is the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

What is the Intervention?

The multisectoral collaboration PLH-Philippines has been developing and testing, via a series of systematic steps, a locally adapted parent support intervention, *Masayang Pamilya Para sa Batang Pilipino* (MaPa) programme, based on a prototype programme previously tested in South Africa.¹ A new element - the e-MaPa Online Parenting Programme - will adapt the MaPa programme for young children and adolescents into an online parenting support group programme delivered via online text messaging platforms such as Viber or Facebook Messenger (eMaPa).

MaPa facilitators will be trained in the MaPa programme. They will work with DSWD and service providers (e.g. parent leaders) in local governments and communities to recruit parents/caregivers to participate in the eMaPa programme, targeting vulnerable families who are beneficiaries of the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Programme* (4Ps). The programme engages parent leaders as facilitators and supervisors.

The eMaPa parent group programme will be delivered over a 6 to 7 week period and will include text/audio messages, illustrated comics, videos, and activity assignments for parents to do with their children. eMaPa facilitators will moderate discussions on the different platforms and will support parents to apply the parenting skills at home. Facilitators will also be provided with weekly supervision by an eMaPa coach or trainer.

What was the impact?

At 1-month post-intervention, families who participated in MaPa Kids reported an overall 39 per cent reduced risk for child maltreatment (physical abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect) compared to control group families who underwent the 4Ps Family Development Sessions (FDS). One year after the intervention (in 2019), this effect was generally sustained: MaPa Kids families continued to report a 23 per cent reduced risk of child maltreatment compared to their control counterparts.¹

The linking of the PLH parenting programme to the 4Ps focal persons of the DSWDs Conditional Cash

¹ Through a 2018-2019 partnership between UNICEF and ADMU

Transfer (CCT) will contribute to ensuring scalability and sustainability of impact. Capacity-building of the Social Service Workforce on FDS-eMaPa via online webinar series conducted of August 2021, facilitated by PLH-Philippines, has reached more than 4,800 social workers, 4Ps municipal/city/provincial/regional focal points of the Pantawid 4Ps Programme and LSWDOs partners of 4Ps (LGU Local Social Welfare and Development Officers), and including social workers assigned to DSWDs Residential Care Facilities.

The context of the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the urgency and need for more rapid delivery and scaling of MaPa parenting resources to support family relationships and prevent VAC. In 2020-2021, PLH-Philippines adapted the delivery of MaPa core parenting themes and skills to online/digital modalities given restrictions on in-person programmes under conditions of quarantine and social distancing.² MaPa Parenting tip sheets were designed and translated to 12 major Philippine languages and disseminated via web and Facebook pages, webinars, and Child-Friendly Spaces.³ It is estimated that over 300,000 service providers and family caregivers had access to the tip sheets. MaPa webinars and radio segments conducted with partner stakeholders reached over 25,000 participants and viewers. Formative evaluation data indicated that 91-99 per cent of participants found the materials and webinar format accessible, relevant, useful, and engaging. Follow-up data indicated high rates of agreement that the participants experienced positive changes one month after attending the webinar, such as using less harsh physical and verbal discipline (85 per cent), increased ability to manage stress (88 per cent), and increased confidence about having a positive relationship with their child (94 per cent). Preliminary results from a feasibility study of MaPaChat (i.e. MaPa delivered to parent groups by a trained facilitator over the Viber app) with 39 families in Valenzuela City showed statistically significant and moderate reductions in overall maltreatment and emotional abuse, and large reductions in parent depressive symptoms, child behaviour problems, and child behaviour problem intensity.

How do we know the intervention worked?

In 2016-2017, PLH-Philippines embarked on the cultural adaptation, feasibility study (N=30), and pilot randomised control trial (RCT) (N=120) of the *Masayang Pamilya Para sa Batang Pilipino* (MaPa Kids) programme in National Capitol Region (NCR), which

was implemented with families with children ages 2-6 and who were beneficiaries of the DSWD *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Programme* (4Ps).⁴

The feasibility and effectiveness of such alternative delivery approaches (4Ps) provided valuable insight and evidence that informed the design of interventions under conditions of disease epidemics/pandemics in low-resource contexts. Monitoring and evaluation was conducted via brief structured and open-ended surveys and brief interviews/focus groups administered to the different target stakeholders (i.e. caregivers, service providers, partner agencies) through platforms such as RapidPro, Facebook Messenger, Viber, email, and the like.

What you should know ...

Moving forward, National Parenting Guidelines with a strong monitoring and evaluation mechanism to track behaviour change will be developed as part of formulating a comprehensive 'community-based' Philippine Parenting Programme. The National Government led by DSWD, CSO groups, local government units, and community-based networks will support investment in evidence-based parenting interventions in line with the PPAeVAC and the Philippine Development Plan. Pilot implementation of this multi-sectoral initiative will be implemented in 2022 and 2023 in selected sites.

The development of materials and implementation of activities will be aligned with the priority topics or messages of the eFDS programme of DSWD in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities will also align with the global COVID-19 parenting resources reviewed and endorsed by UNICEF, WHO, CDC, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, UNODC, and World Without Orphans.⁵

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Useful Links

(<https://www.covid19parenting.com/>)

(<https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covid-19-parenting-tips>)

² Through a 2020-2021 partnership with ADMU.

³ <https://www.covid19parenting.com/#/home> and <https://www.facebook.com/Masayang-Pamilya-PLH-Philippines-104310874689117>

⁴ Through a 2017-2018 partnership between UNICEF and ADMU.

⁵ Cluver, L., Lachman, J. M., Sherr, L., Wessels, I., Krug, E., Rakotomalala, S., Green, O. (2020). Parenting in a time of COVID-19. *The Lancet*.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Positive parenting for violence reduction - “Pasin bilong lukautim pikinini gut” (How to care for children well)

Parent and Caregiver Support



What is the intervention?

The Parenting for Child Development (P4CD) Program - “Pasin bilong lukautim pikinini gut” in Tok Pisin (How to care for children well) – is a community-based programme designed for parents and caregivers, targeting the most rural areas of Papua New Guinea. It was developed in 2016 by UNICEF and Menzies School of Health and Research - Centre for Child Development and Education based in Australia, based on qualitative research conducted with the target communities themselves and tailored to their needs.

Through a series of six workshops, targeting both male and female parents and caregivers, the programme aims to reduce harsh parenting and violence against children within the household. The programme is designed to: improve parents’ knowledge of child development from birth through early childhood; develop parental understanding of children’s behaviour and learn positive parenting strategies; develop awareness of emotions and strategies for emotional self-control; and help parents apply knowledge and skills to problem-solving and communication in the family context.

Why is the intervention important?

Violence against children is a key development challenge in PNG. Although administrative data is scarce, a study conducted in 2019 showed that 27 per cent of parents/caregivers used physical punishment on children; over 50 per cent of parents and caregivers reported calling their child lazy, stupid, or something similar; and nearly two thirds reported shouting, yelling, or screaming at their child¹. In the Bougainville region, 85 per cent of men reported that they beat their children, 29 per cent of young people stated that they were beaten at least once a week by a male family member, and 18 per cent of young people were beaten at least once a week by a female family member². Breaking the cycle of violence starts in the family, therefore empowering and supporting parents to prevent violence through the implementation of parenting programmes is critical.

The P4CD programme is implemented by UNICEF in partnership with faith-based organisations (FBOs) and civil society organisations (CSOs). It is delivered by volunteer facilitators identified by the FBO and CSO from the communities where the programme is implemented. Their role is to promote the programme and run workshops for groups of parents in each target community. They are guided and supported by the Team Leaders (also from the community) who oversee data-gathering, the successful completion of activities, and the responses of parents to the activities. Each of the six workshops of the programme is focused on a topic that helps parents understand the development stages of the child and adopt positive practices to handle every phase of his/her life from 0 to 9 years.

1 Unseen Unsafe: The underinvestment in ending violence against children in the Pacific and Timor-Leste by Save the children, World Vision, Child Fund and Plan International, 2019 ([https://www.savethechildren.org.au/getmedia/29d0e266-a7d2-4200-ae47-d5e46e34bc79/STC01615_Unseen-Unsafe-Report_Web-\(1\).pdf.aspx](https://www.savethechildren.org.au/getmedia/29d0e266-a7d2-4200-ae47-d5e46e34bc79/STC01615_Unseen-Unsafe-Report_Web-(1).pdf.aspx))

2 Ibid.

What was the impact?

To date the P4CD programme has reached a total of 29,146 parents, community volunteers, facilitators, and children. The P4CD programme has trained 5,974 parents in PNG.

An evaluation of the programme in 2021 showed that there were statistically significant changes in parent discipline practices. There were also reductions in all elements of harsh parenting, namely verbal abuse, corporal punishment, psychological control or abuse, and neglect. There were also significant improvements in family wellbeing, including improvements in parent confidence and self-efficacy and in reports of children being well cared for. These improvements were observed across all demographic groups, including men, women and caregivers of different ages and educational backgrounds. A key turning point attributed to this programme is that fathers exposed to the programme gain a newfound sense of responsibility and spend more time with their children, including playing games with them.

Following the pilot phase in 2017, which targeted approximately 200 parents, the programme was scaled up to six provinces based on the promising results of the pilot phase evaluation reaching approximately 5,974 caregivers until 2021. As the programme has the potential to address violence and discrimination against girls and tackle gender dynamics within the household, leading to improved couple relations and a reduction of domestic violence, it was selected as a key intervention under the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative (SI) to end violence against women and girls.

How will we know the intervention worked?

The preliminary finding of an evaluation of the P4CD programme in 2021 confirms the effectiveness of the programme in improving parents' knowledge and skills which has led to the reduction of violence, abuse, and neglect of children. Leveraging FBOs, the programme has reached out to women and children in isolated rural areas with very low rates of school participation among girls and the low education attainment of women. The recent evaluation reported a 76 per cent reduction in physical violence against children and a 60 per cent decrease in neglectful behaviours. Parents confirmed they do not hit their children with a belt or anything hard and that their relationships with their children has improved. These improvements were reported by both men and women. Importantly, parents were very positive about the programme; programme leaders received many requests from parents and communities to join P4CD in the future.

UNICEF is also conducting two evaluations that will be published in 2022 – a comprehensive evaluation of the P4CD programme and an independent evaluation to further determine its impact on reducing domestic violence.

What you should know...

Cross-sectoral collaboration is key for the success and sustainability of the P4CD programme. In Morobe province, UNICEF worked with the provincial department of education at the very early stages of the programme, resulting in the identification of new platforms to recruit parents/caregivers and deliver the programme through schools. In the long term, this resulted in the integration of the P4CD programme in the districts' education programmes, with the potential for rollout in all elementary schools in the area. Employing teachers as facilitators instead of community volunteers makes the overall programme more sustainable both from a financial and human resources perspective.

Cross-sectoral collaboration, combined with adaptive programming, was also a key aspect of the programme implementation at the onset of COVID-19. UNICEF used different entry points, including the water, sanitation, and hygiene programme to continue supporting parents and caregivers with positive parenting tips when face-to-face engagement of parents was not possible. Approximately 18,000 copies of positive parenting tips were printed and distributed as part of the hygiene kits handed over to the families in target provinces, and e-copies were disseminated through UNICEF PNG social media pages.

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Useful Links

Parenting for Child Development:
(https://www.menzies.edu.au/icms_docs/310895_A_parenting_program_for_Papua_New_Guinea.pdf)

P4CD Evaluation Report Pilot Program in 2017:
(<https://www.unicef.org/png/media/1251/file/PNG-Reports-ParentingforChildDevelopment.pdf>)

THAILAND

Parenting for Lifelong Health for Young Children

Parent and Caregiver Support



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Why is the intervention important?

Violence against children is widely prevalent in Thailand. According to the 2019 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 58 per cent of parents reported using some type of violent discipline, and 2 per cent (the equivalent of nearly 250,000 cases nationwide) used severe physical punishment (punching, kicking, slapping the head of the child).

Parenting programmes that strengthen families through the development and reinforcement of positive parenting practices and enhancement of positive parent-child relations are an effective strategy to reduce the risk of violence against children.¹ These interventions promote parenting behaviours that build functional parenting competencies of parents or caregivers to connect and provide adequate support and care for their children. Parenting interventions have also been shown to be effective in preventing and treating child disruptive behaviour and reducing maternal mental health problems.²

Parenting for Lifelong Health (PLH) for children aged 2 to 9 years was developed based on evidence-based programmes that have shown to be effective in the UK, US, Australia, the Netherlands, and Hong Kong. The PLH programme aims to help strengthen families through the development and reinforcement of positive parenting practices and enhancement of positive parent-child relations.

What is the intervention?

PLH for young children (PLH-YC) is a group-based, non-didactic, and collaborative parenting programme based on social learning principles and over 50 years of research.³ This 8-session version was designed for delivery by nurses, public health officers, medical social workers, and other frontline staff through the public health system. It is delivered by a pair of trained facilitators to groups of 12-15 parents on a weekly basis.

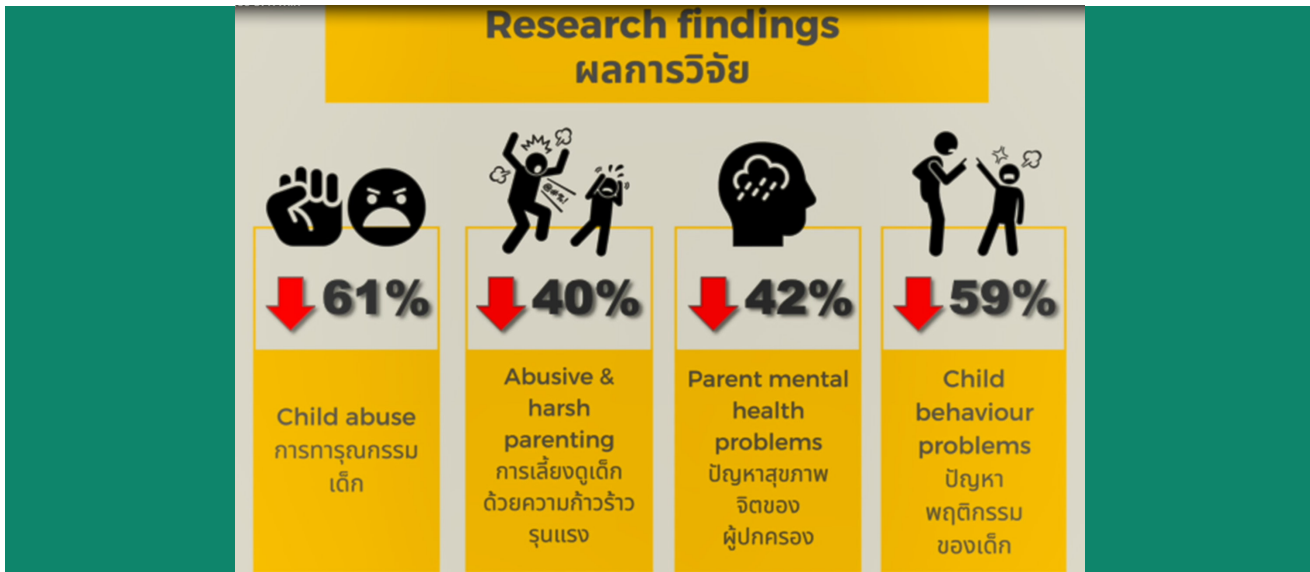
During each session, facilitators: 1) lead participants through simple, mindfulness-based stress reduction techniques; 2) refer to illustrated stories to introduce parents to new parenting skills; 3) guide parents through role-plays to practice these skills; 4) assign activities for parents to apply skills at home with their children; and 5) conduct group discussions to help solve challenges experienced at home.

Facilitators conduct individual consultations prior to the first group session, as well as visit parents who miss sessions or need extra support during the course of the programme. In addition, facilitators provide tailored guidance through weekly phone calls to each participant, and send SMS or LINE messages to encourage home practice. Childcare, transport, and lunches are provided where possible to encourage participant attendance. Home visits are conducted for parents who missed group sessions or need extra support.

1 Bornstein, M. H. et al. 'Cognitive and socioemotional caregiving in developing countries', *Child Development*, vol. 83, pp. 46-61, 2012.

2 McGrath, P. et al. 'Remote population-based intervention for disruptive behaviour: Study protocol for a randomised trial of Internet-assisted parent training (Strongest Families Finland-Canada)', *BMC Public Health*, vol. 13, no. 985, pp. 1-26, 2013.

3 See Chen & Chan. (2016). Effects of parenting programs on child maltreatment prevention: A meta-analysis. *Trauma Violence Abuse*, 17(1), 88-104. Knerr et al. (2013). Improving positive parenting skills and reducing harsh and abusive parenting in low- and middle-income countries: A systematic review. *Prevention Science*, 14(4), 352-363. McCoy et al. (2020). Parenting interventions to prevent violence against children in low- and middle-income countries in East and Southeast Asia: A systematic review and multi-level meta-analysis. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 103.



Source: PLH-YC video

What was the impact?

Results from the randomised control trial in Jan 2020 showed a reduction in child maltreatment (58 per cent), abusive and harsh parenting (44 per cent), parent mental health problems (40 per cent), and child behaviour problems (60 per cent). Parents also reported improvements in positive parenting, monitoring, and parental self-efficacy. Participants attended an average of 7 out of 8 sessions. Overall, parents rated the programme an average score of 9.4 out of 10, demonstrating a high level of satisfaction.

PLH-YC Thailand curriculum overview

- Session 1: One-on-One Time with Your Child
- Session 2: Talking about Feelings
- Session 3: Sunshine of Positive Attention Behaviour
- Session 4: Helping Your Child Follow Instructions
- Session 5: Things We Do Every Day
- Session 6: Dealing with Tantrums and Other Negative Attention Seeking & Demanding Behaviours
- Session 7: Using Consequences to Support Compliance
- Session 8: Keeping the Sunshine of Positive Attention Shining

How do we know the intervention worked?

The Ministry of Public Health, with the support of UNICEF and Oxford University, implemented a PLH-YC pilot project in Udon Thani province during 2018-2020. A formative evaluation conducted in 2018 with Thai policymakers, academics, and health and welfare practitioners informed the development of a Thai version of PLH-YC. In 2019, in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health and UNICEF, the University

of Oxford conducted a randomised trial of the adapted Thai version of PLH-YC with 120 low-income families in Udon Thani province. Health professionals delivered the programme at four Health Promotion Hospitals as part of their routine work. Data collection methods included adult self-report and observational assessments.

What you should know...

In order to scale up the benefits to more families, additional cohorts of facilitators have been trained during 2021. The programme has been expanded from Udon Thani to seven other Northeastern provinces, and efforts are being made to embed the programme within routine service delivery by health workers. The data collected through the programme has also been integrated into "Child-Shield," an innovative public health surveillance and case management system developed to enhance detection and reporting in the public health sector. This measure has contributed to creating a more holistic understanding of the situation of children and families. It has simplified workflows and enabled data-driven decision-making by facilitators. It is also expected that this digitalisation will facilitate assessing further the effectiveness of the PLH-YC programme.

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TIMOR-LESTE

A holistic positive parenting programme - 'Hametin Familia'



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Why is the intervention important?

The Parenting Programme 'Hametin Familia' (Family Strengthening) offers parents and caregivers the opportunity to improve knowledge, attitude, and practices that enable them to a) understand their critical role in their children's development from 0 – 18, b) build on the current positive aspects of their lives, c) learn new information and skills regarding positive caregiving, d) practice new parenting approaches with community outreach workers, e) solve common parenting problems and create locally relevant solutions, and f) be supported in adopting new techniques and behaviours that will improve developmental outcomes of children.

This programme is in line with the approach and key principles of the new Child and Family Welfare System Policy in Timor-Leste, which takes a holistic multi-sectoral approach and focuses on the centrality of the family and the community for the child's wellbeing. The Policy recognises the responsibility of the State to adopt targeted prevention strategies that strengthen the ability of families and communities to promote the wellbeing of all individuals.

Parent and Caregiver Support

What is the intervention?

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) in developing and piloting the Holistic Parenting programme covering general parenting, early stimulation, nutrition, child protection, nonviolence discipline, health, birth registration, education, water and sanitation, and adolescent issues. The pilot phase has been implemented in all villages in Ermera and Viqueque municipalities from 2017 to 2019.

The design of Hametin Família programme followed social and behaviour change communication principles and included consistent and repeated messaging across mediated and interpersonal channels. At the Municipality level and nationwide, radio drama was broadcasted through community radio stations. At the sub-municipality level, theatre performances by young people conveyed key messages on positive parenting. At the small-village level (aldeia), follow-up activities are carried out through multi-sectoral home visits to provide targeted support to families at risk.

The parenting sessions are also aligned with the implementation of community-based alternative preschool activities. While children were attending preschools, parents of these children participated in the parenting sessions in preschools using the same modules. While the parenting sessions at preschools take place only once a month, having facilitators at the preschools trained to deliver parenting modules also benefit on daily basis, for example, giving advice on child development to parents.

From 2021, MSSI with support from UNICEF expanded the implementation to Dili, the capital city of Timor-Leste targeting parents of children attending Child - Friendly Spaces as part of an emergency response after the flood in April 2021. Implementations are also ongoing in Ermera and Viqueque Municipalities with the second cohort of parents.

Currently, at the community level (suco), activities include 10 sessions on parenting skills per year (around one per month) delivered by local facilitators. The facilitators were nominated by the local authorities based on nomination criteria announced by MSSI



Child Protection Officers, which included: facilitators should be willing to engage in activities for the benefit of their community; have completed high school or education to an equivalent level, and have experience with community activism. Child Protection Officers verified the profile of the nominees and invited them to participate in parenting programme facilitation training. The nominees had various backgrounds such as teachers, midwives, nurses, police officers, alumni of youth parliament, nuns, and local authority figures.

Meanwhile, based on lessons learned from the first phase of the implementation, MSSl with support from UNICEF is revising the current modules and developing three new modules. 10 modules will be revised to include contents related to care for children with disabilities and to enhance the reflection of gender issues. The three new modules will focus on knowledge, attitude, and practice around respectful relationships.

What was the impact?

The holistic parenting education programme reached 83 villages in two municipalities in the first phase of its implementation. It benefited over 30,000 parents and caregivers and 12,000 children through parenting sessions, home visits, and youth theatre in the intervention municipalities. The radio drama reached over 86,000 parents and caregivers nationwide.

An endline survey shows that the programme has had a positive effect on participants' knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) of parenting in pilot municipalities,

as demonstrated by both quantitative and qualitative inquiry. For example, in terms of positive discipline, there is a greater willingness amongst parents and caregivers to use non-violent forms of discipline and there are increased beliefs in the benefits of positive discipline. On child protection, a greater percentage of parents believe that their young children should never be left unsupervised.

In one of the sub-municipalities, fathers who attended the parenting sessions established a father's network with the aim of supporting other fathers taking part in child care.

How do we know the intervention worked?

The programme employed a Randomized Control Trial to generate evidence that can support revision and scaling up of the parenting education programme in other parts of the country. A KAP baseline survey was conducted in Ilimor in Lautem Municipality, Maubara in Liquica Municipality, Railaco in Ermera Municipality, and Uatulari in Viqueque Municipality. A KAP endline survey was completed in 2021 to assess both control and intervention municipalities. The survey report will be published after approval by MSSl.

What you should know...

With the findings of the KAP endline survey and the lessons learned so far, the programme will be revised to improve its efficacy and to strengthen some elements throughout the curriculum (such as its gender-responsiveness). It will also be expanded to include a focus on skills-building for respectful relationships in the family, including interactive methods, such as using short videos and guided reflection on topics to strengthen the transmission of key messages. The rationale is that if the revised programme addresses the shared risk factors and the social norms that are the root cause of violence against children and women, and if it includes the development of skills for respectful relationships, it is expected to contribute to reducing both forms of violence.

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VANUATU

Parenting Support Programme

Parent and Caregiver Support



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Why is the intervention important?

The 2016 findings from a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) study showed that 78 per cent of parents self-reported the use of physical punishment as a behaviour management technique with their children. A large number of mothers (94 per cent) also reported that their child would hit, punch, or kick other children to solve disagreements, and the mothers recognised that their children were displaying behaviour as modelled by their mothers. Just as the KAP study was completed, Tropical Cyclone Pam devastated Vanuatu putting the youngest and most vulnerable children even more at risk. In response, an integrated parenting support programme to address holistic child development and promote young children's physical, social, emotional, language, and cognitive development was created.

Linkages were made between health, nutrition, protection and education sectors building on their expertise to guide the development of an appropriate parenting support programme.

What is the intervention?

“Capacity-building practices support and enhance parents’ competence and confidence to promote the development of their young children, including their social and emotional development.”

Ministry of Education and Training, Vanuatu, 2019

The Parenting Support Programme (PSP) is a community-based parenting support programme with nine modules including children's brain development, parent child interactions, positive discipline, children with disabilities, and home safety. Developed by a Ministry-led National Parenting Technical Working Group, the PSP was implemented through a taskforce in each geographical zone of the pilot area, Penama province.

The PSP builds upon caregivers' and parents' knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values and follows principles such as respecting and building on the existing knowledge of parents, building on the cultural strengths and traditions of Vanuatu, child development principles, and a strength-based approach to identifying and addressing the challenges faced by families.

What was the impact?

The PSP reached about 3,000 parents and more than 3,500 children aged five and under through community-based workshops delivered by 168 trained Early Childhood Education (ECE) teachers. As per the endline survey and reflection meetings, 73 per cent of teachers stated that school attendance increased during PSP and 69 per cent of the teachers stated that parent support of the preschools also improved.

The endline survey further found that 72 per cent of parents spent time playing, talking, and reading to their

children at home compared to 60 per cent at baseline. At baseline, 60 per cent of mothers read to their children. This increased to 86 per cent by the end of the project, and possibly could have been more if more books were available. Children also reported that they are being read to at home. Provision of healthy food at home increased from 26 per cent to 61 per cent. It was most encouraging to find that more parents (53 per cent in endline vs 38 per cent at baseline) used positive discipline as this is generally a very hard area to shift. In addition to the evidence on increased usage of positive discipline, during the PSP provincial and national reflection meetings, multiple stakeholders (mothers in particular) noted reductions in corporal punishment as a result of PSP.

“This topic is relevant as it gives me the opportunity to provide good discipline to my grandchildren. We sometimes use strong punishments by hitting, shouting and screaming at them but after that I attended this workshop, I now see things differently..... So, it is important that we speak to them with respect by using good language and to demonstrate more affection to our children and families. Before entrusting the social problems of our children with our chiefs in the villages, we must address this from the youngest age, so this workshop is a good opportunity.”

Participant of the PSP

How do we know the intervention worked?

In addition to the baseline and endline surveys, which revealed an improvement in several indicators mentioned, field visits conducted in Penama province highlighted that the workshops were well-received and are having a positive impact on parents' knowledge and practices. Furthermore, the visits also highlighted the need to create more interactive methodologies when delivering the workshops to parents who cannot read, which led to the integration of role playing. The joint monitoring visits conducted by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) also identified the need to reconvene the sectors engaged in PSP development to explore potential synergies with other sectors – such as the opportunity to convey parenting messages related to ECD at nearby health centres.

A series of PSP reflection meetings (at provincial and national level) were held to document stakeholder perspectives on materials, implementation, and communication strategies. These captured qualitative

evidence that the PSP is relevant and has begun to have a positive impact on the behaviours and attitudes of parents in the province in relation to parenting practices. These meetings also reflected that the community's involvement in young children's learning has improved as they are more engaged with the ECCE centres, as reported by the Penama Education Office. Fathers' participation in the PSP workshops has gradually improved, increasing from 50 fathers in 2017 to 611 fathers in 2019. In addition, participants collaboratively identified areas in which the PSP could be strengthened and recommended the need for development of an implementation plan and communication strategy for country-wide scale-up.

What you should know...

MOET acknowledged the initial success of PSP and undertook a full revision of the modules, taking into account the lessons learned and feedback from the pilot to strengthen the programme even further and make the modules more interactive. A total of 12 topics have been included in the revised PSP, including introduction to nurturing care, care for pregnant mothers, and supporting children in preschools. To build political will for support to parenting, MOET has integrated PSP in the draft National ECD Policy and, in collaboration with partners, has developed a long-term implementation plan for countrywide scale-up of PSP across all provinces. The revised PSP has also been adapted into a home-school package for early childhood education to support remote learning of young children. Special emphasis has been added on disability, vulnerability, and diversity in specific workshop modules including key themes like gender equity and vulnerable, marginalised, and disabled children. The emphasis remains on the participants generating solutions, both in terms of their own behaviour and support services they can seek out.

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Useful Links

For more information about UNICEF and its work for children in the Pacific visit (<http://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/>)

CAMBODIA

3PC: Partnering to build a stronger child protection system

Response and Support Services



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Why is the intervention important?

Despite increased Government commitment to address violence against children in Cambodia, many children remain at risk due to inadequate protection. Approximately one in two children have experienced severe beating, one in four children have experienced emotional abuse, and one in 20 girls and boys have been sexually assaulted.¹ Additionally, one in 350 Cambodian children live in an institution, despite almost 80 per cent of them having at least one living parent.² Cambodia's child protection services remain ad hoc, fragmented, insufficient to the need, and the country lacks a coordinated and systematic approach to responding to cases of violence, exploitation, and abuse of children.

This intervention aims to coordinate the work of government, multi-lateral agencies, and NGOs to maximise the limited systems and resources to provide a coordinated response to violence against children.

What is the intervention?

The Partnership Programme for the Protection of Children (3PC) is a holistic intervention aimed at reducing violence against children by strengthening all aspects of Cambodia's child protection system.

Its overarching goal is to strengthen civil society's involvement and coordination in the building of child protection systems, with the objective of strengthening child protection through civil society organisations' enhanced capacity, coordination with and contribution to national and sub-national protection responses. The programme is designed under three broad areas: prevention, response, and capacity/system building.

The tripartite partnership was initiated in 2011 by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY), UNICEF Cambodia, and Friends International. In turn, these three main partners coordinate twelve NGOs and 40+ community-based organisations (ChildSafe Alliance partners) working across the country.

The 3PC programme is designed to meet the specific needs of girls and boys through a child-centred modality, ensuring that half the beneficiaries are girls. Child protection issues are detected early through proactive measures, such as outreach workers and ChildSafe agents, particularly at hotspots where at-risk children are more likely to be found. They are also detected through reactive measures, such as when community members themselves reach out for help, generally through a hotline. These are substantiated by case workers who then refer children and/or families to appropriate support services.

Since 2020, the network utilises a case-collaboration model by pairing NGO social workers with the assigned sub-national government social service workers to respond to serious child protection cases. Interoperability between Primero (government database) and OSCaR (NGO database) has been established to make this referral process between government and NGO services/case managers more efficient and effective.

What was the impact?

Through the 3PC programme, each year more than 7,000 children, 1,000 youths, and 3,000 caregivers at risk of or exposed to violence and/or family separation have benefitted from preventive and response services such as counselling, income generation support,

¹ Ministry of Women's Affairs and UNICEF Cambodia, Findings from Cambodia's Violence Against Children Survey 2013, Cambodia: Ministry of Women's Affairs, 2014.

² Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Mapping of residential care facilities in the Capital and 24 provinces of the Kingdom of Cambodia, MoSVY, Cambodia, 2017.

vocational training, health care support, food support, emergency family support (including to address the impact of COVID-19), and temporary shelter.

Work carried out by 3PC partners, including through case collaboration with government social workers to implement the Government's ambitious five-year action plan on care reform, has contributed to a significant reduction in the number of residential care institutions and children living in them across Cambodia. Since the action plan was launched in 2016, there are 43 per cent fewer residential care institutions and 59 per cent fewer children living in residential care.³ 1,400 children have been reintegrated with their families. However, there are still almost 10,000 children still living in residential care. With UNICEF and other partners' support, the Government is developing a new care reform plan from 2022 based on the learning from the ongoing work, evaluation of the five-year project conducted by Coram International, and consultation with child protection stakeholders.

Furthermore, capacities have been built among key stakeholders, models strengthened, and data generated, contributing to incremental strengthening of the child protection system in Cambodia. For example, a partnership between the Government and 3PC social workers has established basic case management and strengthened sectoral collaboration. Networks formed as part of 3PC are expected to continue beyond the life of the project.

How do we know the intervention worked?

The programme is monitored at various levels by the Government, UNICEF, Friends International, and the implementing partners themselves through field visits and review meetings. The partners report against a standard monitoring framework using harmonised reporting templates. Both quantitative and qualitative data are collected, and quarterly reports are produced.

Several studies and assessments have also been conducted for learning and evaluation. For example, a 2015 independent evaluation commissioned by USAID found that 3PC achieved significant results at all levels of the alternative care system in Cambodia. According to UNICEF's formative evaluation of child protection in 2018, many beneficiaries expressed appreciation for the support provided by 3PC partners and, in several cases, support appeared to make a meaningful difference to beneficiaries' lives and reduced the likelihood of violence and separation. The inspection system provides annual administrative data on the number of residential care institutions and children living in them.

This data shows that there has been a significant reduction in the number of residential care institutions, as well as institutionalised children in Cambodia.

What you should know...

Data collected over the past five years shows that the systematic partnership modality between the Government and NGOs such as case collaboration modality is not only feasible, but also necessary, for resource constrained contexts like Cambodia. A critical learning has been that this partnership has contributed to generating evidence to show the value of social work case management, and the significant financial and technical investment for it to work effectively. As a result, the Government is in the process of recruiting the contracted social workers that were paired with NGO social workers to become civil servants. In addition, the Government is also assigning 204 sub-national level civil servant staff to undertake child protection social work functions as part of their regular job, thereby institutionalising child protection case management in the Government's social service delivery system.

Some of the challenges faced by the programme include increased income insecurity among vulnerable families due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has also increased child protection issues in those families and risks of family separation.

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Useful Links

For more information about the 3PC partnership programme visit:

- An independent evaluation by USAID (2015): (<https://bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/Promoting%20Family-based%20Care.pdf>)
- UNICEF's formative evaluation of child protection (2018): (<https://www.unicef.org/cambodia/reports/promoting-and-protecting-rights-children>)
- Report on the Implementation of Action Plan for Improving Child Care and Reintegration can be downloaded in: (<https://bit.ly/3zOKxci>)

³ Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Report on the Implementation of Action Plan for Improving Child Care and Reintegration 2021.

CAMBODIA

Competency-based training for different cadres of the social service workforce



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Why is the intervention important?

In the last five years, including through UNICEF's support, Cambodia has progressed significantly in establishing basic social work and case management systems in the country, and social service delivery has improved. However, there are still gaps with the institutionalisation of a competent child protection workforce due to resource constraints, a limited number of professional social workers, and a lack of long-term and standardised professional development training programmes, especially for government civil servants. While the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) is taking increasing leadership to provide relevant guidance and frameworks, it needs further capacity-building and support to be able to fully implement its role. Social work education is relatively new and that there is no entity to provide oversight of educational programmes to meet national, regional, and global standards. So far, most short- and medium-term training on social work-related topics were provided by international organisations and NGOs partners, and have been usually conducted on an ad hoc basis, with little coordination across training providers. This has resulted in a lack of standardised, well-structured, and competency-based training support for the different cadres of the social service workforce from community to national levels.

Cambodia's definition of the social service workforce follows the global definition adopted by the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance (GSSWA), but for the purpose of professionalising the social service workforce, this refers to government civil servants assigned with child protection related functions at the commune, district, and provincial levels.

Response and Support Services

What is the intervention?

To address the above challenge, following the endorsement of guidelines on basic competencies for social service workforce and the recommendations for Cambodia from the 2019 Social Service Workforce in the East Asia and Pacific Region: Multi-Country Review, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY), through the National Institute of Social Affairs (NISA), to develop a Strategic Plan for Training the Social Service Workforce in Cambodia (Strategic Training Plan). Specifically, it defines, for the first time, which social service workers to target at district and commune levels (see Table 1), including government and non-government staff, professionals, and paraprofessionals that are already working as part of the social service workforce, but do not yet have formal training to undertake social worker functions. It will be also used to train those who are the potential future social service workers, including government officials and NGOs staff.

The Strategic Training Plan is based on the Cambodia Qualifications Framework (CQF) and focuses on four levels of training programmes for two kinds of social service workers (paraprofessionals and para social workers) as shown in Table 1. The training programmes lead to different levels of certificates, including both academic learning as well as practical experience (including supervised learning) to help ensure the development of appropriate competencies at each level around child protection theoretical knowledge and case management services, including utilising the digital Primero case management system.

The strategic plan was endorsed by the Minister of MoSVY in February 2021 and it has three key objectives: 1) developing a social service workforce training curriculum/programmes and training modules/packages; 2) training the social service workforce and improve its efficiency; and 3) strengthening the capacity of social work education institutions.

The Strategic Training Plan has been financially supported by USAID and the Government of Japan, with technical collaboration from Save the Children, Plan International, World Vision, and Child Fund.

Table 1. Proposed types and certification levels required for social service workforce in Cambodia

Certification	Type	Institution/Unit	Credits
Technical & Vocational Certificate 3	Paraprofessionals	Ministry officials with child protection programming responsibility	30
Technical & Vocational Certificate 2	Paraprofessionals	Provincial/DoSVY officials	30
Technical & Vocational Certificate 1	Paraprofessionals	District/municipality/khan officials (Office of Social Affairs and Social Welfare)	30
		Child protection officers of NGOs	
Vocational Certificate	Para social workers	CCWC Commune/Sangkat officials and others with similar responsibilities	30

15 hours = 1 credit for teaching and instruction, 30 hours = 1 credit for laboratory/workshop teaching activities, and 45 hours = 1 credit is taken as a measure of the amount of field work or internship training activities.

What is the expected impact?

It is the first time that Cambodia has developed a harmonised, standardised, well-structured, and comprehensive strategic plan with a focus on strengthening the competencies of social service workers. Since its development, it has been used to develop a working competency-based curriculum which is pending endorsement. Based on this curriculum, training modules and a long-term capacity-building plan will be developed. These will be used by the Government to train its civil servants and other training institutions to build and strengthen capacity of the general social service workforce in the country. It is also a critical milestone as it has promoted structured collaboration for professionalisation of government and non-government child protection workforce in the country, especially between MoSVY/NISA, the Ministry of Interior, UNICEF, Save the Children/Family Care First-REACT, Plan International, World Vision, and Child Fund.

The Strategic Training Plan is owned both by the Government and partners as the main training framework for the social service workforce in Cambodia – for child protection and beyond. Different partners are contributing to the development of various training modules in a participatory and coordinated manner. Since 2019, with support from UNICEF, MoSVY/NISA trainings for at least 413 social service workers in the eight targeted provinces have been conducted. These trainings are being conducted in parallel to the development of the modules so as not to delay the capacity building of the child protection workforce in at least basic social work. However, they are still aligned to the curriculum and will be counted towards accreditation when the curriculum is finally endorsed.

This has also led to a more efficient use of resources for national capacity-building and competency-based certification of the workforce and greater sustainability of capacity building initiatives.

How will we know the intervention worked?

The Strategic Training Plan has an M&E framework, which will be used to monitor progress and assess its effectiveness. UNICEF is also supporting the

Government to strengthen child protection information management and is working with MoSVY to develop a Human Resource Information Management (HRIM) database. This system-strengthening approach will integrate data on social service workforce into the Government's child protection information management system (CPIMS), which will in turn allow for documentation and measurement of the impact of the training programme on the workforce and on service delivery. Specifically, UNICEF is supporting the Government in the roll out of Primero (digital case management system) across the country. The effectiveness of the training programme will also be measured by tracking case management competencies of those using it.

What you should know...

To ensure that the training is aimed at specific civil servants with social work functions, the Ministry of Interior appointed 204 social welfare workers from the District Office of Social Affairs and Social Welfare to be in charge of child protection and social work functions. They will be targeted for training as a priority. This is part of a long-term capacity-building for civil servants who have responsibility for child protection and social work functions. In particular, it responds to recent changes in administrative reforms such as through sub-decrees 182, 183, 184, and 34, as well as the "Cambodia National Qualifications" framework.

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Useful Links

UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office and the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance, The Social Service Workforce in the East Asia and Pacific Region: Multi-Country Review, UNICEF, 2019. (<https://www.unicef.org/eap/media/4561/file/workforce.pdf>)

CAMBODIA

Monitoring Cambodia's progress in child protection service delivery through its Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS)

Response and Support Services



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Why is the intervention important?

Availability and use of administrative data on child protection as part of a comprehensive national information management system is critical for the effective implementation of child protection systems and for prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. While Cambodia has a wealth of administrative data on child protection, it is dispersed across various sectors and agencies that use different systems to collect, analyse, and interpret data for child protection. This lack of a harmonised national system has resulted in an inability to monitor and assess the progress of Cambodia's child protection system, including outcomes for children. The Government of Cambodia has recognised this limitation, and in order to respond to this challenge, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) and UNICEF Cambodia prioritised the establishment of a national Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) for the country. Such a comprehensive CPIMS will improve the overall generation, collection, analysis, and use of high-quality disaggregated data to measure child protection progress at national and sub-national levels. This system will also be able to track progress against INSPIRE indicators, progress towards

Sustainable Development Goals and it will help to inform decision making and service delivery etc.

What is the intervention?

CPIMS refers to an integrated set of processes and systems for the routine collection, analysis, and interpretation of data used in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of child protection programming. The intervention, supported by UNICEF, USAID and the Government of Japan, includes two key components: 1) sector monitoring through a public dashboard; and 2) strengthening the operational capacity of individual agencies for more efficient task management through digitisation. Individual operational systems also feed into this dashboard.

The dashboard requires an understanding of what is important to monitor. To facilitate this, a national child protection monitoring framework with 50 core child protection indicators structured into five domains was developed. This work is being led by MoSVY's Department of Planning, Statistics and Total. The framework includes information such as the number of residential care institutions in the country, and the number of children receiving child protection services. Importantly, the digitalisation of the data will make it more accessible at any time. The launch of the dashboard was the culmination of three years of work that involved 14 ministries and government agencies, alongside two networks of NGOs. All organisations worked together to develop the monitoring framework and collect and validate the data presented through the dashboard. The first annual data forum for all ministries and agencies to share annual data for the CPIMS was held in 2019 and every year since. A total of 60 CPIMS focal points have been assigned to operate the CPIMS by 14 Government ministries, agencies and 2 NGO networks: the Partnership Programme for the protection of children (3PC) and Save the Children/ Family Care First-REAT.

The second component includes strengthening the operational capacity of individual agencies for more efficient task management through digitisation. In the last three years this work has focused on digitising the

country's case management system through Primero, a digital tool for social service workers to make their services for children experiencing child protection concerns more rigorous and efficient. In addition, the digitisation of the residential care institutions' inspection systems has also been part of making the implementation of Cambodia's child protection system more efficient and effective. Primero is also interoperable with OSCaR, a case management system used by a 46-member NGO network to enable confidential digital referral of services between government and NGO partners while preventing duplication of case recording.

What was the impact?

The annual data forums have led to populating the dashboard with validated data for various indicators. This sector-level monitoring through the CPIMS dashboard has enabled child protection stakeholders to access child protection data in one platform for the first time. This has significantly contributed to the timely accessibility of child protection data. It has also provided baseline data to compare annual progress.

The digital inspection system has contributed to improved quality data and programming. It has enabled better and safer care for more than 9,000 children who are living in RCIs throughout the country, while also providing accurate data to measure progress of the ambitious care reform plan that Cambodia is currently implementing. Accordingly, there are 43 per cent fewer RCIs and 59 per cent fewer children living in residential care in 2019 compared to 2016.

How do we know the intervention worked?

Although operationalisation of the CPIMS, including Primero, is still in the early stages, the Government is leading this process thereby demonstrating its ownership of this strategic national process. The long-term strategic plan for CPIMS 2022 – 2026 is being developed to provide a road map for its implementation and to assess its effectiveness and with time the ongoing data monitoring through the CPIMS will regularly result in strategic changes and improvements to service delivery with a direct positive impact on children. The early success of Primero can be seen from the rapid uptake of this system by the Government across the country and different ministries as the 'go-to' government case management tool for child protection. Monitoring visits have shown that government social service workers are finding Primero useful for their work. A full assessment of its effectiveness is planned in the near future.

What you should know...

- UNICEF will continue to provide support to MoSVY, other ministries and NGO partners to upgrade their operational data management systems for improved service delivery and reliable data, including through more interoperability with other systems.
- UNICEF will build the capacity of MoSVY ICT officials to develop the knowledge and skills to manage the CPIMS.
- Primero has allowed the Government of Cambodia to have a standardised case management system throughout the country that is also critical during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of 190 government social services workers in 25 provincial departments of social affairs and 116 districts being trained on Primero, 10,229 children separated from their families or facing other child protection concerns, including from COVID-19, are being supported through the digital case management system.
- Primero training will also be rolled out as part of essential professionalisation of all frontline government workers with responsibility for child protection.

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Date intervention started: June 2018

Useful links

CPIMS Dashboard: (<https://cpims-cambodia.ona.io>)

Media release of CPIMS launch:
(<https://www.unicef.org/cambodia/press-releases/new-online-resource-improving-child-protection-launched-report-finds-59-fewer>)

CHINA

Strengthening the role of civil society organisations in protecting children from violence at home in Shaanxi Province

Response and Support Services



@World Vision/2020



@World Vision/2021

Why is the intervention important?

A survey conducted by the All-China Women's Federation shows that approximately 43 per cent of children between 10 to 17 years old had experienced abuse in their homes within 12 months before the survey.¹ Breaking from traditional views, the Anti-Domestic Violence Law (ADVL) in China, enacted in 2016, stipulates that family violence is not a personal matter. It falls within the purview of the State and requires intervention from the Government and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). Meanwhile, a series of child-related laws and national policies, such as the Opinions on Strengthening the Protection of Children in Difficulties in 2016 and the Revised Law on the Protection of Minors (LPM) of China in 2021, pay increasing attention to children who experience inadequate and abusive guardianship. It also sets out the responsibilities and expected capacities of CSOs and social service practitioners.

However, key stakeholders, such as social workers, teachers, medical institutions, and neighbourhood committees, are either unaware of their roles, or under-equipped to support children's access to justice and to provide early intervention for families at higher risk, as required under the LPM and ADVL; in a survey conducted in 2020, 45 per cent of interviewed social workers said they had not heard about mandatory

reporting of incidents related to violence committed against children.²

What is the intervention?

As recognised in law, CSOs play a critical role in supporting implementation and reaching vulnerable children and families with support and services. However, CSOs in Shaanxi Province in the northwest China have less experience and fewer resources to address domestic violence against children. In a study with 15 local organisations serving children and other vulnerable groups in Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi Province, the majority reported that they have not taken part in any systematic training on addressing domestic violence, despite having engaged in some child protection cases. Therefore, World Vision China worked with Shaanxi Research Association for Women and Family, a local organisation dedicated to eliminating domestic violence, to strengthen the capacity of CSOs in Xi'an through:

- Comprehensive capacity-building of local CSOs, ranging from training and supervision to the launch of an online anti-domestic violence database. From October 2019 to December 2021, a series of trainings were conducted in Xi'an for 107 staff members from 50 CSOs to help local CSOs understand the legal framework for protecting

¹ Song, Zhen, Investigation on the Social Status of Chinese Women in the New Era, China Women Publishing House, 2013.

² Zhang, Save the Children International: Investigation on the Status Quo of Mandatory Reporting of Cases against Minors in China, Beijing Ciyu Child Welfare Research Centre, 2020.

children and their role in reporting and legal proceedings, and also provide them with practical skills in case management.

- Subsidy provision for selected local CSOs to carry out community service. The services include parent workshops, parent/child interactive activities, a family support hotline, group consultations, etc.
- Leveraging the project for policy advocacy in Shaanxi Province. World Vision, Shaanxi Research Association for Women and Family, together with other partners, used public and government consultation meetings as platforms to present the needs identified from this project, especially the needs of children. Some of the suggestions, including providing privileged protection for children and reiterating the provision on the revocation of guardianship of minors, were incorporated into the Shaanxi Domestic Violence Ordinance that came into effect in December 2020.

What was the impact?

The pre- and post-tests from the CSO training carried out in Xi'an showed that participants had an improved understanding of children's rights, and the legal responsibilities of CSOs in addressing domestic violence, especially regarding mandatory reporting. Participants also acquired practical skills to manage child protection cases. CSOs that are part of this initiative reported improvements in their capacity for applying for additional subsidy support, as well as designing, implementing and monitoring projects that aim to tackle domestic violence. 5000 children indirectly benefited from the enhanced capacity of CSO workers.

The training series in Xi'an led to twelve CSOs launching child protection awareness campaigns in communities that reached 4220 children and 3864 adults.

In the interviews with parents who benefitted from community service, many had expressed that their perception about family education had changed, they are more informed about their legal obligations as caregivers and know how to identify and report incidents of domestic violence.

How will we know the intervention worked?

The final evaluation will be conducted at the end of 2021 through the collection of quantitative and qualitative data to look into the impact and sustainability of the project. A combination of a desktop review and interviews with key partners will be conducted to learn about the transformation undergone

by key partners in the area of violence against children, including the change in their capabilities and future initiatives in this undertaking. We will also assess how the project supported the implementation of laws and policies. The findings and recommendations from the evaluation will be used as points of reference in designing the next phase of this project to achieve precise intervention and broader impact.

What you should know...

Wide partnership with CSOs, the Government, and communities is crucial for the effectiveness and impact of this project and engaging local governments in the project has been key for credibility and relationship building between the formal and informal child protection sectors.

In June 2021, the revised Law on the Protection of Minors came into effect. It emphasises the responsibilities of caregivers, the protection of children against violence at home, and reiterates the role of CSOs in preventing and responding to violence committed against children. The law also outlines further requirements expected of personnel and agencies who have close contact with children and their obligation in mandatory reporting. In line with the revised regulations, World Vision China is reviewing capacity-building projects and identifying the essential skills and expertise that every child social worker must possess. Online training modules will be developed for social workers working with children and families so that they can provide quality service and effectively assist those affected by domestic violence.

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Useful Links

It takes a world to end violence against children - World Vision China (http://www.worldvision.org.cn/en/wedo-project?wedo_category_id=32)

Domestic violence online resource database (http://www.westwomen.org/a/sjk/_tongxianglingjiabao_shujuku/)

CHINA

Joining hands to deliver – developing an integrated social service programme post COVID-19 in Hubei



Why is the intervention important?

Following the reopening of Wuhan after the onset of COVID-19 in early 2020 and a subsequent 3-month lockdown, a series of issues emerged, including recovery from physical and mental health difficulties, coping with grief and post-traumatic stress disorder, stigma and discrimination, together with changes in family relations and dynamics. For example, lockdown, school closures, and remote learning in 2020 contributed to a widespread increase in tensions among family members. Furthermore, already vulnerable population groups became even more at risk due to strained financial resources and limited services for families with fragile coping mechanisms to deal with this complex situation.

In this context, professional social workers started to play a more significant role as service providers in communities. At the beginning of the outbreak, disease control was of utmost importance, and social workers participated only as volunteer assistants to health workers and community-based workers engaged in health monitoring activities. As the situation evolved and lives were affected more profoundly, both the public and the Central Government recognised that professional social work services were also key to support recovered patients, their family members,

Response and Support Services

people under or affected by quarantine, as well as frontline workers. Among them, children were considered as a group that needed additional support.

What is the intervention?

The Philanthropy Promotion and Social Work Department of the Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) and Hubei Civil Affairs Bureau started the initiative “Joining Hands to Deliver” to expand the range and level of support services for people to help them recover from the impact of COVID-19.

Under the overall guidance of local government structures, the programme called for the coordination of six types of service providers: social workers, community-based workers, volunteers, community-based social organisations, community-based charity resources, and professional psychologists. In practice, under the umbrella coordination of social work agencies, social workers were responsible for carrying out needs assessment, home visits, developing tailored plans, delivering professional social work services, and liaising with the other five cadres of service providers to address specific needs. For example: if a psychological intervention was needed, social workers would contact psychologists and discuss a case management plan; and when volunteer services were needed to support some families, social workers would look for suitable volunteers for support.

In the beginning, the focus was on supporting recovered patients, family members of those who succumbed to COVID-19, frontline workers, and families or groups made vulnerable by the pandemic. As the programme grew and was rolled out to more communities, the focus was expanded to other population groups with various needs.

Services for children included psychosocial support and counselling for those directly affected by COVID-19, parenting programmes to improve parent-child relationship, emotional support for children left-behind, facilitation of peer support, mental health awareness raising and training, and needs-based extracurricular sessions.¹

¹ Children who received services included those with parents or significant persons who died of COVID-19, those recovered from COVID-19, whose parents are frontline workers, those with quarantine experience (with or without their caretakers).

What was the impact?

The programme started in May 2020 and will end in December 2021. Up to September 2021, it covered 87 communities in Wuhan and 123 townships in other cities of Hubei province, ensuring provision of services 1,568,000 times to people in those communities. Social workers carried out routine home visits to 14,828 households, including 6,991 high-risk individuals, and provided professional services to 4,410 people. The programme also helped create or strengthen over 450 community-based organisations and enrolled over 8,400 volunteers. It is estimated that 38,160 children have benefited from the programme so far.²

In addition, this programme led to more equal distribution of social work service provision. Previously, the access and quality of services varied among communities, with better off communities usually benefiting from more resources and access to services. Through this programme, services and resources were made available to all communities regardless of their economic or geographic status. Local governments and communities also gained experience on how to mobilise and integrate all social resources to respond to the diverse needs of residents.

In UNICEF-supported communities from July 2020 to June 2021, the use of indicator tracking by service providers showed reduced tension and anxiety caused by COVID-19, and reduced public stigma and discrimination towards family members of patients or health workers. In families, results included improved parent-child relations, as well as more tailored and professional support provided to them by volunteers and other professionals. Both children and caretakers reported positive changes in self-confidence and esteem, behaviour, relationships with their parents, and school performance.

Integrating social work into the package of essential services during the COVID-19 outbreak led to improved recognition of the profession, empowerment, and participation of social workers, as well as improved capacity of individuals, communities, and local social organisations. As a result, a more inclusive community environment was fostered.

In August 2021, when there was a small outbreak in Hubei, following the model and practice developed and tested earlier in the programme, community resources were quickly mobilised and organised to provide additional psychosocial support, awareness raising, arranging Nucleic Acid Tests, and other care services.

The efficient response in August has demonstrated that the model can and will continue to play an important role in service provision.

How do we know the intervention worked?

Standardised indicators were developed to measure the progress of the project for each social work agency and across all agencies on a quarterly or more frequent basis. The outcome was mainly measured qualitatively through pre-service and post-service assessment of individual cases or group sessions, and interviews with beneficiaries, social workers, and community leaders. In addition, an external mid-term review was conducted in late 2020, and final review is planned towards the end of implementation.

A supervision system was in place to support the work of social workers, as well as monitor whether the programme progressed as planned. Two forms of supervision were provided remotely and on site: one through social work agencies monitoring social workers in respective communities; and the one provided by external experts and more experienced practitioners to identify and address general issues across all implementing social work agencies. The findings by the external supervision team was used to check whether the programme was on track and provided necessary guidance of changes or improvements to be made.

What you should know...

Social work is still a developing profession in China. While the programme relied on social work agencies to coordinate and implement, it is crucial to continue building capacities of these agencies responsible for both implementation and monitoring, as well as of the entire workforce.

The Philanthropy Promotion and Social Work Department of MCA, who initiated and guided the programme, is the leading government agency for social work development in China. They are compiling good practices and lessons learned from this programme, including model building and capacity development, to explore ways to further improve it and replicate it in other areas of China.

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² No disaggregated data are available when the case study was written. The number is a population-based estimation.

INDONESIA

PKSAI - Integrated Child Welfare Services

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©UNICEF Indonesia (2019).

Why is the intervention important?

Over the years, Indonesia has articulated an ambitious national agenda and has achieved important milestones to protect and improve the welfare of children. Recently, however, delivering comprehensive child protection services in the midst of the current decentralisation process has added to the complexity of ensuring quality and accessible prevention and response services for child victims of violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

Almost all districts and cities where integrated child protection services should exist are challenged by limited resources and exacerbated by the fragmented services underpinned by siloed working cultures. These challenges lead to the provision of only partial child protection services with limited reach to children and families.

What is the intervention?

In 2015, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), with UNICEF support, developed the Integrated Child Welfare Service Programme (*Program Kesejahteraan Sosial Anak Integratif* – PKSAI). The PKSAI model

which was designed to enhance coordination across ministries, departments, and agencies and more effective integration of service provision for improved child protection outcomes was piloted in five districts and cities in Indonesia.

PKSAI places emphasis on (i) improving the linkages between child protection services, family support services, and social protection programmes; (ii) strengthening social services and child protection networks; (iii) increasing service providers' capacity; (iv) expanding community outreach and engagement; (v) managing services databases; and (vi) simplifying service referral administration.

What was the impact?

The formative evaluation found that the PKSAI model is having a significant impact on improving service provision and strengthening the linkages between child protection services, family support services, and social protection in the pilot sites. A key strength of the PKSAI model is that it improves the access of children and families to health services, law enforcement, education, as well as birth registration. The evaluation also

stressed that the PKSAl model and service approach is relevant in the Indonesian context, with the following key impacts identified: (i) effectively linking children and families with tertiary services; (ii) fast-tracking of cases in hospitals, police stations, and civil registration offices; (iii) improved intersectoral relationships; and (iv) increased access to government resources.

How do we know the intervention worked?

To demonstrate the impact of the intervention, a formative evaluation was conducted, which identified the establishment of standard operating procedures (SOP) between the PKSAl social workers and service providers as a key factor facilitating improved service delivery. This resulted in the fast-tracking of cases referred by the pilot model staff to agencies with whom agreements were developed, namely 1) hospitals and health facilities for cases of sexual and physical violence, and 2) civil registration offices for birth registration and certification. Another factor contributing to the success of the model was the presence of skilled PKSAl social workers who directly initiated and oversaw the entire case management processes until case closure.

Importantly, the evaluation report highlighted how the PKSAl model assisted children and their families to access specific services and solutions that were acceptable and appropriate for them. This represents an important paradigm shift in service delivery approach and the way in which social workers engage with children and their families as not just victims or passive recipients of services, but rather as empowered agents facilitated to make their own decisions impacting their own welfare.

What you should know...

These positive outcomes along with the valuable experience accumulated during the development of PKSAl helped create the 'blueprint' for accelerating the replication of the model in 2019 and strengthen child protection services by reaching another 116 districts and cities across Indonesia in line with the local government law mandating the decentralisation of services at local levels. However, a subsequent change in MOSA's programme and policy direction that focuses on channelling services through its regional technical units in 18 provinces hampered further follow up.

In 2020, child protection service provision in Indonesia entered a new milestone with the issuance of the Presidential Decree 65 mandating the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection

(MOWECP) to provide direct services. This regulation fundamentally changed the overall landscape of child protection services provision, including services organised by the MOSA. While this new development created opportunities, it also poses ongoing challenges in terms of the readiness of MOWECP's structure especially at sub-national levels to carry out their new mandate.

PKSAl social workers are less equipped to respond to sensitive and high-risk child protection cases involving violence, abuse, and exploitation. Despite the provision of capacity development workshops on different topics related to child protection, the trainings have not provided social workers with sufficient skills to effectively support the most vulnerable and high-risk child protection cases.

Another challenge arises from the complexity of having to adjust to new regulations and policies to facilitate cross-sectoral work amidst the dynamics of decentralisation, which is still evolving. In the absence of well-established and synchronised regulations and policies between the central or national and sub-national governments, integration of services will not be sustainable.

Planned next steps include advocacy with local governments to continue investing in the deployment of skilled social workers in each identified PKSAl location, as well as support to implement the PKSAl models, adapting to the local conditions to test, adjusting and building evidence on how to operationalise the conceptual framework of a child protection system.

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LAO PDR

Strengthening multi-sectoral coordination in child protection service delivery for vulnerable children

Response and Support Services



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Why is the intervention important?

Children in Lao PDR experience a variety of significant protection risks, including physical, emotional, and sexual violence according to research, national surveys, and studies. The Violence against Children Survey in Lao PDR (2016) showed that one in six children experienced at least one form of physical violence before the age of 18. A quarter of children in Lao PDR experienced emotional violence at home and one in ten experienced some form of sexual abuse as a child. Only 15 per cent of children received the support they need to recover from their experiences of sexual abuse.

To address child protection issues in a holistic and systematic approach, coordination and collaboration across different sectors, including social welfare, justice, education, health, and social protection, are required. The system and institution strengthening, combined with multi-sectoral collaboration, is more effective than narrow policy changes, short-term projects, and vertical programming. At the sub-national level, there are multiple actors engaged in response and support services for vulnerable children, including village Child Protection Networks (CPNs), Lao Women's Union (LWU), the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW),

other government departments, and CSOs and INGOs such as Friends International (FI), Sengsavang Shelter, and Village Focus International (VFI).

What is the intervention?

Building on the Government's commitment made on the 30th anniversary of CRC in 2019 to prioritise child protection system strengthening and child poverty reduction in Lao PDR, UNICEF has been supporting MoLSW and the National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers and Children (NCAWMC) in strengthening the child protection system in the country. With the technical and financial support from UNICEF, a multi-sectoral working group conducted a mapping and visioning exercise. Consequently, Lao PDR completed the 'Assessment of the Child Protection System in Lao PDR' and developed its first ever vision paper, "Core Recommendations for Strengthening the Child Protection System in Lao PDR," which is accompanied by a "Five-Year National Plan of Action for Child Protection System Strengthening 2022-2026" and the "Strategic Guidelines for the Social Service Workforce Development 2022-2026." The documents highlight the importance of partnerships with local communities, CSOs, INGOs, and development partners to ensure response and support services are available for every child, including those from ethnic groups and with disabilities.

UNICEF has been working closely with MoLSW, LWU, and the Lao Youth Union (LYU) to strengthen capacities of sub-national service providers and the quality of child protection services for vulnerable children. This includes providing capacity-building for shelter and helpline staff, para-social workers, and government officials from various sectors, upgrading the child-friendly infrastructure in protection shelters, and organising community outreach activities. Shelter and legal services are provided to at-risk groups, migrant push-back cases, and victims of trafficking. In addition, hotline services for victims and survivors of violence and human trafficking have been expanded to provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for distressed youth and adolescents during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.



UNICEF, MoLSW, and FI entered a partnership in 2020 to improve access to quality health, social welfare, and justice support services, including the reporting and referral of violence cases involving children. The provision of comprehensive case management services includes the identification of children at risk, needs assessment, counselling, and referral. FI also provides transitional home services (safe shelter and rehabilitation) to child and adolescent victims of abuse and exploitation, and those who are separated from families. Out-of-school children are reintegrated into formal, informal, or remedial education through school reintegration campaigns. Support is also provided in family tracing for neglected children and reintegration of children without caregivers into family settings. To strengthen first responders' capacity and share knowledge, FI provides training to CPNs on case management and child protection practices.

What is the impact?

Community-based child protection services, including home visits, referrals, and counselling have been provided to vulnerable children and children at risk in a coordinated, systematic, and timely manner which contributed to improving the accessibility and quality of child protection and social welfare services. In 2020, through the support from DFAT and UNICEF Australia, 79 vulnerable households received family emergency support during COVID-19, and 1,245 children and young people, including those victims of violence, were provided with various child protection services. This coordinated intervention between the Government, CSO, and UNICEF has contributed to the strengthening of the multi-sectoral coordination for integrated service delivery between social welfare, justice, health, education, and social protection.

How do we know the intervention worked?

Despite COVID-19, multiple programmatic visits, both offline and online, were organised by UNICEF, MOLSW, and FI to monitor the quality of services as well as to adapt the child protection services to the COVID-19 situation. The National Child Protection and Assistance Committee (CPAC) was used as the main coordination platform to regularly monitor and track the progress of any child protection activities in the country and strengthen the coordination between justice, social welfare, health, education, and social protection sectors.

What you should know...

Robust promotive community awareness-raising activities at the village level helped to build relationships and trust among community members, which empowered vulnerable women and children to seek assistance from the authorities, and take-up of services including legal advice and assistance related to domestic and sexual violence.

Enhancing the promotive, preventive and responsive child protection services across all sectors, especially social welfare, education, health, security, and justice in a systematic and sustainable manner is crucial for strengthening the child protection system in Lao PDR.

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 Commission for the Advancement of Women
 Mothers and Children.
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Useful Links

The Story of Souk - How a Young Girl is Coping with the Economic Downturn from Covid-19 (www.unicef.org/laos/stories/story-souk)

Care and Protection from Violence in the Time of Covid-19 (www.unicef.org/laos/stories/care-and-protection-violence-time-covid-19)

Violence against Children Survey in Lao PDR Full Report (<https://www.unicef.org/laos/reports/vacsurvey-laos>)

Assessment of the Child Protection system in Lao PDR Final Report (<https://www.unicef.org/laos/reports/assessment-child-protection-system-lao-pdr>)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The experience of developing a national strategy for child protection in emergencies

Response and Support Services



Why is the intervention important?

Papua New Guinea's (PNG) geographical location (along the Pacific Ring of Fire) and the specific challenges of the country's rugged terrain and remote villages and islands makes it prone to frequent occurrences of natural disasters such as flooding, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, landslides, and droughts. This, in addition to other socio-economic and cultural challenges, exacerbates the risk of children falling victim to violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation during emergencies.

Recognising the right of the child to protection, including during emergency situations, and understanding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child wellbeing, the National Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) took the lead to develop the National Child Protection in Emergencies Preparedness and Response Strategy (NCPiEPRS).

This is the first effort that the Government of Papua New Guinea has ever made to respond strategically and in a coordinated manner to protect children and families

during an emergency. The Strategy was approved by the National Executive Council and funds were secured for its implementation, reflecting the Government's recognition of the impact of COVID-19 on children, particularly their exposure to the risk of violence. Furthermore, the NCPiEPRS provides the framework to operationalise relevant laws and policies related to the increasing risk of violence, exploitation, and abuse of children during the pandemic and associated public health measures. It also promotes inter-sectoral collaboration across government agencies in the context of child protection in emergencies.

What is the intervention?

NCPiEPRS aims at mitigating and addressing the impact of COVID-19 and other emergencies on children and families. Its key intervention areas are social mobilisation and advocacy, legal protection of children and families, and targeted programme intervention.¹ The strategy also provides the basis for establishing the Child Protection in Emergency Preparedness, Response Coordination Centre (CPIEPRCC).

Social Mobilisation and Advocacy

Information and the access to information that is readily available to the target population will help people make informed decisions in times of emergencies. This information will be delivered through the established government networks and mechanisms at all levels, as well as the institutions and networks of partner organisations. Community Child Protection Officers and Community Child Protection Volunteers will be the frontline workers to carry out advocacy and raise awareness on the impact of emergencies on children, families, and other vulnerable groups.

Legal Protection of Children

NCPiEPRS finds legitimacy and legal basis under Section 13 of the PNG Child Protection Act (Lukautim Pikinini Act) (LPA). The LPA establishes the legal and regulatory framework for the National Child Protection System in PNG. Therefore, in the event of national disasters and emergencies, NCPiEPRS authorises the Director of OCFS to call for action for protection of children, children with special needs, children in conflict

¹ National Child Protection in Emergencies Preparedness and Response Strategy & Operational Plan 2020 COVID-19.

with the law, and children of incarcerated mothers and families. During the COVID-19 pandemic national emergency, the Director of OCFS (if required) may call for protection of children and families by taking such actions as placing COVID-19 affected children in temporary foster homes or licensed safe houses to provide them with a temporary and safe environment.

Targeted Programme Intervention

A comprehensive child protection service requires a systematic, multi-sector, multi-level, multi-faceted approach. Dedicated focal persons are needed in various divisions within mandated government agencies to provide medical, legal, social, and related services to ensure children and families can access and enjoy the protection they need. This entails the whole protection workforce providing preventive, responsive, and protective primary, secondary, and tertiary services for children and families. Legal legitimacy of NCPiEPRS under LPA empowers OCFS to design and implement programmes on child and family protection. It is therefore intended that several programme initiatives and services such as GBV response, case management, referrals, psychosocial support, and prevention as well as a safe environment will be implemented under this area.

What was the impact?

Although the implementation of the NCPiEPRS is still in its early stages, the process leading to its development showed coordination and collaboration fostered by the child protection sub-cluster, which was established in April 2020 in response to the COVID-19 State of Emergency in PNG. The sub-cluster is co-led by UNICEF and the OCFS and facilitates the dialogue between the Government, UN agencies and national and international NGOs on the response to the pandemic. This is an unprecedented collaboration, resulting from the effort made by UNICEF to bring all relevant stakeholders together to address issues affecting children. It is envisaged that this platform will transition into a permanent inter-agency coordination group led entirely by the Government to coordinate the implementation of the Child Protection Act and the Child Protection Policy, which will further promote government ownership and sustainability of the child protection system.

How will we know the intervention worked?

The NCPiEPRS is yet to be implemented. However, the monitoring and evaluation framework outlines that the NCPiEPRS will be monitored monthly, quarterly, and annually.

The monthly monitoring will be through the meetings of the National Coordinating Committee, reviewed quarterly through a review workshop and then annually through the Annual Review reports. The Annual Review reports will be presented to the National Child and Family Services Council who will then present to the Portfolio Minister to present as a Ministerial Statement to the National Parliament.

For effective analysis and processing, the data or information sources for each activity will be identified and responsible staff will ensure that they are well versed with the forms and the required information to be collected. The data or information sources may include quarterly and annual reports, minutes of meetings, copies of public announcements, discussion papers, etc.

What you should know

The implementation of the NCPiEPRS will require effective collaboration and integration with all other government agencies and partners to achieve the desired outcomes in child protection in an emergency. The collaboration and partnership will also provide the basis for securing resources and strengthening the funding base to effectively roll out NCPiEPRS nation-wide.

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Useful Links

National Child Protection in Emergencies Preparedness and Response Strategy & Operational Plan 2020 Covid-19 (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OhvvelByiDtJICucs1KkX4oEzPkYIS07>)

National Lukautim Pikinini (Child Protection) Policy (2017-2027) (https://archive.org/stream/FinalLukautimPikininiPolicyDec2016/Final+Lukautim+Pikinini+Policy+Dec+2016_djvu.txt)

SAMOA

Multisectoral policy reforms centred on Samoan values and cultural practices to define response services



Why is the intervention important?

Samoan women and children experience significant levels of violence in their homes. The 2019-2020 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey found that over 90 per cent of children aged 1 to 14 experience some form of violent discipline, with 82 per cent experiencing physical punishment and 20 per cent severe physical punishment. Emotional abuse is also a significant concern, with 82 per cent of children experiencing psychological aggression.¹ The 2018 national inquiry into family violence reported that sexual abuse of children has reached 'epidemic' proportions in Samoa, and also raised concerns about commercial sexual exploitation of children (both boys and girls).² However, the extent of child sexual exploitation remains under-researched.

The most recent MICS also found that 40 per cent of women aged 15 to 49 had experienced some form of violence (physical, sexual or emotional) from an intimate partner. In addition, 5.7 per cent experienced physical violence during pregnancy.³ The national

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inquiry revealed that 86 per cent of respondents had experienced physical violence within the family setting, including kicking, punching or other assaults.⁴

What is the intervention?

Samoa has made significant progress in strengthening the policy framework for an effective child protection system. In 2020, Samoa's first National Child Care and Protection Policy and the accompanying multi-sectoral National Action Plan 2020-2030 was finalised and endorsed by the Cabinet. The Policy outlines the mandate of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSO) in leading the development of child protection prevention, early intervention, and response services, and emphasises a multi-sectoral approach with clear roles and responsibilities for the social welfare, health, education, and justice sectors. The Policy also recognises the important contributions of NGOs, church groups, family, and community to the child protection system. The Policy envisions a child protection system based on strengthening community and family structures that is embedded in Fa'aSamoa (Samoan way of life) values and cultural practices. This will be achieved through a system that supports communities and families to care for and protect their own children and take action to prevent abuse. The system will promote early intervention by family, community, and religious leaders to support vulnerable children with child protection officers working collaboratively with family, community, and religious leaders in responding to reported cases of children in need of protection.⁵

Additionally, Samoa's first Inter-agency Essential Services Guide (IESG) for Responding to Cases of Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection was finalised and launched in February 2021. The IESG primarily focuses on the inter-agency aspects of the response process and provides frontline workers with guidance on their roles and responsibilities in reporting and responding to gender based violence (GBV) and child protection (CP). MWCSO is engaging

1 Samoa Bureau of Statistics (2019-2020) Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.
 2 Ombudsman & NHRI (2018) National Inquiry Report into Family Violence, p. 13.
 3 Samoa Bureau of Statistics (2019-2020) Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.
 4 Ombudsman & NHRI (2018) National Inquiry Report into Family Violence, p. 11.
 5 Samoa National Child Care and Protection Policy 2020-2030, MWCSO 2020.

bilaterally with key government and non-government actors indicated in the IESG to foster coordination and development of response services guidelines and standards involving various sectors. This will help ensure that women and child survivors receive safe, timely, and holistic support.

What is the expected impact?

Samoa families and communities remain an important source of care and protection for children. The endorsed Policy and Guidelines will allow women and children survivors of all forms of abuse, neglect, or exploitation to have better access to services provided through both informal and formal support networks, acknowledging the importance of the social safety net provided by village councils, community leaders, churches, and extended family, and emphasising the importance of building on the existing structures embedded in Fa'aSamoa and Samoan culture. The joint work highlights the fact that violence against children and violence against women often occur in the same household and share similar drivers, causes, and contributing factors, that there is overlap when children are survivors of GBV, and that service providers for children and women are often the same. However, the joint Guidelines also makes it very clear to service providers that the response for children is different from the response for women, for the simple reason that children are especially vulnerable and may have limited capacity during child developmental stages to get the help and support they need on their own and to make decisions in their own best interest. It is expected that response services for both women and children will be improved through service providers' greater understanding of the interlinkages and differences between GBV and CP.

Further, the Policy and Guidelines provided an impetus for relevant sectors to develop their respective guidelines and standards for response services for survivors of GBV and CP. For instance, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has recently finalised its Standard Operating Procedure for Clinical Management of Rape that includes a section outlining standards when dealing with direct and indirect child survivors, thereby effectively making GBV and CP a public health concern. Meanwhile, the Community Sector, which serves as the de facto Protection Cluster in-country and led by MWCSO, has started working on the development of Child Protection case management standards and guidelines for the social service workforce with the main non-government child protection service provider, the Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG). Finally, the development of the National Prevention Framework will be informed by the Policy and Guidelines as well.

How will we know the intervention worked?

Both the Policy and the Guidelines are implemented and monitored by the Government in collaboration with civil society organisations and communities to ensure accountability. Monitoring and evaluation systems being put in place will measure how relevant agencies are working collaboratively to promote and enhance the referral pathway for response services. Both the Policy and the Guidelines also require relevant sectors to set up their respective systems by developing SOPs and quality benchmarks.

What you should know...

Next steps for the Ministry and inter-agency partners, is to endorse and officially launch national standards and guidelines for child protection case management; scoping to identify best practices and gaps has already been completed and key stakeholders are meeting regularly to workshop the forms and processes. Training and capacity-building efforts in other sectors engaged in ending family violence are also ongoing. A national communications campaign is in development as well, which aims to promote gender-equitable, child-friendly and violence-free norms, attitudes and behaviours, especially within the family. The campaign, funded by the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to End Violence Against Women and Girls, will raise awareness and improve knowledge and understanding of the nature, causes, and consequences of family violence across the whole society, and promote social and behaviour change in relation to norms regarding gender and violence among children, adolescents, and adults. The ongoing development of the National Prevention Framework is also in keeping with the recent restructuring within the Ministry, which will have units dedicated for Prevention and Early Intervention as well as Case Management.

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Useful Links

For more information about UNICEF and its work for children in the Pacific visit (<http://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/>)

THAILAND

A continuum of prevention and response through health services: The Child-Shield Project



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Why is the intervention important?

Despite progress, many children in Thailand continue to face significant protection challenges and suffer from violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect. According to the 2019 MICS, 58 per cent of parents reported using some type of violent discipline, and 2 per cent (the equivalent of nearly 250,000 cases nationwide) used severe physical punishment, which could be qualified as child abuse. Yet the statutory response services (Provincial Shelters for Children and Families and One Stop Crisis Centres) addressed less than 10 per cent of the potential cases in 2019, highlighting the large gap and plight of children whose cases remain unreported.

Considering this context and associated challenges, the Child-Shield tool is important because it puts the child at the centre of a continuum of preventive and response services rather than relying solely on a reactive approach to child protection. Child-Shield

Response and Support Services

provides a tool for government child protection case managers for monitoring every child in the community (currently piloted through 5 hospitals in Udonthani and Sakhon Nakhon province in the 8th Health Region of Thailand), to ensure that they are safe from harm and to detect any risk of potential abuse in order to plan and deliver personalised interventions to suit the circumstances of each child.

What is the intervention?

The Child-Shield project, currently implemented in the Udonthani and Sakhon Nakhon provinces, has developed an application that monitors, predicts and detects risks of violence amongst children and young people by screening every child within the hospital information system and identifying those who are being subjected to violence and those who are at an unacceptably high risk of exposure to violence, all of whom will then be referred to the appropriate authorities to respond to their needs and ensure their safety. It also provides case managers and social workers with all the relevant information that is available to allow them to make decisions on how to proceed on a case-by-case basis.

This means that a child's parent or caregiver can get the needed support to prevent harm to their child. As the tool can also refer the child and family to the Thai cash assistance scheme for vulnerable families, the child or the family can also receive long-term or short-term economic support. If needed, programmes, such as the Parenting for Lifelong Health (PLH) that has been integrated into Child-Shield, can also be accessed by the child, parents, or caregivers.

The Child-Shield project will exchange and utilise information from the joint project between UNICEF and the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) on the Primero case management information system which is also being introduced and piloted in the 8th Health Region of Thailand. It will also feature a consent and acknowledgement system that complies with Thailand's Personal Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulation.



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What is the expected impact?

Child-Shield serves to improve access to quality health, social welfare, and justice support services, including identification of violence for all children who need them, which in turn will serve as prevention measures by reducing the incidence and long-term impact of violence. The project is in the initial piloting stage, having finalised its risk assessment model, consent and acknowledgement form, and application as of August 2021. So far, after cleansing the data, using 1,083,941 cases to build the model, the risk assessment model was able to identify 380 children who are at risk, with 129 of them being at risk of physical or sexual abuse with 72.27 per cent accuracy. A majority of these cases were previously unknown to the case managers and social workers and have been confirmed to be actual cases of child abuse.

Implementation of the application has already greatly benefited the digital transformation of the various databases in the pilot province. Many of the records that were previously kept in paper format have now been digitised and utilised to the fullest potential. The application also streamlined the ability to plan and carry out interventions, from the selection of participants with the first batch of identified high risk cases (family members) being selected to participate in the pilot of the PLH programme, to the registration of the participants in the intervention via the in-application workplan assignment processes which were also used to register trainees for the PLH facilitator training.

It is expected that the Child-Shield application, which connects users together by a shared data repository, can also act as a forum that will allow child protection

officers from across the country to share their ideas and practices to help deliver child protection services as a collective effort. Response interventions that resulted in failures, that are proven ineffectual or not economical will be weeded out by the system and the users. Best practices will be identified and created by the child protection community itself through the Child-Shield application.

How will we know the intervention worked?

Lessons learned from the initial stage in the implementation of the Child-Shield project is that there is big potential in using a machine learning algorithm to detect and predict risks and victims of child abuse. Upon finalisation of the piloting stage, the Child-Shield system's effectiveness will be measured through different indicators in the system including the number of cases referred and closed. The system will also compare the number of child victims of abuse compared to the previous period before the initiative was implemented. Since the system is designed to monitor every child in the community and assess risks in real time, the Child-Shield system can also be used to monitor the efficacy of all the interventions within the system, such as PLH training.

What you should know...

- The team plans to use the consent and acknowledgement system that is designed to keep users updated on the changes and lessons learned by other users in the system.
- All data related to children and their family members in the database will be confidential. Only those who need to know their identity to achieve child protection objectives will have access to their identity.

Date intervention started: 1st phase March 2016, 2nd phase 2020.

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THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES

Integrated emergency preparedness & child protection framework to protect children and their communities from violence during emergencies

Response and Support Services



Why is the intervention important?

The 'Integrated Emergency Preparedness and Child Protection Framework to Protect Children and their Communities from Violence during Emergencies', implemented in southern Thailand and Mindanao, Philippines seeks to increase national, provincial and local capacities to embed Child Protection into Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Emergency Preparedness Plans (EPPs), with a focus on prevention and response strategies and approaches based on a thorough analysis of the key drivers of child protection risks and vulnerabilities and an understanding of key areas that are likely to be exacerbated in humanitarian contexts. Through partnerships with UN Women and given the programme's emphasis on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), communities, national authorities, and regional bodies, the intervention seeks to not only to improve response modalities, but also to strengthen initiatives aimed at preventing and mitigating SGBV.

What is the intervention?

The initiative began in June 2020. Interventions include:

- Developing child protection and emergency preparedness, response, and early/anticipatory

action plans for children in disaster settings and conflict affected areas in close conjunction with community stakeholders.

- Holding comprehensive consultations at the community level and the piloting/testing of tools to better understand the key drivers of violence against children, including SGBV, social, and gender norms and obstacles and barriers hindering interventions which seek to prevent and respond to VAC.
- Increasing the capacity of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), existing community-led child protection committees and local government actors to conduct community action planning and take appropriate child protection measures that are rooted in the community context.
- Supporting advocacy through a policy brief, endorsed by the Deep South Child Protection in Emergency (CPiE) Working Group, on the gaps of child protection in emergencies and call for action for CPiE to be embedded in EPPs at the national level.
- Given the strong focus on SGBV, developing partnerships with UN Women at both the regional and national level, including the alignment of preparedness of prevention initiatives with ASEAN Disaster Management Planning and capacity building initiatives.

What is the expected impact?

The project is currently ongoing; however, it is anticipated that key child protection actors (community child protection committees, school authorities, child welfare units) will strengthen coordination on disaster and child protection risks, including the latter as part of the overall DRR agenda planning. Community-level consultations and dialogue will lead to more robust preparedness and anticipatory action and humanitarian intervention plans at the community-level itself. The Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Unit has been already involved as part of the advisory board to give advice and support the EPP development and table-top exercise to ensure the integration of CPiE into the existing preparedness plan. Communities will be more cognizant of the key social and gender norm drivers and will develop and implement behavioural change and other strategies aimed at both prevention and



response. Girls and boys will be more meaningfully involved in the design and implementation of the emergency planning process in both disaster and conflict-affected contexts and settings. At the national level, the project has influenced the Department of Children and Youth to develop an EPP development module and training package where CPIE is a key focus. This will equip more than 200 staff country-wide to be able to develop their CPIE-embedded preparedness plan according to their risk context.

The intervention will then contribute to the most marginalised girls and boys being safer and better protected from violence including SGBV, during conflict, natural, and everyday hazards in and around the community before, during, and after an emergency. The key learning of this intervention will be documented; there is already an interest from the government to replicate model of intervention in many provinces affected by conflict and natural disaster.

How will we know the intervention worked?

A baseline survey revealed that child protection measures are not well integrated into the preparedness and early planning actions, and most coordination is often on an ad hoc basis and relies on personal contacts between individuals rather than a systematic response according to plan. The endline survey will be carried out at the end of 2021 with the children's groups, community groups and local partner organisations, to assess impact on violence and risk reduction. Focus group discussions with children, community groups, local partners, and Provincial Disaster Management authorities will also be held for qualitative feedback on the impact of the intervention.

In addition, to date, Save the Children has been collecting feedback on the tools piloted at the community level—their feasibility and significance in strengthening CPIE plans and frameworks as well as coordinating with existing DRR and Disaster Management Plans at the provincial level. At the national level, this feedback will be collated into overall lessons-learned documentation to be shared with UN Women, Department of Children and Youth, and the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) and will include community-level case studies. End-of-Project evaluations are also currently being planned and will be used against baseline data, in particular, to assess the extent to which baseline recommendations were useful and effective in strengthening CPIE preparedness for both prevention and response in humanitarian contexts.

What you should know...

Community actors are key to success. They need to be fully engaged to understand the scope and the magnitude of the child protection risks and the vulnerability of the children before the CPIE plans and frameworks are developed. Collaborating with the local CSOs who have strong capacity on DRR is an advantage, but these CSOs would still need technical support e.g., CPIE and child safeguarding trainings, and tools to strengthen child protection in preparedness actions. Barriers to effective child protection must be identified i.e., SGBV norms and practice, as well key influencers e.g., religious leaders, social workers, psychologists/therapists, who can address and overcome those barriers. To address the SGBV risks and better protect children in the emergency context, the community-based approach must be promoted and integrated into the national preparedness plan led by the DDPM.

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Date intervention started: 1st of June 2020

CAMBODIA

Reducing violence against children through positive discipline in schools

Education and Life Skills



Why is the intervention important?

Corporal punishment is explicitly prohibited in Cambodian schools under the Education Law (2007) and the Sub-Decree on the Teacher Professional Codes. Yet, Cambodian teachers remain among the most frequently reported perpetrators of physical violence.

Cambodia’s Violence Against Children Survey 2013 found that teachers were the most common perpetrators of childhood physical violence outside the home among both females and males. Male teachers were reported as perpetrators more often than female teachers across all groups.

In order to address the ongoing use of physical punishment in schools, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) and UNICEF Cambodia initiated a pilot programme on positive discipline.

What is the intervention?

This intervention involved the development of Cambodia’s first-ever teacher training programme on positive discipline, aimed to foster secure, child-friendly and non-violent relationships between teachers and their students. It was designed with the understanding that if teachers are to stop using physical punishment

in schools, they need to be given alternative tools to manage children’s behaviour.

The teacher training package focuses on effective ways to manage classrooms, resolve conflicts non-violently and create positive student-teacher relationships. It includes a revised Child-Friendly Schools manual on Preventing Violence Against Children and three accompanying tool books on positive discipline: 1) A Guide for Facilitators, 2) A Tool Book for Senior School Leaders, and 3) A Tool Book for Primary School Teachers.

In 2015, the training package was piloted in 12 primary schools in three target provinces. The training was rolled out by MoEYS in a cascade manner. Members of District Training and Monitoring Teams from the three provinces were introduced to the Guide for Facilitators via a one-week MoEYS-UNICEF training in Phnom Penh. These District Training and Monitoring Team members subsequently provided training on positive discipline to school directors and teachers from public primary schools in the selected provinces.

UNICEF Cambodia Positive Discipline Theory of Change 2019-2023

Problem statement: girls and boys remain victims of violence in and around schools

If - institutional and legal frameworks are formulated and implemented to strengthen the system to protect children from violence in and around schools

And, national and sub-national authorities have the capacity to design, deliver and monitor the positive discipline programme

And, children, teachers, parents and communities have improved knowledge, skills and attitudes to protect girls and boys from violence

Then – girls and boys are increasingly free from violence in and around schools.

MoEYS, with support from UNICEF and key NGO partners, developed and endorsed the Child Protection in Schools Policy in 2016 and incorporated teacher training on positive discipline into its five-year action plan, covering 2019-2023, embedding positive discipline into the school system.

What was the impact?

Pre- and post-intervention data recorded an increase in positive discipline and a reduction in corporal punishment, as well as improved learning environments for children. The percentage of students who reported experiencing moderate physical discipline at school decreased from 73.4 per cent to 46.5 per cent. Furthermore, the percentage of students reporting experiences of moderate verbal discipline at school decreased from 52.9 per cent to 32.2 per cent.¹

As of April 2021, training has been rolled out in 1,413 primary schools in three target provinces, reaching 12,043 teachers and school directors and benefitting 429,300 girls and boys from all grades.

Positive discipline training has been embedded within the Government's education system. The training is being integrated into pre-service teacher training programme in the Teacher Education College (TEC) and MoEYS Teacher Training Department (TTD), with the overall goal of reaching all primary school teachers in Cambodia.

How do we know the intervention worked?

As part of this initiative, MoEYS and UNICEF worked with the Royal University of Phnom Penh to measure the impact of the training package. Baseline and end-line surveys were conducted pre- and post-intervention in 2015 and 2016 to measure the changes in behaviour among teachers in terms of their use of corporal punishment, as well as improvements in the learning environment, as reported by students. The results of the baseline and endline surveys showed reduced violent punishment by school staff by 30 per cent and improved children's sense of safety in schools.

Throughout the implementation of the positive discipline in schools programme, MoEYS, the District Training and Monitoring Team, and UNICEF staff have conducted monitoring visits to assess the impact of the intervention, including utilising a checklist and conducting short surveys and interviews with teachers and students. These results showed the increase

in teacher's knowledge on children's rights, child protection in and around schools, positive discipline and effective classroom management. UNICEF has also commissioned a formal piece of research designed to comprehensively assess the impact of the positive discipline in schools programme and inform future implementation, with data collection set to begin in December 2021.

What you should know...

Through this intervention, teachers and other school staff also had their capacity enhanced to provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to students in need of support. Teachers also were equipped with strategies to promote their own self-care, while school-based child protection procedures and reporting and referral mechanisms were also strengthened. UNICEF is also working with MoEYS to conduct research to measure the impact of in-service teacher training on positive discipline and effective classroom management. The research will generate knowledge and identify good practices and innovations to strengthen and improve the current initiative, while also informing the evidence-based decision-making processes on the scale-up of the training nationwide.

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Useful Links

Read more about the impact of this intervention:
(<https://unicefcambodia.blogspot.com/2017/06/positive-discipline-makes-difference-at.html>)

(<https://medium.com/@UNICEFCambodia/positive-discipline-in-cambodian-schools-primary-school-teacher-mr-yai-chann-98af7f44e06a>)

(<https://medium.com/@UNICEFCambodia/ending-violence-against-children-at-school-in-cambodia-363eb53a49cc>)

¹ MoEYS, UNICEF Cambodia, Department of Psychology at Royal University of Phnom Penh, Endline Survey on Positive Discipline in Schools in Cambodia, 2016.

INDONESIA

Improving the wellbeing and protection of boys and girls in schools - bullying prevention (ROOTS)



Why is the intervention important?

Prevention of violence against children at schools, homes, and public spaces is a priority agenda of the Indonesian government as stated in the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2015-2019. One of the main strategies is changing social norms which accept, tolerate, and ignore violence against children. Existing evidence indicates violence against children occurs in all settings including in schools and online. At least 45 per cent of 2,777 young people aged 14-24 surveyed reported having experienced cyberbullying (U-Report, 2018) and two of three children aged 13-17 reported having experienced at least one type of violence in their lives (SNPHAR, 2018).

What is the intervention?

ROOTS is an evidence based, adolescent-driven anti-bullying intervention model, which was developed based on workshops with government, university, and youth and community groups. This intervention targets Junior High School (SMP) students aged 12- 15 years.

The programme starts with students nominating 30 peers who have influence in their social networks to become agents of change. Once identified, these agents of change participate in 15 sessions to

identify bullying issues and develop and monitor the implementation of action plans to address bullying in their schools, culminating in a campaign that involves the entire school and student body.

ROOTS provides evidence on how to involve all school elements in promoting child participation on bullying prevention, improving teacher skills on positive discipline, and promoting a safe school environment. On the last day of the program, students arrange a 'ROOTS Day', wherein the selected agents of change present activities undertaken, challenges, and lessons learned, including how they influenced their friends to stop bullying other children. As part of the closing event, each school adopts a declaration for bullying prevention.

What was the impact?

ROOTS was piloted in South Sulawesi and Central Java provinces in 2017-2018 with the support of local government and UNICEF implementing partners. During the initial pilot phase, trained ROOTS facilitators reached 3,568 students. A study of participating students in the pilot phase and control groups recorded a decrease of 29 per cent in bullying and of 20 per cent in victimisation (see the next section).

Based on these positive results, the Makassar Education Office allocated a specific budget in 2019 for the implementation of a ROOTS programme in Junior High Schools facilitated by Child Forum Facilitators. UNICEF's implementing partner, Yayasan Indonesia Mengabdi received a grant for the scale up of ROOTS in 40 schools in four districts through Programme Organisasi Penggerak (the Driving Organisation Program) of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research Technology (MoECRT).

In 2021, the MoECRT adopted ROOTS as one of its priority programs to address bullying in 1,860 schools (Junior High School, Senior High School, and Vocational School) with the aim of reaching more than 54,000 students as agents of change. UNICEF is providing technical assistance including in programme design, module adaptation, establishment of national facilitators and digitisation of the training modules. By September 2021, 4,000 teachers were trained

Education and Life Skills

as ROOTS facilitators to improve their skills, change social norms, promote positive discipline, and protect children in schools. This was achieved through a strong collaboration between MoECRT, UNICEF, and other implementation partners.

How do we know the intervention worked?

In 2019, a needs assessment was undertaken by the University of Semarang, Soegijapranata Catholic University and University of Oxford to review the evidence-base for anti-bullying interventions in Indonesia and globally. Promising intervention components were identified and tailored to the local contexts using participatory action research methods. This was then piloted in an exploratory initiative involving four schools in two separate locations in South Sulawesi province to test the feasibility of key intervention components. Subsequently, another two locations were tested for feasibility and acceptability of the modified interventions across eight schools in two sites in Central Java province.¹

In 2021, UNICEF and MoECRT developed survey instruments through U-Report to measure behavioural changes of students and teachers who participated in the ROOTS programme with regards to school bullying. More than 50,000 respondents participated in the baseline survey. The baseline data has been collected and is currently in the process of being analysed: the endline survey will be conducted at the end of 2021.

What you should know...

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Research Technology (MoECRT) has launched the official ROOTS webpage under the Character Strengthening Center that contain information about ROOTS overview, Roots video, and information materials.

To address the remote learning process during the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF support ROOTS Digitisation which can be accessed through Character Strengthening Center Learning Management System, a MoECRT owned website. Since it was launched in September 2021, more than 25,000 users have registered and participated in this e-module. All Agents of Change are encouraged to access this e-module before they attend the ROOTS sessions with teachers and friends

Challenges

The national rollout of the ROOTS model, led by MoECRT requires a comprehensive monitoring system for standard quality assurance. In order for school-based interventions on prevention of school violence to succeed, ROOTS programs should be complemented with building teachers' and parents' capacity on positive discipline and positive parenting.

Next Steps

UNICEF is supporting the MoECRT to institutionalise ROOTS and Positive Discipline training into the teachers' training curriculum by engaging other technical units in MoECRT, such as the National Training Centre for Education Quality Assurance. UNICEF is also supporting the development of referral mechanisms between schools and child protection services.

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Useful Links

Official ROOTS webpage (<https://cerdasberkarakter.kemdikbud.go.id/merdekadariperundangan/>)

Character Strengthening Center Learning Management System (<https://belajarbersama-cerdasberkarakter.kemdikbud.go.id/>)

The development and pilot testing of an adolescent bullying intervention in Indonesia – the ROOTS Indonesia program (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/16549716.2019.1656905>)

¹ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/16549716.2019.1656905>

MALAYSIA

The Kindness Campaign: Young people promoting an end to violence in Schools

Education and Life Skills



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Why is the intervention important?

According to a study by the World Bank¹, violence in and around schools (VIAS) is a threat not only to learning, but also to a child's well-being, health, and future earnings as an adult. In fact, VIAS has cost the world an estimated US \$11 trillion in lost human capital wealth. Ending violence in schools and at home is therefore critical for the holistic development of children and society as a whole, but it is a goal that many countries are far from achieving.

A recent study² in Malaysia showed that 79.1 per cent of secondary school students in the country have been involved in bullying, 14.4 per cent as engaging in bullying behaviour, and 64.7 per cent as victims. Corporal punishment — another form of violence against children — further exacerbates this by normalising violence both at school and at home. A 2018 survey by YouGov showed that only 20 per cent of Malaysian parents are against physical punishment, while 47 per cent believe that it should be allowed in schools.

With violence against children so pervasive, both from peers as well as teachers and parents, a counter-culture programme is needed to create a new paradigm for student interactions and positive discipline.

What is the intervention?

The Kindness Leaders programme aims to end violence in schools and throughout broader society by empowering students to become advocates for kindness and empathy. Instead of attacking bullying behaviour, the programme takes a more positive approach of promoting kindness and empathy as a long-term solution to eliminating violence against children.

Participants begin by attending a Kindness Leaders workshop, specially designed with games and activities that improve empathy skills. A separate workshop for the participants' teachers is also run simultaneously, with a strong emphasis on building empathy and kindness between teachers and students as a means to end corporal punishment. After completing the workshop, students then become part of the Kindness

1 Ending Violence in Schools : An Investment Case, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35969>

2 Bullying and Its Associated Individual, Peer, Family and School Factors: Evidence from Malaysian National Secondary School Students. <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/18/13/7208/htm>

Leaders community, where they network with other students, attend monthly webinars, receive leadership training, and organise their own Kindness Leaders workshops with their peers.

Influencers and other prominent personalities are also engaged to reinforce the messaging of kind and empathetic leadership, both in the workshops and subsequent webinars.

What was the impact?

In Malaysia, over 3,000 students and teachers took part in the Kindness Workshops in 2020, which were held in every state in the country.

An additional 1,200 students also participated in a six-week online Kindness Leaders programme via Google Classroom. After completing the Google Classroom programme, the students were encouraged to pitch for grant funding to kickstart their own Kindness Projects. UNICEF funded 40 projects, from over 100 submissions. Unfortunately, many of these projects have been delayed by school closures due to COVID-19.

The programme's success attracted attention from schools in other countries, which led to the Kindness Leaders Conference: Southeast Asia in 2021. Initially held as a pilot project limited to 200 students convening virtually, the conference received nearly 2,500 applications from across Southeast Asia, India, and China, from which 450 were selected. The 300 or so participants that completed the three-day programme rated it 4.85 out of 5, with 97 per cent saying they wanted to bring the Kindness Leaders movement to their countries, and 98 per cent asking that the programme be expanded to the rest of the world.

Kindness Leaders Conference participants were trained and equipped to run their own Kindness Leaders Conferences and workshops as well, which has seen student-led events in Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

How do we know the intervention worked?

While the Kindness Leaders programme has only run one full cycle due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the initial results are promising. An impact assessment had been planned through a research grant to a partnering university, but due to challenges in data collection due to Covid-19 restrictions as well as other administrative delays, this will be deferred to 2022.

In terms of anecdotal evidence, many teachers in Malaysia have asked for the programme to be expanded to help equip more teachers with positive discipline and empathy-based practices, as many are struggling to transition away from corporal discipline. Students across the region have also successfully organised their own Kindness Leaders initiatives such as localised versions of the conference as well as school-based kindness interventions. Participants from Indonesia helped organise their own national Kindness Leaders Conference, which will now be replicated by students in 7 regions across the country.

What you should know...

The Kindness Leaders programme is a spinoff of the successful #StandTogether National Kindness Week campaign, which had over 15,000 participants between 2018 and 2020. The campaign's positive, kindness-based approach towards ending bullying in schools quickly gained support from a full spectrum of stakeholders, including corporate sponsors, non-government organisations, a telecommunications company, media, and even Parliament.

The Kindness Leaders programme is an attempt to replicate this success in other countries, and to scale it into a global movement first by equipping student leaders, who would then help organise the programme in their respective countries.

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Useful Links

For more information about the 3PC partnership programme visit:

1. Ending Violence in Schools : An Investment Case. (<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35969>)
2. IJERPH | Free Full-Text | Bullying and Its Associated Individual, Peer, Family and School Factors: Evidence from Malaysian National Secondary School Students. (<https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/18/13/7208/htm>)
3. (<https://www.unicef.org/malaysia/stories/standing-together-curb-bullying>)

VIET NAM

Protecting ethnic minority children during COVID-19 in Ha Giang and Quang Tri Provinces through community-based schooling

Education and Life Skills



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Why is the intervention important?

COVID-19 had a nationwide but uneven impact in Vietnam where the less developed regions with large ethnic minority (EM) populations experienced the most difficulties. Mountainous regions with a majority of EM populations had infrastructural constraints in the deployment of alternative learning measures, and roughly 18.5 per cent of EM households have no TV which meant having no access to educational broadcasts offered by the Ministry of Education and Training during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. Online education was therefore a significant challenge for EM children when 38.7 per cent of them had no access to the Internet and only 10.3 per cent of EM households own a computer (desktop or laptop).¹ According to Plan International Vietnam's (PIV) research findings, key challenges faced by EM children in Ha Giang and Quang Tri Provinces during COVID-19 crisis include: Increased inequality in access to education

and other development opportunities between ethnic minority children and their Kinh counterparts or those living in more affluent areas.²

Potential long-term implications exist for the nutrition, health, and physical development of children especially for ethnic minority children and children from poor families who are depending on state social support. Increased safety risks exist due to the disruption of protection through the school in less developed areas where schools are not just providing education, but also offering a safe haven and an alternative space in which children can acquire skills and social networks. Ethnic minority children in particular face risks related to reproductive health, early marriage, and girls dropping out of school during puberty with traditions of sexual freedom such as the H'mong.³

In addition, gender-based violence against women and girls, especially domestic violence, has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Existing reports reveal that the number of women calling for support via the helpline has increased by seven times compared to the same period in the previous year. The number of women seeking counselling support has increased by 48 per cent. Children have faced an increase in verbal and corporal punishment.⁴

In this context, PIV collaborated with local partners, in particular the Department of Education and Training (DoET) in five provinces to implement a model of community-based learning that aims to ensure that gender-based violence (GBV) risk-mitigation measures are in place, monitor issues related to school closures, and to prepare for children to return to school. The model is part of the wider project, Protecting Ethnic Minority Children during COVID-19, which was implemented from April 1 to June 30, 2020 in 5 provinces in Viet Nam.⁵

1 The national census on 53 EM groups by CEMA and GSO in 2019.

2 Assessment of the disruption of education on ethnic minority children and girls caused by the impacts of COVID-19 – cases in Ha Giang and Quang Tri provinces) – July 2020.

3 Meschke, L. L., & Dettmer, K. (2012). 'Don't cross a man's feet': Hmong parent–daughter communication about sexual health. *Sex education*, 12(1), 109-123.

4 UNDP Rapid assessment on social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on Children and their families in Vietnam.

5 PIV works at 5 provinces: Ha Giang, Lai Chau, Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Kon Tum.

What was the intervention?

The model is a component of the wider project that aimed to provide the emergency response to mitigate impacts of COVID-19 on children. Key interventions of the model include: cooperation with the local education actors to revise the curriculum to ensure the key subjects were given sufficient time and effort to maximise learning opportunities; development of materials for community-based teachers who play crucial roles in conducting small learning groups in villages; and the provision of trainings for community-based teachers and community volunteers on how to prevent COVID-19 infections using the Vietnamese Government Guidance, especially in the context of implementing activities of community-based schooling. The training also covered: the identification of potential risks and challenges in preventing and responding to GBV, child marriage and the impact of COVID-19; seeking support from the local government and accessing support services; the organisation of small learning groups in the villages; and encouraging ethnic minority children and parents to support their children to participate in community-based schooling as an alternative to online learning.

What was the impact?

The model of community-based schooling has achieved significant outcomes to ensure girls and boys from ethnic minority communities are safe at home by maximising education opportunities and mitigating GBV-related risks caused by the COVID-19 restrictions as follows:

- Approximately, 330 local authorities and 1,300 teachers of 135 primary and lower secondary schools were able to mitigate risks and challenges related to GBV, child marriage, and disruption of education caused by COVID-19 that children experienced in their communities and homes;
- These teachers cooperated with village leaders and volunteers to ensure students received their homework. This was an effective model where internet infrastructure is poor;
- Approximately 5,800 children in Ha Giang and Quang Tri Provinces and their parents were able to identify potential risks, harmful gender norms, and how to seek support to prevent GBV, child marriage, and how to maintain a continuum of informal education for children;

- The same number of children from ethnic minority groups in both provinces were able to catch-up on basic knowledge, which prepared them for return to school while preventing GBV, child marriage, and other issues caused by COVID-19.

How do we know the intervention worked?

PIV hired an independent consultant to evaluate the impact of the model. The assessment report recommended replicating the model in remote ethnic communities where online learning is not possible due to lack of access to electronic devices and the internet.

What you should know...

Child Protection in Emergencies, especially the impacts of COVID-19 on children, is one of Plan International Vietnam's priorities. PIV is continuously working with local partners to address key children's issues, including: overcoming significant challenges to promote ethnic minority girls' right to education, especially addressing language barriers and difficulties of learning online in mountainous areas; ensuring child protection in the context of COVID-19, focusing on shifting harmful practices and gender norms and traditional perceptions to protect ethnic minority girls from child marriage, GBV and domestic work; strengthening cooperation among relevant stakeholders and preparing alternative solutions to maximise community resources for child protection in emergencies; and collaborating closely with DoET to deliver informal schooling for ethnic minority children and providing feedback to MOET on issues of education in remote and ethnic minority communities.

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Useful Links

Ministry of Education and Training
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