

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King



Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children 2017-2021

The Steering Committee
on Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children
11 December 2017



**Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans
and Youth Rehabilitation**



**National Institute of Statistics
Ministry of Planning**



Ministry of Tourism



**Cambodia National Council
for Children**



Ministry of Information



Ministry of Interior



National AIDS Authority



**Ministry of Labour and
Vocational Training**



**Ministry of Education,
Youth and Sport**



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Religion**

FOREWORD

Violence against children happens in almost every place in countries all over the world, whether rich or poor. However, childhood violence is often invisible, because it is hidden behind closed doors or because the lack of information and evidence on the affect and consequences of its economic impact and country development.

Under the wise leadership of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, the Kingdom of Cambodia has been progressing and has made significant achievements in all sectors. The Royal Government of Cambodia launched and disseminated the findings of Cambodia Violence Against Children Study on 22 October 2014 and has started to develop the Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children from July 2015 to July 2017.

Cambodia has joined the global movement asserting that violence against children is never justifiable, nor is it inevitable, if its underlying causes are identified and addressed, violence against children is entirely preventable. In 2013, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) undertook the Cambodia Violence Against Children Survey (CVACS), the first countrywide study and in the East Asia and Pacific region to provide evidence on the magnitude and nature of sexual, physical and emotional violence experienced by girls and young women and boys and young men in Cambodia. The CVACS found that many Cambodian children experienced multiple incidents of physical, emotional and sexual violence while they grew up; violence is often perpetrated by the people children love and in places children ought to feel safe. The report highlights that most children never talk to anyone about their experiences nor do they reach out for help. When they do, they encounter many obstacles to receiving support.

The findings from the CVACS are the driving force behind the Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children 2017-2021. The Action Plan was made possible due to the coordination and leadership of the high level co-chairpersons from MoWA and MoSVY with strong cooperation, partnership and commitment from government ministries and agencies represented in the multi-sectoral Steering Committee on Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children and its four Technical Working Groups. The activities outlined in the Action Plan are designed to help support efforts in Cambodia to develop and implement effective child-friendly prevention strategies, as well as to improve service provision for all Cambodians, especially for children, both boys and girls, who experience violence.

Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) and Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) together with other key line ministries, government institutions and national and international partners are committed to implement its commitment for the best interests of children and their families. On behalf of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Steering Committee on Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children, represented by focal points from the MoWA, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation, the Cambodian National Council for Children, the Ministry of Cult and Religion, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, the Ministry of Tourism, the National AIDS Authority and the National Institute of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning for their valuable inputs, time and efforts contributed.

On behalf of the Steering Committee, MoWA and MoSVY are honored and very proud to have coordinated this Action Plan and continue to cooperate together to effectively implement the Action Plan. To achieve our goal to end violence against children, support from the Royal Government of Cambodia with participation from national and international partners as well as children themselves and their families is crucial. Together we can stand up for zero tolerance on child abuse and violence.

Phnom Penh, 23 / 11 / 2017



Vong SAUTH

Minister
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Phnom Penh, 23 / 11 / 2017



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The Steering Committee on Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children, chaired by the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and the General Secretariat of the Cambodian National Council for Children as vice-chairs extend our gratitude to all those who have participated and contributed to the development of this Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children 2017-2021 (Action Plan).

Special thanks go to the members of the Steering Committee on Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children for their commitment and technical direction throughout the process, including the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, the General Secretariat of Cambodian National Council for Children, the Ministry of Cult and Religion, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, the National Institute of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Information, and the National AIDS Authority.

We would also like to express our gratitude to UNICEF for its technical and financial support and other UN and non-governmental members of the Technical Working Group, including the Angkor Hospital for Children, First Step Cambodia, Friends International, GIZ, Global Alliance for Children, ICS-SP, International Justice Mission, M'lup Russey, NGO CRC, PLAN International, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Save the Children, Social Services of Cambodia, The Asia Foundation, UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, Winrock International, and World Vision. We truly appreciate financial support from the Government of Canada through the Global Affairs Canada and the Together for Girls for this project.

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Finally, we recognize the powerful contribution of countless girls and boys and their families who shared with us accounts of their lives and the harrowing details of their experiences of violence, exploitation and neglect. Their stories provided instrumental information that helped us better understand the situation of violence against children in Cambodia and shaped the actions presented in this plan. We thank the Youth and Adolescent Reference Group who regularly participated in all Technical Working Group meetings and represented the voices of children throughout Cambodia. Their contributions will impact the lives of the many children and families that come after them as Cambodia moves to prevent and respond to violence against children.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
ABBREVIATIONS	vii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	viii
1.1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. Decision to Develop the Action Plan.....	1
1.2. Methodology for Development of the Action Plan.....	1
2. GLOBAL MOVEMENT TO END Violence Against Children	2
2.1. Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Partnership.....	2
2.2. INSPIRE	2
2.3. ASEAN Response to Violence against Children	2
2.4. Cambodia's Response to Violence against Children	3
3. Violence Against Children IN CAMBODIA.....	4
3.1. Key Concepts and Definitions	4
3.2. Situation of Violence against Children in Cambodia.....	4
3.2.1. Physical Violence	4
3.2.2. Sexual Violence	5
3.2.3. Emotional Violence	5
3.2.4. Child Neglect	5
3.2.5. Child Marriage	5
3.2.6. Child Labour	6
3.2.7. Child Trafficking	6
3.2.8. Online Child Sexual Exploitation	6
3.2.9. Children at Increased Risk of Violence	6
4. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACTION PLAN	7
4.1. Theory of Change (ToC) on Violence Against Children	7
4.2. General Principles and Approach	7
4.3. Scope of the Plan.....	8
4.4. Key Strategies.....	8

4.4.1. Strategic Area I: Coordination and Cooperation	8
4.4.2. Strategic Area II: Primary Prevention	8
4.4.3. Strategic Area III: Multi-Sectoral Child Protection Response.....	9
4.4.4. Strategic Area IV: Law and Policy Formulation	9
4.4.5. Strategic Area V: Monitoring and Evaluation	9
5. ACTION PLAN KEY RESULTS FRAMEWORK	10
6. MONITORING, REPORTING and EVALUATION	30
7. COSTING THE ACTION PLAN	30
8. CONCLUSIONS	30
9. GLOSSARY	31
10. REFERENCES	34
ANNEXES	37
ANNEX I: Sustainable Development Goals and Targets Relevant to Child Protection	37
ANNEX II: International and Cambodian National Legal and Policy Framework on Children's Rights in Cambodia	38
ANNEX III: Theory of Change on Violence Against Children in Cambodia	40

ABBREVIATIONS

ACWC	ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
CCWC	Commune Committee for Women and Children
CDC	US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDHS	Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey
CFS	Child-Friendly Schools
CNCC	Cambodian National Council for Children
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CVACS	Cambodia Violence Against Children Survey
GSHS	Global School-based Student Health Survey
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
INSPIRE	Implementation and enforce of laws Norms and value Safe environments Parent and caretaker support Income and economic strengthening Response and support Services Education and life skills
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
MIS	Management Information System
MoCR	Ministry of Cult and Religion
MoEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
MoH	Ministry of Health
Mol	Ministry of Interior
Molnf	Ministry of Information
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoLVT	Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training
MoP	Ministry of Planning
MoSVY	Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
MoT	Ministry of Tourism
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
NAA	National AIDs Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIS	National Institute of Statistics
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
ToC	Theory of Change
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WCCC	Women and Children Consultative Committee
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has set a strong resolve in this Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children 2017-2021 (Action Plan) to join the global movement to end violence against children, as articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the 2015 ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children. Findings from the Cambodia Violence Against Children Survey in 2013 showed that many of Cambodia's children experience physical, emotional, and sexual violence. Multiple sources also delineate data on other forms of violence against children in Cambodia, including neglect, child marriage, child labour, trafficking, and online child sexual exploitation. In addition to research findings, service providers and key stakeholders have identified groups of children with particular vulnerability to an increased risk of violence, including children living with disabilities and HIV/AIDS, children in residential care, children who identify as LGBT, children living or working on the street, out-of-school children, child migrants and children of migrating families, boy victims of sexual abuse, children living in rural or remote areas, children from indigenous, ethnic or religious minority communities, children in contact with the law, and children of incarcerated women.

In response to these findings, the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) was appointed to lead the development of the five-year Action Plan. MoWA established the Steering Committee on Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children whose membership includes 13 key government ministries and agencies. It also established four Technical Working Groups (TWG) with members including government, development partners, civil society organizations, UN agencies, and youth. This inclusive and collaborative action plan development process was designed to promote commitment and collaboration across sectors—health, social welfare, education, justice—and at all levels—national, provincial, district and lower levels. Commitment and collaboration between all of these key stakeholders will be essential to establishing a nationwide coordinated child protection system with a skilled and competent workforce to prevent and respond to violence against children in Cambodia.

A Theory of Change on Violence against Children in Cambodia was developed by the TWGs as a systems-level theoretical framework for developing the Action Plan's approach for addressing violence against children. The Action Plan identifies five key areas of intervention, including:

- 1) coordination and cooperation
- 2) primary prevention
- 3) multi-sectoral child protection response services
- 4) law and policy formulation and amendment
- 5) monitoring and evaluation.

The prevention and response activities articulated in each section of the Action Plan will be implemented at the national and sub-national levels by responsible ministries based on their Core Commitments, as well as development partners.

To support ministries to incorporate activities to address violence against children into their annual operation plans and budgets, the Action Plan includes cost estimations for the activities outlined in the key results framework. A monitoring and evaluation framework will report on progress and challenges to implementing the Action Plan. It will establish a comprehensive system for data collection on the nature and extent of violence against children and an evidence base for best practices in prevention and response interventions.

The RGC and many multi-sectoral stakeholders all have important roles to play in implementing the Action Plan and shaping Cambodia's future as one in which all children are protected and can live free of violence.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Decision to Develop the Action Plan

In recent years, Cambodia has made progress in efforts to address violence against children and important steps have been taken to develop core laws, policies, specific strategies and regulatory frameworks for child protection. The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has taken action in many sectors to address violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect, as well as including these issues in the National Strategic Development Plan and the National Action Plan on Violence Against Women. Significant challenges remain for the implementation of these structures in the absence of a comprehensive and centralized national child protection system and workforce.

In 2013, the groundbreaking Cambodia Violence Against Children Survey (CVACS) brought into clear focus the prevalence of violence against children in Cambodia and was an important step in understanding the issue. The decision to develop the Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children 2017-2021 (Action Plan) came in the wake of CVACS with the aim to move from research into action. After the launch of the findings from the CVACS, the Steering Committee on Violence Against Children made a unanimous decision that the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) would lead the effort to coordinate a strategy to prevent and respond to violence against children, including the development of a five-year, costed, inter-ministerial action plan. Subsequently, MoWA issued a decision (No. 1594) to establish the Steering Committee on Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children mandated to oversee and facilitate the development of this action plan to prevent and respond to violence against children over the period 2017-2021.

1.2. Methodology for Development of the Action Plan

The Steering Committee on Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children invited 13 ministries to participate. It is chaired by the MoWA and co-chaired by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) and the Cambodian National Council for Children (CNCC). Participating ministries include the Ministry of Cult and Religion (MoCR), the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS), the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Information (MoInf), the Ministry of Interior (MoI), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MoLVT), the Ministry of Tourism (MoT), the National AIDS Authority (NAA), and the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) of the Ministry of Planning (MoP).

To get a baseline of existing child protection systems and activities, each Steering Committee member institution conducted a mapping of all current and future activities addressing violence against children as identified in their sector strategic plans, as well as noting any important programming gaps on the issue. Based on this mapping and the CVACS findings, the ministries developed their *Core Commitments to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children in Cambodia* (Core Commitments). The Core Commitments consist of broad, overarching commitments by all 13 ministries and government agencies to address the findings and recommendations of the CVACS. The Core Commitments were launched along with the CVACS findings in October 2014.

In 2015, the Steering Committee on Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children created four Technical Working Groups (TWG) on Violence Against Children to address prevention, response, laws and policies, and monitoring and evaluation. The TWGs included members from the 13 government ministries, NGOs and CSOs, UN agencies, adolescent representatives, and other technical advisors. The TWGs met four times at the national level in Phnom Penh and twice at the sub-national level in Siem Reap and Preah Sihanouk. During these meetings, the TWGs collaboratively developed the Action Plan activities, outputs, outcomes and indicators based on the government Core Commitments and the ministries' mapping of existing programmes and activities to address violence against children. This Action Plan is the final product of the Steering Committee and TWGs' joint process. It articulates strategies and activities along five strategic areas of focus, including coordination and cooperation, prevention, response, laws and policies, and monitoring and evaluation, with capacity building as a cross-cutting issue. It is to be accompanied by a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework.

2. GLOBAL MOVEMENT TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Cambodia's response has been a part of a global movement to end violence against children. The 2006 Report of the Independent Expert for the Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children^[1] (the 'UN Study on Violence Against Children') provided the first global study on violence against children. The study identifies that violence against children takes a number of forms, including physical, emotional, and sexual violence, and neglect. The study reports that violence against children takes place in a range of settings, including: the home; the community; schools; the workplace; places of leisure, including sports and youth clubs; in residential care and custodial settings; religious institutions; and during law enforcement and judicial procedures^[2]. The study outlines the many consequences of childhood violence, including greater susceptibility to lifelong social, emotional, and cognitive impairments, as well as a higher correlation to medical and mental illness, intimate partner violence, and suicide attempts^[3]. The study recommended that '*all States develop a multi-faceted and systematic framework in response to violence against children which is integrated into national planning processes*'^[4].

2.1. Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Partnership

In 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)^[5] as the new primary global development framework and set of goals for 2016-2030. The SDG targets include a new emphasis on child protection and addressing violence against children, including:

- **SDG Target 16.2**, "end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children";
- **SDG Target 5.2**, "eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation";
- **SDG Target 16.1**, "significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere"^[6].

Several other SDG targets related to child protection address additional risk factors for violence against children, including poverty, health, gender equality, education, safe environments and justice. [See: **ANNEX I: Sustainable Development Goals and Targets Relevant to Child Protection.**]

In support of the SDG for child protection, *End Violence Against Children: The Global Partnership* was developed to bring together governments, foundations, UN agencies, civil society, academia, the private sector and young people to drive action toward achieving the new global target to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

2.2. INSPIRE^[7]

The heart of The Global Partnership's strategy to end violence against children is *INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children*. INSPIRE is an evidence-based package of interventions for violence prevention developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with experts across sectors^[8], which expands on UNICEF's Six Strategies for Action^[9]. This Action Plan was strongly influenced by the INSPIRE strategies, including activities, outputs and indicators. It focused on: implementation and enforcement of laws; norms and values; safe environments; parent and caregiver support; income and economic strengthening; response and support services; and education and life skills.

2.3. ASEAN Response to Violence against Children

In 2011, the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) identified Elimination of Violence Against Children (EViolenence Against Children) as one of the priority areas in its 2012–2016 ACWC Work Plan. A 2012 systematic review of research on violence in East Asia and the Pacific commissioned by UNICEF estimated the prevalence of physical abuse among boys and girls in the region to range from 10 per cent to 30.3 per cent; sexual abuse from 1.7 per cent to 11.6 per cent; emotional abuse from 31.3 per cent to 68.5 per cent; and child labour from 6.5 per cent to 56 per cent. Furthermore, three out of four children in the region experience violent discipline at the hands of teachers or parents. In 2015, an ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children (RPA/ EViolenence Against Children) was adopted by the ASEAN Summit of Heads of State and Government. This regional plan of action covers a period of ten years (2016-2025).

1 UN General Assembly. A/61/299: UN Study on Violence Against Children. 2006.

2 UN General Assembly. A/61/299: UN Study on Violence Against Children, para 38-80. 2006.

3 UN General Assembly. A/61/299: UN Study on Violence Against Children, para 36. 2006.

4 UN General Assembly. A/61/299: UN Study on Violence Against Children, para 96. 2006.

5 UN General Assembly. A/70/1: Transforming Our World - The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 2015.

6 Ibid

7 INSPIRE - Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/inspire/en/

8 The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), End Violence Against Children: The Global Partnership, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Together for Girls, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the World Bank.

9 UNICEF. Ending Violence Against Children: Six Strategies for Action. 2014

2.4. Cambodia's Response to Violence against Children

Cambodia's legal and policy framework for prevention of violence against children began with the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1992 and continued with the ratification of other key international children's rights conventions, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. Additionally, Articles 31 and 48 of the Cambodian Constitution require the State to recognize and respect human rights conventions and recognize the rights of children as stipulated in the UNCRC, particularly the right to life, education, and freedom from economic or sexual exploitation.

To prevent violence against children, the RGC has issued legislation on many topics, including: violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect; education and welfare; family and alternative care; and children involved with the justice system. The RGC has also issued national and sub-national policies such as the National Policy on Early Childhood Care and Development and National Action Plan on Early Childhood Care and Development (2014-2018). [See: **ANNEX II: International and Cambodian National Legal and Policy Framework on Children's Rights in Cambodia.**] The RGC has established strategies and a variety of mechanisms at the national and sub-national levels in order to assist in development of a child protection system in Cambodia, including the CNCC, Women and Children Consultative Committee (WCCC), and Commune Committee for Women and Children (CCWC). However, the RGC recognizes the need to move beyond a legislative and policy framework to have more targeted response interventions to violence against children.

3. VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN CAMBODIA

3.1. Key Concepts and Definitions

A *child* is defined as a person below the age of 18 years, in accordance with the UNCRC. Paragraph 17 of Cambodia's Civil Code outlines the definition of a minor as "persons under the age of 18 years". Other concepts, terminology, and definitions related to Violence Against Children are defined in the GLOSSARY in Section 9.

3.2. Situation of Violence against Children in Cambodia

Every day in Cambodia girls and boys continue to experience and witness violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. Children's experience of violence spans all social classes and levels of income, though their likelihood of being exposed to violence is often exacerbated by gender inequity, marginalization of urban and rural poor, fragmentation of families for purposes of economic migration, and negative attitudes and discrimination towards people with disabilities. Children experience and witness violence in their public and private spheres at home, at school, in their communities and religious centres, and online. This violence most frequently occurs at the hands of adults and older children in caretaking roles, including parents, siblings and extended family members, teachers, school peers, community members, religious leaders, and caregivers in residential institutions. Different forms of *violence against children* are driven by multiple factors at the family, community, and societal level and therefore need to be addressed with a variety of interventions.

This Action Plan draws on internationally recognized definitions of violence against children from two sources:

- Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: "all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse".
- World Health Organization (WHO) in the World Report on Violence and Health (2002): "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against a child, by an individual or group, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity."

The 2013 Cambodia Violence Against Children Survey (CVACS) provides baseline data on the prevalence of violence against children in Cambodia. The CVACS findings are the foundation for the long-term, targeted response interventions outlined in this Action Plan. Additional data sources on violence against children include the Cambodian component of the UN Multi-country Study on Men and Violence^[10], the Global School-based Student Health Survey in Cambodia (GSHS)^[11], the National Survey on Women's Health and Life Experiences^[12], and Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey (CDHS)^[13].

The data shows high prevalence of multiple types of violence against children in Cambodia, which constitutes a serious concern about the implementation of children's rights and has also been shown to have a negative impact on Cambodia's economy. UNICEF's *Economic Burden of the Health Consequences of Violence Against Children in Cambodia* report indicates that the economic burden of violence against children in Cambodia caused by health consequences and health risk behaviours, as well as loss of productivity, are substantial, at around US\$168 million and US\$83.3 million respectively^[14].

The following is a summary of the situation of violence against children in Cambodia.

3.2.1. Physical Violence

Physical violence is the most frequent type of violence experienced by Cambodian girls and boys and takes place in the context of their daily lives at home, at school, and in their communities. The vast majority of perpetrators of physical violence against children are the adults taking care of them – their parents (especially mothers) or other caregivers, siblings, close extended family, and teachers. Crucially, among those children who reported to have experienced some form of physical violence in their childhood, more than three quarters experienced multiple incidents.

- 1 in 2 girls and boys report experiencing physical violence, according to CVACS data^[15]
- 1 in 2 girls and boys aged 13 to 17 report experiencing *severe physical violence*^[16]
- Mothers are the most common perpetrators of physical violence against children in the home; teachers are the most common perpetrators of violence outside the home, according to CVACS data^[17]
- 17 per cent of students in grades 7 to 12 reported being physically attacked once or more at school, according to GSHS data^[18]
- 43 per cent of boys reported being beaten or physically punished at school by a teacher or headmaster^[19]
- 3 in 4 girls and boys reporting physical violence identified they experienced multiple incidents, according to CVACS data^[20].

10 Fulu E., Jewkes R., Roselli T., Garcia-Moreno C., UN Multi-country Study on Men and Violence, 2013.

11 World Health Organization (WHO), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Global School-based Student Health Survey in Cambodia, 2013.

12 Fulu E., National Survey on Women's Health and Life Experiences, 2015.

13 National Institute of Statistics (NIS), Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey, 2014.

14 UNICEF. Economic Burden of the Health Consequences of Violence Against Children in Cambodia. 2015.

15 Steering Committee on Violence Against Children, Findings from Cambodia's Violence Against Children Survey, 2013.

16 Steering Committee on Violence Against Children, Findings from Cambodia's Violence Against Children Survey, 2013.

17 Steering Committee on Violence Against Children, Findings from Cambodia's Violence Against Children Survey, 2013.

18 WHO, CDC, MoEYS, MoH, Global School-based Student Health Survey (GSHS) in Cambodia, 2013.

19 Fulu E., Jewkes R., Roselli T., Garcia-Moreno C., UN Multi-country Study on Men and Violence, 2013.

20 Steering Committee on Violence Against Children, Findings from Cambodia's Violence Against Children Survey, 2013.

3.2.2. Sexual Violence

Sexual violence affects around 5.5 per cent of Cambodian girls and boys aged 13 to 17, according to the CVACS data. Prevalence statistics may underestimate the true extent of sexual violence against girls and boys in Cambodia due to underreporting, given the strong cultural stigma associated with sexual violence and the fact that most victims have little or no means of legal or social redress. Girls who are raped may experience significant shame and stigma and find it more difficult to marry, as they are considered ‘damaged goods’^[21]. Boys who are sexually abused may experience stigma around male sexual victimization.

Harmful sexual behaviours of children in Cambodia and globally is a significant aspect of sexual violence against children and is defined as: ‘Sexual behaviours expressed by children and young people under the age of 18 that are developmentally inappropriate, may be harmful towards self or others and/or be abusive towards another child, young person or adult’^[22].

- More than 1 in 20 (5.5 per cent) girls and boys aged 13 to 17 years reported at least one type of sexual abuse^[23]
- Among those who had sexual intercourse as a child, 1 in 4 females (24.2 per cent) and 1 in 11 males (8.9 per cent) aged 18 to 24 reported that the first incident of sexual intercourse was unwanted^[24]
- Almost 1 in 10 females and males aged 13 to 17 years experienced non-contact sexual violence^[25]
- Rape constitutes 75 per cent of the violent offences against women and children reported to the police^[26].

3.2.3. Emotional Violence

One quarter of Cambodian children experience *emotional violence* by a parent, caregiver or other adult relative. Emotional violence may occur at home, at school, in the community, or within the law enforcement system by a child’s peers or other adults. This includes verbal abuse, psychological bullying and hazing, including via information and communication technologies (ICTs) such as mobile phones and the Internet, known as ‘cyber-bullying’^[27]. Despite the scale of emotional violence experienced by Cambodian children both inside and outside their homes, the topic has received relatively little attention and further research is needed on the extent, nature and determinants of emotional violence in Cambodia.

- 1 in 4 girls and boys report emotional violence in the home^[28]
- 1 in 4 girls and boys report being bullied at school^[29].

3.2.4. Child Neglect

Cambodian children under the age of 5 years receive inadequate care, according to CDHS data. The CDHS is the sole primary data source on *child neglect* in Cambodia and looks at the inadequate care and supervision of children, which is only one of many aspects of child neglect. Thus, further research is needed on the extent, nature and determinants of child neglect in Cambodia. Globally, child neglect is regarded as the most common type of child maltreatment with prevalence higher than physical, sexual and other types of abuse. Child neglect is associated with a wider range of damage than active abuse and can have devastating impacts on a child’s health and physical development, intellectual and cognitive development, emotional and psychological development, and social and behavioral development^[30].

- 1 in 10 girls and boys in Cambodia under the age 5 receive inadequate care, according to CDHS, 2014.

3.2.5. Child Marriage

Child marriage in Cambodia is an issue that impacts girls in far larger numbers than boys and with more intensity and is considered a form of exploitation of children. Child marriage and related teenage pregnancy are a major health concern that put both mothers and children at high risk of illness and death. Research shows that the chances of child marriage and teenage pregnancy increase with lower education attainment among women, lower economic status, and for girls in rural communities and ethnic minorities.

- 1 in 4 (23 per cent) of females and 1 in 15 (6.5 per cent) of males (aged 18-49) reported being married before the age of 18^[31]
- Rural and ethnic minority communities have a significantly higher prevalence of child marriage, such as ethnic minority groups in Achum district of Ratanakiri province, with prevalence as high as 59 per cent of girls married before age 18^[32].

21 UNICEF, An Analysis of the Situation of Children & Women in Cambodia, 2009.

22 Hackett S., Holmes D., and Branigan P., Operational Framework for Children and Young People Displaying Harmful Sexual Behaviours, 2016.

23 Steering Committee on Violence Against Children, Findings from Cambodia’s Violence Against Children Survey, 2013.

24 Steering Committee on Violence Against Children, Findings from Cambodia’s Violence Against Children Survey, 2013.

25 Steering Committee on Violence Against Children, Findings from Cambodia’s Violence Against Children Survey, 2013.

26 UNICEF, An Analysis of the Situation of Children & Women in Cambodia, 2009.

27 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), The Rights of the Child to Freedom from all Forms of Violence, 2011.

28 Steering Committee on Violence Against Children, Findings from Cambodia’s Violence Against Children Survey, 2013.

29 WHO, CDC, MoEYS, MoH, Global School-based Student Health Survey (GSHS) in Cambodia, 2013.

30 Harvard University Center for the Developing Child. In Brief: The Science of Neglect, 2013.

31 NIS and MoH, Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey, 2014.

32 UNICEF, Cambodia Country Programme 2016-2018: Child Protection.

3.2.6. Child Labour

The National Action Plan on the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour (2016 – 2025) determines **Child Labour** as any forms of paid and unpaid labour that affect psychosocial, physical, social and ethical development of the child under the age of 18, particularly their education. **Child Work** is a form of educational activity that equip the child with life skills that are productive to child's future and is a part of the family based skills that are not considered as child labour.

Cambodia Labour Force and Child Labour Survey conducted by the National Institute of Statistics, the Ministry of Planning in 2013 indicated that child labour situation in Cambodia was remarkably improve that showed the developments delivered by the Government of Cambodia in the past decade.

Child Labour is a complicated social phenomenon that is connected with the socio-economic and social attitude. Poverty and low education are key factors that contribute to child labour in Cambodia. Families with low income, lack of skills and low education are more likely to exploit child labour in order to sustain and support their daily living condition. Therefore, child labour are prevalence across different geographical areas, economic activities and in other forms of labour sectors. The 2013 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey indicated that children age between 15 – 17 years old worked in average 3 hours per day or 21 hours per month. Among four million children age 15-17 years, 775,245 (19%) were child labourers and among them 6% worked in hazardous forms, 4.9% engaged in other forms of child labour and 8.2% worked in a safe working condition.

The distribution of child labour in various labour sectors in 2012 indicated that approximately 50.4% of children worked in agriculture, forestry and fishery, 19% worked in manufacturing sector, 14.7% worked in commerce and mechanic sectors, 3.7% in construction and 5.1% worked in accommodation and food sectors.

3.2.7. Child Trafficking

The issue of *child trafficking* is a serious problem affecting the lives of boys and girls in Cambodia. The UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking reports that children are trafficked internationally to and from and domestically within Cambodia for begging, sexual entertainment, domestic work and other types of abuse. This issue has not been included in the Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children 2017-2021, as the RGC has a separate National Action Plan on the Suppression of Human Trafficking, Smuggling, Labour and Sexual Exploitation 2014-2016.

3.2.8. Online Child Sexual Exploitation

There is currently no research on the prevalence of *online child sexual exploitation* in Cambodia, but law enforcement and service providers are reporting increased identification of production, possession and distribution of child sexual abuse material online; grooming of potential child victims online with the intention of sexual exploitation; and live streaming of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Evidence suggests that online child sexual exploitation is seriously harmful to victims, creating long-lasting feelings of shame and powerlessness as they grow up^[33]. Evidence to clearly assess the scale and specific nature of online child sexual exploitation against children in Cambodia needs to be collected.

3.2.9. Children at Increased Risk of Violence

All children are fundamentally more vulnerable than adults due to their younger age, limited life experience, smaller physical size, maturity and means. However, some children are even more vulnerable than others and are at risk of violence due to individual characteristics or being members of vulnerable groups. Many of the risk factors are overlapping and a child could easily fall under multiple categories.

The Action Plan uses the phrase “*children at increased risk of violence*” to indicate the following specific groups of vulnerable children in need of special consideration for prevention and response to violence against children:

- Children Living with Disabilities and HIV/AIDS
- Children in Residential Care
- LGBT Children
- Children Living or Working on the Street
- Out of School Children
- Child Migrants and Children of Migrating Families
- Children Living in Rural or Remote Areas
- Children from Indigenous or Ethnic or Religious Minority Communities
- Children in Contact with the Law
- Children of Incarcerated Women

4. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan was developed, and particular strategic areas and activities selected for the key results framework, following: an examination of the CVACS; a review and gap analysis of the Core Commitments; an examination of existing evidence identifying good practices and lessons learnt in responding to violence against children from Cambodia and other countries, focusing on inter-sectoral and life-cycle approaches to violence; an analysis of the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women 2014–2018 and other relevant sectoral strategies and action plans; and development and review of a Theory of Change (ToC) on Violence Against Children in Cambodia.

4.1. Theory of Change (ToC) on Violence Against Children

A ToC on Violence Against Children in Cambodia was developed to support the Action Plan strategy based on a systematic review of relevant literature and a secondary analysis of the existing primary datasets on violence against children in Cambodia. The ToC on Violence Against Children in Cambodia operates at the ‘system level’ and lays out how changes in Cambodia’s child protection system can bring about the desired reduction or elimination of all types of violence against children in Cambodia. The ToC identified seven major determinants of violence against children to be addressed in the Action Plan: poverty and socio-economic inequality, education, norms supportive of violent discipline, discriminatory gender norms, impunity/lack of awareness about existing laws, a child’s previous experience of violence, and a lack of child protection prevention and response services.

In developing interventions to address violence against children determinants, the ToC referenced existing best practices in violence against children prevention and response, including the UN Study on Violence Against Children^[34], UNICEF’s Six Strategies for Action^[35], and The Global Partnership’s INSPIRE: *Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children*. The priorities and initiatives included in the ToC are articulated in a way that is consistent with UNICEF’s global theory of change for its 2014-2017 strategic plan^[36], the UNICEF Country Programme (2016–2018)^[37], the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women (2014-2018)^[38], as well as the National Action Plan for Child Development (2016-2018).

Development of the ToC took place at two national-level workshops in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, attended by approximately 40 government and civil society members of Steering Committee on Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children and four Technical Working Groups. These participants engaged in an in-depth participatory process developing, reviewing and amending the ToC for Cambodia. The purpose of these workshops was to disseminate the research findings, to develop a collaborative ToC on Violence Against Children in Cambodia, and to build capacity amongst national stakeholders on how to use the Theory of Change approach to policy and programming.

The results from this ToC helped determine the strategy in this Action Plan. To see the full ToC on Violence Against Children in Cambodia developed in July 2016, please refer to **ANNEX III: Theory of Change on Violence Against Children in Cambodia**.

4.2. General Principles and Approach

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child explains what needs to be included in a coordinating framework for addressing violence against children or national action plan^{[39][40]}. It needs to include legislative, administrative, social and educational measures and stages of intervention (from prevention through to recovery and reintegration)^[41]. The Action Plan is guided by the following principles:

- **Government Ownership of the Action Plan** – Recognition of the RGC’s ownership of the Action Plan based on the RGC’s commitment to the right of the child to be free from all forms of violence. The development of the five-year Action Plan is the result of coordinated efforts, under leadership of the RGC, with high commitment to actively participate and cooperate from all ministries, government institutions, international and local NGOs, the private sector and other development partners. The 13 ministries that are members in Steering Committee on Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children are responsible for the implementation of its strategic goals, objectives, outputs, and activities within their area of responsibility.
- **Child Rights Approach** – Acknowledgment of children as rights holder and not beneficiaries of benevolent activities of adults. This Action Plan included children in the process of its design as members of the TWGs and endeavours to incorporate their participation in its implementation, monitoring and evaluation (taking account of their age and evolving capacities).
- **Gender Dimensions of violence against children** – Consideration of the different risks facing girls and boys in various settings and in relation to different forms of violence, as well as aiming to address all forms of gender discrimination that perpetuate violence against children.
- **Primary Prevention** – Understanding prevention as paramount in any response to violence against children.

34 UN General Assembly A/61/299, Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child, 2006.

35 UNICEF, Ending Violence Against Children: Six Strategies for Action, 2014.

36 UNICEF, Revised Supplementary Programme Note on the Theory of Change for the UNICEF Strategic Plan (2014-2017), 2014.

37 UNICEF, UNICEF Cambodia Country Programme 2016-2018: Child Protection.

38 MoWA, National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women, 2014-2018.

39 UNCRC, The Rights of the Child to Freedom from all Forms of Violence, 2011.

40 Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence Against Children, Toward a World Free from Violence: Global Survey on Violence Against Children, 2013.

41 UNCRC, The Rights of the Child to Freedom from all Forms of Violence, 2011.

- **Primary Position of Families** – Recognition of the primary position of families in protecting children from violence and also that violence can take place within the family context.
- **Resilience and Protective Factors** – Recognition of internal and external strengths and supports which promote the personal security of children and reduce abuse and neglect and their negative impact. For example, stable families, nurturing adults who meet the child's needs, positive non-violent discipline, secure attachment to an adult, supportive relationships with peers, social cohesion and a social environment that is non-violent.
- **Reduction of Risk Factors** – Recognition that proactive, tailored measures need to be taken to reduce risk factors to which individual children and groups of children may be exposed, including substance abuse, mental health problems and social isolation, as well as family risk factors, such as poverty, unemployment and discrimination.
- **Children at Increased Risk and in Potentially Vulnerable Situations** – Recognition of children in potentially vulnerable situations and at increased risk of violence. For example, children in alternative care; children living and working on the street; children in contact with the law; children with disabilities; children from ethnic minority groups; LGBT children; children in early marriage; children involved in hazardous child labour; and child migrants or displaced children.
- **Human, Financial and Technical Resources** – Consideration that resources should be allocated, across sectors, to the maximum extent of available resources, and robust monitoring mechanisms should be developed to ensure accountability in allocation and utilization of budgets.
- **Effective coordination** – Understanding that mechanisms must be put in place to ensure effective coordination at central, regional and local levels, between sectors and with civil society.
- **Accountability mechanisms** – Establishment of accountability mechanisms, along with systems and tools for monitoring, evaluation and reporting on obligations under the action.

4.3. Scope of the Plan

The Action Plan covers:

- All relevant ministries and institutions
- National and sub-national administration
- Development partners
- Civil society
- Faith-based organizations
- Survivors
- Vulnerable people
- General public

4.4. Key Strategies

There are five key strategic areas of focus:

- i. Coordination and Cooperation
- ii. Primary Prevention
- iii. Multi-Sectoral Child Protection Response
- iv. Law and Policy Formulation
- v. Monitoring and Evaluation

Based on these priorities, the RGC has introduced the following key strategies and actions:

4.4.1. Strategic Area I: Coordination and Cooperation

Objective: To reduce violence against children through a multi-sectoral institutional framework for child protection, coordinating primary prevention and response strategies with ministries and institutions targeting key actors and settings for positive change.

Outcomes:

- Increased coordination and cooperation on efforts to reduce violence against children at all levels, including government ministries, institutions, development partners, service providers, communities and civil society
- Establish key bodies at the national and sub-national levels to coordinate, monitor, and report on the implementation of the Action Plan
- Strengthening of existing child protection systems and coordination of a comprehensive inter-ministerial child protection system
- Strengthening of existing reporting systems and establishment of a national centralized child protection information management system (CPIMS) with indicators on violence against children.

4.4.2. Strategic Area II: Primary Prevention

Objective: To reduce violence against children in the home, schools, communities and in the media through a multi-sectoral coordinated primary prevention strategy with ministries and institutions targeting key actors and sectors for positive change.

Outcomes:

- Increased media promotion of gender-equitable, non-violent social norms, images and messages
- Increased protection from violence for girls and boys in schools by institutional and legislative frameworks
- Increased capacity of service providers to support parents and caregivers in developing positive parenting knowledge and skills to help build safe, gender-equitable and non-violent families and environments
- Increased protection from violence for girls and boys in communities by community programmes and religious centres.

4.4.3. Strategic Area III: Multi-Sectoral Child Protection Response

Objective: To respond to violence against children by strengthening capacity of social service providers (health, education, justice, and child protection) to provide quality services that protect girls and boys who have experienced, witnessed, or are at risk of violence.

Outcomes:

- Increased access for girls and boys in contact with the law to effective, child-friendly law enforcement
- Increased capacity of the justice system to treat girls and boys in contact with the law in a manner that complies with international human rights standards and is in accordance with their needs
- Strengthening and expansion of an integrated child protection system to prevent and respond to violence against children
- Increased capacity of health care systems and professionals and their institutional and legislative frameworks to protect girls and boys
- Increased capacity of education systems and professionals and their institutional and legislative frameworks to protect girls and boys.

4.4.4. Strategic Area IV: Law and Policy Formulation

Objective: To reduce violence against children by strengthening legislative and policy frameworks to prevent and protect children against all forms of violence, abuse, and neglect.

Outcomes:

- Increased protection for girls and boys from corporal punishment and domestic violence by the legislative framework in compliance with international human rights standards
- Increased protection for girls and boys from sexual violence by the legislative framework in compliance with international human rights standards
- Increased protection for girls and boys from all forms of neglect by the legislative framework in compliance with international human rights standards
- Increased protection for girls and boys from all forms of violence by a child protection legislative and policy framework.

4.4.5. Strategic Area V: Monitoring and Evaluation

Objective: To reduce violence against children by developing a comprehensive system for data collection and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on violence experienced by children in Cambodia.

Outcomes:

- Establishment of a multi-sectoral monitoring and evaluation framework and coordinated multi-sectoral data collection and reporting system on violence against children in Cambodia
- Strengthened evidence base for strategies on prevention and response to violence against children in Cambodia.

5. ACTION PLAN KEY RESULTS FRAMEWORK

IMPACT: Violence against all children in Cambodia, especially those at increased risk, is reduced through increased prevention interventions, improved response, increased access to quality services, and multi-sectoral coordination and cooperation.

Impact Indicator 1: Reduction of prevalence of physical, emotional, and sexual violence experienced by children in Cambodia.

Impact Indicator 2: Percentage of the Cambodian population disapproving of all violence against children in all settings (home, school, community).

STRATEGIC AREA I: COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

Strategic Objective: To reduce violence against children through a multi-sectoral institutional framework for child protection, coordinating primary prevention and response strategies with ministries and institutions targeting key actors and settings for positive change.

Sub-area 1: Multi-Sectoral Institutional Framework for Child Protection

Outcome 1: Increased coordination and cooperation on efforts to reduce violence against children at all levels, including government ministries, institutions, development partners, service providers, communities and civil society

Outcome Indicator 1a: % of participating ministries and institutions at the national and sub-national levels incorporating violence against children and child protection indicators from the Action Plan into both their annual operations budgets and work plans

Outcome Indicator 1b: Establishment of a consolidated national framework for an inter-ministerial child protection system in Cambodia

Output	Indicator(s)	Activities	Lead Institution(s)	Timeframe (year)					Secondary Supporting Institutions
				1	2	3	4	5	
1.1. Strengthened roles, duties, and responsibilities of CNCC at the national level and WCCC at the provincial level to coordinate implementation of the Action Plan on Violence Against Children at the national and sub-national levels	Indicator 1.1.a. CNCC clearly mandated to coordinate the implementation of the Action Plan on Violence Against Children	1.1.1. Strengthen the roles, duties, and responsibilities of CNCC General Secretariat to coordinate, monitor, and report on the implementation of the Action Plan on Violence Against Children.	CNCC	X	X				Relevant ministries and institutions
	Indicator 1.1.b. Submission of quarterly report from WCCC to Mol 4 times per year	1.1.2. Strengthen the roles, duties, and responsibilities of WCCC at the sub-national level to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Action Plan on Violence Against Children and report to CNCC through Mol	Mol	X	X	X	X	X	WCCC
	Indicator 1.1.c. % of ministries and institutions that have incorporated activities from the Action Plan on Violence Against Children into their Annual Operational Plans	1.1.3. Coordinates and develops regulatory frameworks to incorporate activities from the Action Plan on Violence Against Children into their Annual Operational Plans	CNCC	X	X	X	X	X	Relevant ministries and institutions

STRATEGIC AREA II: PRIMARY PREVENTION

Strategic Objective: To reduce violence against children in the home, schools, communities, and in the media through a multi-sectoral coordinated primary prevention strategy with ministries and institutions targeting key actors and sectors for positive change

Sub-area 1: Media, Communication Strategy and Information

Outcome 2: Increased media promotion of gender-equitable, non-violent social norms, images and messages

Outcome Indicator 2a: # of people reached with messages promoting gender-equitable and non-violent social norms per week/ month/ year

Outcome Indicator 2b: # of media houses implementing a Code of Conduct or standard guidelines in reporting on cases of violence against women and children

Output	Indicator(s)	Activities	Lead Institution(s)	Timeframe (year)					Secondary Supporting Institutions
				1	2	3	4	5	
2.1. Increased capacity of media and ICT platforms to promote gender-equitable, non-violent social norms, images and messages and report/remove criminal content depicting or promoting violence against children	Indicator 2.1.a. # of parents, caregivers, and sub-national administrators reached with messages promoting their active role in preventing violence against children and gender-equitable and non-violent social norms per week/ month/ year	2.1.1. Develop a behaviour change (information & communication) campaign to address violence against children, which promotes the roles of families, commune councils, religious leaders, the media, and community organizations in protecting children from violence and addressing harmful gender and social norms	MoWA/MoSVY	X	X	X	X	X	MoInf. MoCR
	Indicator 2.1.b. # of children and young people who use mobile phone platforms and websites to access age-appropriate information on violence prevention, girls and boys with increased risk of violence, child marriage, online child sexual exploitation, sexual and reproductive health, rights and key service providers	2.1.2. Strengthen and expand Learning About Living Cambodia's ICT platforms to include information on violence prevention, girls and boys at increased risk of violence, child marriage, online child sexual exploitation, sexual and reproductive health and rights	MoWA	X	X	X	X	X	MoInf. MoH
	Indicator 2.1.c. # of people reached by Edutainment programmes with key violence against children messaging promoting gender-equitable and non-violent social norms per week/ month/ year	2.1.3. Promote Edutainment programmes incorporating key messaging on safe relationships and violence prevention	MoEYS	X	X	X	X	X	MoWA MoH MoInf. MoT MoCR

	Indicator 2.1.d. # of private ICT companies that have developed internal child protection policies and procedures for removal of criminal content depicting or promoting violence against children	2.1.4. Work with private ICT companies, including internet service providers and email service providers to develop internal child protection policies and procedures for removal of criminal content depicting or promoting violence against children	MoInf	X	X	X	X	X	Min. of Post and Telecommunication Mol
2.2. Increased capacity of media houses to respond and report appropriately and sensitively on cases of Violence Against Children	Indicator 2.2.a. Finalized Media Code of Conduct and Standard Guidelines for reporting on violence against children	2.2.1. Establish Media Advisory Group (MAG) under the Technical Working Group on Gender-Gender Based Violence (TWGG-GBV) and create a new Terms of Reference to develop a Media Code of Conduct and standard guidelines for reporting on violence against children	MoWA	X					MoInf. MoSVY MoCR MoEYS MoT Relevant stakeholders
	Indicator 2.2.b. % of media houses trained on violence against women and children issues	2.2.2. Disseminate and train media houses on the Media Code of Conduct	MoInf.	X	X	X	X	X	Media houses MoEYS MoT MoJ Relevant stakeholders
	Indicator 2.2.c. Official report on broadcaster compliance with Media Code of Conduct published	2.2.3. Formalize a media monitoring protocol and regularly publish an official report from MoInf and the MAG on broadcaster compliance with the Media Code of Conduct	MoInf		X	X	X	X	MAG TWG-GBV

Sub-area 2: School-Based Programmes

Outcome 3: Girls and boys are increasingly protected from violence in schools by institutional and legislative frameworks									
Outcome Indicator 3.a. # of girls and boys engaged by school-based child protection services									
Outcome Indicator 3.b. # of child reports of violence by peers or teachers in schools									
Outcome Indicator 3.c. # of child reports of violence in families or communities disclosed to school-based child protection officers									
Output	Indicator(s)	Activities	Lead Institution(s)	Timeframe (year)					Secondary Supporting Institutions
				1	2	3	4	5	
3.1. Increased capacity of education institutions and staff to prevent and monitor violence against children in schools and promote violence-free schools	Indicator 3.1.a. % of teachers trained on the use of positive discipline and identifying and reporting violence against children	3.1.1. Develop and implement pre-service and in-service training to teachers and other key school staff on: (a) Managing the behaviour of children by using positive discipline (b) Identifying and reporting violence against children, with special focus on girls and boys at increased risk of violence; (c) Promoting gender equality, including educating children on relationships, safe sex practices, and life skills; (d) Building the skills of children to engage in non-violent and non-discriminatory peer relationships; (e) Building resilience in children; (f) Promoting children's school participation, awareness of children's rights, and awareness of child protection services (g) Building online safety skills of children to prevent online grooming and online child sexual exploitation	MoEYS	X	X	X	X	X	MoWA MoH MoSVY
	Indicator 3.1.b. # of schools verifying acceptance and implementation of School Child Protection Policy and School Code of Conduct	3.1.2. Develop a School Child Protection Policy and School Code of Conduct to keep children safe from harm and that prohibits all forms of violence; Issue a Prakas and guideline to all schools to implement the policy	MoEYS	X	X				Relevant ministry institutions
	Indicator 3.1.c. # of reports produced from the Education Monitoring Information System (EMIS) capturing data (quantitative and qualitative) on child protection	3.1.3. Incorporate key child protection indicators into the Child-Friendly Schools (CFS) monitoring framework	MoEYS	X					Relevant ministry institutions

		3.1.4. Train District Training and Monitoring Teams (DTMTs) on collecting data and reporting on child protection indicators	MoEYS	X	X		Relevant ministry institutions
	Indicator 3.1.d. # and type of materials supporting violence against children or gender inequality that were identified for removal from curriculum and schools	3.1.5. Carry out a review of the compulsory curriculum in kindergarten, primary, and secondary schools to ensure that any material and pictures supporting violence against children or gender inequality are identified for removal	MoEYS	X			MoWA
3.2. Children and adolescents are able to identify and report all forms of abuse and violence, and to build gender-equitable, non-violent relationships	Indicator 3.2.a. # of schools delivering comprehensive, inclusive sex and safe relationship modules	3.2.1. Incorporate comprehensive, inclusive sex and safe relationships modules into the compulsory kindergarten, primary and secondary school curriculum, including age-appropriate content on: (a) Skills to identify and report violence, abuse, and neglect, and build resilience (b) Sexual and reproductive health, rights, and legal obligations (c) Healthy and respectful relationships, as age-appropriate; (d) Challenging harmful gender norms (e) Issues related to sexual entitlement (f) Private areas of the body and safe touching (kindergarten) (g) Online safety skills to prevent online grooming and online child sexual exploitation.	MoEYS	X	X		MoI MoJ MoH
	Indicator 3.2.b. # of schools incorporating adapted positive parenting toolkit into compulsory curriculum	3.2.2. Develop a youth-oriented positive parenting module based on the Positive Parenting Toolkit developed by MoWA and incorporate this into the compulsory secondary school curriculum	MoEYS	X	X	X	MoWA
	Indicator 3.2.c. # of peer-to-peer approaches developed in schools	3.2.3. Develop and promote peer-to-peer approaches in schools to encourage girls and boys to support non-violent norms and practices, non-harmful gender norms, and gender equality	MoEYS	X	X	X	Relevant ministries and departments

Sub-area 3: Supporting Parents, Caregivers, and Families

Outcome 4: Service providers will have increased capacity to support parents and caregivers in developing positive parenting knowledge and skills to help build safe, gender-equitable and non-violent families and environments

Outcome Indicator 4.a. # of parents reached with information on how to establish safe, stable and nurturing relationships with their children and within their families and use non-violent and non-harmful forms of child discipline

Output	Indicator(s)	Activities	Lead Institution(s)	Timeframe (year)					Secondary Supporting Institutions
				1	2	3	4	5	
4.1. Service providers working with children and their families will have increased capacity to provide basic positive parenting information and advice	Indicator 4.1.a. Positive Parenting Toolkit and special section for parents of children with disabilities developed	4.1.1. Building on the Positive Parenting Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Positive Parenting Toolkit Develop special section of the Positive Parenting Toolkit for supporting parents of children with disabilities 	MoWA	X					MoH MoEYS MoI MoCR MoInf. MoSVY NGOs
	Indicator 4.1.b. # of social service providers trained on basic positive parenting to provide information and advice on basic positive parenting concepts to parents, caregivers, and the general public	4.1.2. Building on Level 1 of the Positive Parenting Toolkit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select and train Master Trainers Train social service providers to provide awareness raising on basic positive parenting concepts for the general public Advocate for integration of Level 1 modules in pre- and in-service training of social service providers 	MoWA	X	X	X	X	X	MoH MoEYS MoI MoCR MoInf MoSVY NGOs
	Indicator 4.1.c. # of parents and caregivers who have received group parenting interventions for families at risk of violence or unnecessary family separation	4.1.3. Building on Level 2 of the Positive Parenting Toolkit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support social service providers to develop group parenting interventions targeted at families at risk of violence or unnecessary family separation 	MoSVY	X	X	X	X	X	NGOs
4.2. Increased capacities of social service providers to support caregivers of children who have experienced, witnessed, or are at risk of physical and/or sexual violence and to promote effective reintegration of children from institutional care	Indicator 4.2.a. # of parents and caregivers of child victims or children being reintegrated from institutional care, who have received specialized parenting support	4.2.1. Building on Level 3 of the Positive Parenting Toolkit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support social service providers to provide specialized parenting support as part of the child protection response when children have experienced or witnessed physical violence, sexual violence or neglect, or are being reintegrated from institutional care, including support and information about positive parenting, counseling, and financial services 	MoSVY	X	X	X	X	X	MoWA NGOs

Sub-area 4: Community-based Programmes

Outcome 5: Girls and boys are increasingly protected from violence by community programmes and religious centres, including girls and boys at increased risk of violence									
Outcome Indicator 5.a. % of child reports of violence made to community programmes and religious centres									
Output	Indicator(s)	Activities	Lead Institution(s)	Timeframe (year)					Secondary Supporting Institutions
				1	2	3	4	5	
5.1. Increased capacity of community programmes and religious centres to prevent, identify, and respond to cases of violence against children	5.1.a. # of youth organizations and groups implementing peer-to-peer approaches	5.1.1. Develop and promote peer-to-peer approaches for youth organizations to encourage girls and boys to support non-violent norms and practices, non-harmful gender norms, and gender equality	MoEYS	X	X	X	X	X	Relevant ministry institutions
	5.1.b. # of pagodas implementing Child Protection Pagoda Programme	5.1.2. Develop and implement Child Protection Pagoda Programme in five provinces	MoCR	X	X	X	X	X	Relevant ministry institutions
	5.1.c. Child protection curriculum for Buddhist Education Programme finalized and integrated	5.1.3. Incorporate child protection subject into Buddhist Education Programme	MoCR	X	X	X	X	X	Relevant ministry institutions
	5.1.d. # of ethnic communities implementing child marriage and teenage pregnancy prevention framework	5.1.4. Develop and implement child marriage and teenage pregnancy prevention framework in ethnic minority communities	MoWA	X	X	X	X	X	MoH
	5.1.e. # of out-of-school girls and boys engaged by outreach services	5.1.5. Outreach services targeting engagement of out-of-school girls and boys to provide them with basic information on children's rights and how to report abuse or violence	MoEYS	X	X	X	X	X	MoInf Mol

STRATEGIC AREA III: MULTI-SECTORAL CHILD PROTECTION RESPONSE SERVICES

Strategic Objective: To respond to violence against children by strengthening capacity of social service providers (health, education, justice, and child protection) to provide quality services that protect girls and boys who have experienced, witnessed, or are at risk of violence

Sub-area 1: Effective Law Enforcement

Outcome 6. Increased access for girls and boys in contact with the law to effective, child-friendly law enforcement

Outcome Indicator 6.a. % of child abuse and other child protection cases handled by law enforcement officers specializing (designated) in child protection (disaggregate by sector and/or role, i.e. police, court officers, etc. trained in child protection)

Output	Indicator(s)	Activities	Lead Institution(s)	Timeframe (year)					Secondary Supporting Institutions
				1	2	3	4	5	
6.1. Law enforcement officers have improved capacities to respond to cases of children in contact with the law	6.1.a. Development of law enforcement Child Protection Code of Ethics	6.1.1. Develop a Child Protection Code of Ethics for law enforcement officers	Mol	X	X				MoWA MoT MoLVT MoSVY MoJ MoEYS
	6.1.b. Development of basic child protection training modules for law enforcement	6.1.2. Develop basic child protection training modules, including basic training materials on online child sexual exploitation. Engage girls and boys at increased risk of violence. Integrate modules into training curricula of law enforcement officers.	Mol	X	X				MoWA MoT MoLVT MoSVY MoJ
	6.1.c. % and # of police and law enforcement officers trained on basic concepts of child protection (disaggregate pre- and in-service training)	6.1.3. Deliver basic child protection training modules as part of pre-service and in-service training for law enforcement officers	Mol		X	X	X	X	MoSVY MoLVT
	6.2.a. Development of advanced child protection training modules	6.2.1. Develop advanced child protection training modules for designated law enforcement officers with responsibility for child protection, with content on: (a) Investigation (b) Case management (c) Child-friendly, effective interviewing of child victims of violence (d) Online child sexual exploitation including investigation of online grooming/recruitment for sexual exploitation and child cyber pornography	Mol	X	X				MoSVY MoWA MoT MoLVT
6.2. Children in contact with the law have increased access to child-friendly police protection and law enforcement	6.2.b. # of designated law enforcement officers for child protection trained and coached on advanced concepts of child protection	6.2.2. Deliver advanced child protection training modules as part of pre-service and in-service training for designated law enforcement officers with responsibility for child protection	Mol		X	X	X	X	MoLVT
	6.2.c. % and # of police stations with female law enforcement officers trained in child protection	6.2.3. Recruit female law enforcement officers in the police and military police, with the goal of having at least one female law enforcement officer trained in child protection at each police station (police and military police offices)	Mol		X	X	X	X	Relevant ministry institutions

6.3. Law enforcement establish standard operating procedures / protocols for handling cases of children in contact with the law and these are incorporated into standard police operating procedures	6.3.a. Development of child-friendly standard operating procedures / protocols for cases of children in contact with the law	6.3.1. Develop child-friendly standard operating procedures / protocols for handling cases of children in contact with the law, including: (a) Interdisciplinary investigation procedures (b) Child-friendly justice protocols (c) Referral and response mechanisms (d) Support for children in contact with the law during the process of criminal investigation, trial, and post-trial (e) Documentation and tracking of all child protection reports; cases and their outcomes reported to police	Mol	X					MoJ
	6.3.b. % and # of cases of children in contact with the law handled in line with established operating procedures / protocols	6.3.2. Provide capacity building to implement child-friendly standard operating procedures / protocols for handling cases of children in contact with the law	Mol		X	X	X	X	Relevant ministry institutions

Sub-area 2: Access to Child-Friendly Justice

Outcome 7. Increased capacity of the justice system to treat girls and boys in contact with the law in a manner that complies with international human rights standards and is in accordance with their needs

Outcome Indicator 7.a. % increase in the number of courts in which children who give evidence as victims or witnesses of violence operate under child-friendly procedures (measure against baseline data)

Outcome Indicator 7.b. % of children in contact with the law who have access to child-friendly legal information, advice and representation (disaggregate by gender and measure against baseline data)

Output	Indicator(s)	Activities	Lead Institution(s)	Timeframe (year)					Secondary Supporting Institutions
				1	2	3	4	5	
7.1. Courts have increased capacity to implement child-friendly procedures in cases of children in contact with the law	7.1.a. % of judges and prosecutors dealing with children in contact with the law who received training on the management of such cases (disaggregate pre- and in-service training) 7.1.b. % of courts that have incorporated child-friendly procedures into their standard operating protocols 7.1.c. # of juvenile cases seen in court by judges and prosecutors trained in best practices of juvenile justice	7.1.1. Develop and implement pre-service and in-service training modules for judges and prosecutors on managing cases involving child victims, witnesses, and offenders, and which include training materials on online child sexual exploitation with content on investigation of online grooming/recruitment and child cyber pornography. 7.1.2. Strengthen the implementation of child-friendly procedures for cases involving children in contact with the law	MoJ	X	X	X	X	X	MoSVY Mol
7.2. Children in contact with the law have increased access to legal aid and representation in court	7.2.a. # of alternative/ restorative justice programmes tested and documented 7.2.b. % increase of children in contact with the law provided with legal aid and legally represented	7.1.3. Establish a separate court for cases of minors to be seen by judges and prosecutors trained in best practices of juvenile justice 7.2.1. Model alternative/ restorative justice mechanisms for cases of petty offense and misdemeanor violence against children within the justice sector (formal and informal) 7.2.2. Provision of para-legal and legal services at sub-national level for children in contact with the law	MoJ	X	X				Relevant ministry institutions
			MoJ						Relevant ministry institutions
			MoJ	X					MoSVY Mol
			MoJ	X	X	X	X	X	MoJ MoSVY NGOs

Sub-area 3: Social Services and Rehabilitation

Outcome 8. Strengthened and expanded integrated child protection system to prevent and respond to violence against children									
Outcome Indicator 8.a. % of children reporting violence receiving services from child protection trained social service providers and child-friendly institutions									
Output	Indicator(s)	Activities	Lead Institution(s)	Timeframe (year)					Secondary Supporting Institutions
				1	2	3	4	5	
8.1. Children in contact with the law have increased access to strengthened child protection services	8.1.a. # and type of government child protection interventions supported by CSOs	8.1.1. Support and collaborate with CSOs to formulate a clear resource mobilization strategy for child protection service delivery, including identifying and engaging girls and boys at increased risk of violence	MoSVY		X				Mol MoWA
	8.2. Child protection service providers and relevant stakeholders have strengthened capacity to respond to cases of violence against children	8.2.a. Development of basic training on child protection for social service providers	8.2.1. Develop basic training module on child protection for the child protection service providers and relevant stakeholders, including skills for identifying and engaging girls and boys at increased risk of violence and online child sexual abuse and exploitation	MoSVY		X	X		MoEYS MoH MoLVT Mol MoT NGOs
	8.2.b. # of trainers trained to deliver basic training module on child protection	8.2.2. Recruit qualified trainers to deliver basic training module on child protection for child protection service providers and relevant stakeholders	MoSVY		X				Mol MoJ MoH
	8.2.c. Train the trainers curriculum on child protection developed	8.2.3. Prepare accredited train the trainers curriculum on child protection theory and practice	MoSVY		X				Relevant ministry institutions
	8.2.d. % of child protection service providers trained in basic child protection	8.2.4. Conduct trainings with child protection service providers on child protection theory and practice	MoSVY			X	X	X	Relevant ministry institutions

8.3. Child protection systems have referral and support services available to child victims of violence	8.3.a. Development of a centralized referral mechanism coordinating social and mental health services	8.3.1. Develop a centralized referral mechanism that coordinates social and mental health services for children identified in child protection cases	MoSVY	X	X		MoH
	8.3.b. # of districts with a child protection system linked to the Child Helpline	8.3.2. Establish a hotline coordination body chaired by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, which will: (a) Ensure that hotlines and supporting websites on issues of violence against children are accessible to all children across the country (b) Monitor cases referred to the hotlines (c) Collate data on reports of violence against children from the hotlines (d) Address sustainable financial support for the hotlines	MoSVY		X	X	Mol
	8.3.c. Development of online and mobile hotline mechanisms for identification and reporting, and removal of ICT platforms supporting online child sexual exploitation, including child pornography and sites that groom and recruit children for sexual exploitation	8.3.3. Develop and coordinate online and mobile hotline mechanisms for identification and reporting and removal of ICT platforms supporting online child sexual exploitation, including child pornography and sites that groom and recruit children for sexual exploitation	MoInf	X	X		MoTelecom Mol
	8.3.d. Establishment of an accreditation body for hotline service providers	8.3.4. Develop an accreditation system for hotline service providers, including minimum training requirements for hotline staff	MoSVY		X	X	Relevant ministry institutions
8.4. Social service systems establish standard operating procedures / protocols for handling of reports and cases of violence against children and incorporate these into standard operating procedures	8.3.e. % of hotline service providers trained in minimum training requirements for hotline service provision in child protection	8.3.5. Develop and implement a training course for hotline service providers	MoSVY		X	X	Relevant ministry institutions
	8.4.a. % of increase of cases and reports of violence against children handled in compliance with child-friendly standard operating procedures / protocols	8.4.1. Develop child-friendly standard operating procedures/ protocols for handling all cases and reports of violence against children for social service institutions and workers, including: a) Referral to child protection officers / police and response mechanisms b) Follow up and support c) Documentation of disclosure and tracking of child protection reports and cases	MoSVY	X			MoJ
	8.4.b. % of social service bodies (i.e. social service departments, national and sub-national authorities, response units, etc.) that have integrated child-friendly standard operating procedures into their internal organizational policy	8.4.2. Provide capacity building to implement child-friendly standard operating procedures / protocols for handling cases and reports of violence of children, with special attention to reports from children with disabilities and boys	MoSVY		X	X	Relevant ministry and institutions

Sub-area 4: Health Services

Outcome 9. Girls and boys are increasingly protected by health care systems and professionals and their institutional and legislative frameworks									
Outcome Indicator 9.a. # of girl and boy survivors of violence receiving quality health services									
Output	Indicator(s)	Activities	Lead Institution(s)	Timeframe (year)					Secondary Supporting Institutions
				1	2	3	4	5	
9.1. Strengthened capacity of health care systems and health professionals to identify and respond to children exposed to all forms of violence	9.1.a. % of health facilities with at least one service provider trained on the management of violence against women and children in line with national guidelines and protocols	9.1.1. Disseminate and implement the “National Guidelines for Managing Violence Against Women and Children in the Health Sector” in referral hospitals and health centres	MoH	X	X	X	X	X	Relevant ministry institutions
	9.1.b. % and # of referral hospitals and health centres implementing the “A Clinical Handbook: Health Care for Children Subjected to Violence or Sexual Abuse”	9.1.2. Develop and deliver training to targeted health institutions and health professionals on the “A Clinical Handbook: Health Care for Children Subjected to Violence or Sexual Abuse” in referral hospitals and health centres	MoH	X	X	X	X		Relevant ministry institutions
	9.1.c. Development of a Child Protection Code of Conduct for health professionals	9.1.3. Develop a Child Protection Code of Conduct for all health professionals	MoH	X	X				Relevant ministry institutions
	9.1.d. % of health professionals trained in the Child Protection Code of Conduct for health professionals	9.1.4. Develop a training module on the Child Protection Code of Conduct and incorporate into the pre-service and in-service training of all health professionals	MoH		X	X			Relevant ministry institutions
	9.1.e. % of health professionals trained on online child sexual exploitation	9.1.5. Develop training materials on online child sexual exploitation and integrate these materials into training modules for health professionals	MoH		X				Relevant ministry institutions
	9.1.f. # of forensic medical examinations provided to child victims of sexual violence free of charge	9.1.6. Enforce social security fund programme for health services, including free forensic medical examination for child victims of sexual violence	MoH		X	X	X	X	Relevant ministry institutions

Sub-area 5: Education Services

Outcome 10. Girls and boys are increasingly protected in schools by institutional and legislative frameworks									
Outcome Indicator 10.a. % of girls and boys benefitting from school-based child protection services									
Output	Indicator(s)	Activities	Lead Institution(s)	Timeframe (year)					Secondary Supporting Institutions
				1	2	3	4	5	
10.1. Educational institutions and staff have increased capacity to implement legal standards and identify and respond to violence against children	10.a. % and # of primary and lower-secondary schools with child protection officers	10.1.1. Draft Prakas requiring the appointment of child protection officers in primary and lower-secondary schools as part of the implementation of the Child-Friendly Schools (CFS) framework	MoEYS	X	X				Relevant ministry institutions
	10.b. Finalized and approved job descriptions for student council teachers revised to include roles, duties, and responsibilities as child protection officers	10.1.2. Revise the roles, duties, and responsibilities of the two teachers involved in each school's student council and appoint them to be child protection officers	MoEYS		X	X	X		Relevant ministry institutions
	10.c. % of DTMTs with at least one designated member trained on basic child protection concepts	10.1.3. Appoint and train at least one designated trainer in child protection per DTMT to provide support to primary and lower-secondary schools and to school-based child protection officers	MoEYS		X	X	X		Relevant ministry institutions

STRATEGIC AREA IV: FORMULATING AND AMENDING LAWS AND POLICIES

Overall Objective: To reduce violence against children by strengthening the legislative and policy framework to prevent and protect children against all forms of violence, abuse, and neglect

Sub-area 1: Corporal Punishment and Protection from Domestic Violence

Outcome 11. Girls and boys are increasingly protected from corporal punishment and domestic violence by a legislative and policy framework in compliance with international human rights standards

Outcome Indicator 11.a. Amendment of national laws to eliminate corporal punishment against children in all settings

Outcome Indicator 11.b. Amendment of national laws to include penalties for the use of violence or for corporal punishment in schools

Output	Indicator(s)	Activities	Lead Institution(s)	Timeframe (year)					Secondary Supporting Institutions
				1	2	3	4	5	
11.1. All relevant provisions related to corporal punishment of children are amended	11.1.a. Amendment of the Civil Code to prohibit the use of corporal punishment in all settings	11.1.1. Advocate for Article 1045 and Article 1079 of the Civil Code to be amended to make corporal punishment of children illegal	MoJ	X	X	X			CNCC MoWA Relevant stakeholders NGOs
	11.1.b. % of cases of corporal punishment in educational settings resulting in indicated consequences	11.1.2. Effective enforcement of the Criminal Code, Laws on Common Statute of Civil Servants, Education Law and Education Code of Conduct, which focus on educating civil servants (especially teachers) and focal points from relevant institutions on corporal punishment in educational settings	MoEYS MoJ Mol	X	X	X			Relevant ministry institutions
	11.1.c. # of cases of use of corporal punishment by education staff resulting in disciplinary action	11.1.3. Add a new Article to the Education Law or to the Education Child Protection Policy that includes disciplinary action for education staff who use corporal punishment in educational settings	MoEYS	X	X	X			Relevant ministry institutions
	11.1.d. Adoption of child protection policy in schools	11.1.4. Advocate for the adoption of the child protection policy and implementation in schools	MoEYS	X	X	X	X	X	Relevant ministry institutions
11.2. Lawmakers deem domestic violence against children illegal under the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims	11.2.a. Amendment of Article 8, paragraph 2 of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims	11.2.1. Amend Article 8, paragraph 2, of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims	MoWA	X	X	X			Mol MoJ
	11.2.b. Amendment of Article 2 of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence	11.2.2. Amend Article 2 and other articles of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims	MoWA	X	X				Mol MoJ
	11.2.c. Issue of Sub-Decree on Administrative Decisions by the local authorities in cases of domestic violence	11.2.3. Review and adopt the draft Sub-Decree that empowers local authorities to issue Administrative Decisions in cases of domestic violence	Mol	X	X				Relevant ministry institutions

Sub-area 2: Sexual Violence Against Children

Outcome 12. Girls and boys are protected from sexual violence by the legislative framework in compliance with international human rights standards									
Outcome Indicator 12.a. Amendment of national laws and passing new laws to ensure the legislative framework on sexual violence against children meets international human rights standards									
Output	Indicator(s)	Activities	Lead Institution(s)	Timeframe (year)					Secondary Supporting Institutions
				1	2	3	4	5	
12.1. Gaps in the national laws and legal document relating to protecting children from violence reviewed and amended in according to international standards	12.1.a. Sub-Decree on Child Protection and the Child Protection Code of Conduct with integrated child-friendly approach is implemented	12.1.1. Review the draft Sub-Decree on Child Protection and the Child Protection Code of Conduct and ensure it takes a child-friendly approach	CNCC		X				Relevant ministries institutions
	12.1.b. Amendment of Article 239 of the Penal Code to raise the age of consent to 18 years for sexual activity occurring between children and persons more than five years older	12.1.2. Amend Article 239 of the Penal Code to raise the age of consent to 18 years for sexual activity occurring between children and persons more than five years older	MoJ		X				MoJ MoWA
	12.1.c. New article criminalizing non-physical sexual abuse and grooming is added to Penal Code	12.1.3. Add a new Article to the Penal Code to ensure that acts of non-physical sexual abuse and grooming are criminalized	MoJ		X				MoWA
	12.1.d. Addition to Penal Code of a new article clearly defining and criminalizing incest	12.1.4. Add a new Article to the Penal Code to include incest (sexual intercourse, sexual activities, or rape between close relatives) as a specific criminal offense	MoJ		X				MoJ MoWA
	12.1.e. Amendment of Article 40 of the Anti-Trafficking Law to expand the definition of child pornography to include the definition as outlined in the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	12.1.5. Amend Article 40 of the Anti-Trafficking Law to expand the definition of child pornography to include the definition outlined in the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	MoJ		X				Relevant ministries institutions
	12.1.f. Amendment of Article 41 of the Anti-Trafficking Law to ensure that possession in any context of child pornography is a criminal offense	12.1.6. Amend Article 41 of the Anti-Trafficking Law to ensure that possession in any context of child pornography is a criminal offense	MoJ		X				Relevant ministries institutions
	12.1.g. Addition of a new article to Cyber Crimes Law to ensure protection for victims of online child sexual exploitation, including sexual extortion, sexting, live streaming of child sexual abuse in real time, and online grooming	12.1.7. Add a new article to the Cyber Crimes Law to ensure protection for victims of online child sexual exploitation, including sexual extortion, sexting, live streaming of child sexual abuse in real time, and online grooming	MoJ		X	X			Relevant ministries institutions
	12.1.h. Addition of a new article in the Cyber Crimes Law granting law enforcement the authority to investigate, confiscate equipment, and block content of any online platform contributing to, promoting or facilitating online child sexual abuse and exploitation	12.1.8. Add a new article to the Cyber Crimes Law to ensure law enforcement has the authority to investigate, confiscate equipment, and block content of any online platform that contributes to, promotes or facilitates online child sexual abuse and exploitation	MoJ		X	X			Relevant ministries institutions
	12.1.i. Amendment of the Telecoms Law online to include child protection protocols for online and mobile platforms	12.1.9. Review Telecoms Law and propose changes to strengthen ICT child protection on online and mobile platform	MoJ		X	X			Relevant ministries institutions

Sub-area 3: Neglect of Children

Outcome 13. Girls and boys are protected from all forms of neglect by the legislative framework in compliance with international human rights standards							
Outcome Indicator 13.a. Amendment of national laws and passing of new laws to ensure legislative framework on all forms of child neglect (including physical and emotional neglect) meets international human rights standards							
Output	Indicator(s)	Activities	Lead Institution(s)	Timeframe (year)			Secondary Supporting Institutions
				1	2	3	
13.1. Article 337 and 321 of Penal Code relating to negligence of physical need and health care and abandonment of children under 18 year old are amended	13.1.a. Amendment of Article 337 of the Penal Code to make physical neglect of a child under the age of 18 a criminal offense	13.1.1. Advocate to amend Article 321 and Article 337 of the Penal Code to make physical neglect of a child under the age of 18 a criminal offense	CNCC		X		MoSVY MoJ
	13.1.b. Amendment of Article 337 of the Penal Code to make neglect of a child's medical health under the age of 18 a criminal offense	13.1.2. Advocate to amend Article 337 of the Penal Code to make the neglect of the medical health of a child under the age of 18 a criminal offense	CNCC		X	X	MoSVY MoJ
	13.1.c. Amendment of Article 321 of Penal Code to make abandonment of a child under the age of 18 a criminal offense	13.1.3. Advocate to amend Article 321 of the Penal Code to make abandonment of a child under the age of 18 a criminal offense	CNCC		X	X	MoSVY MoJ
13.2. New article relating to negligence of emotion of children under 18 year old is integrated into the Penal Code	13.2.a. Addition of a new Article to the Penal Code to make non-physical, emotional forms of neglect of a child under the age of 18 a criminal offense	13.2.1. Advocate to add a new Article to the Penal Code to make non-physical, emotional forms of neglect of a child under the age of 18 a criminal offense	CNCC		X	X	MoSVY MoJ

Sub-area 4: Development of Policies

Outcome 14. Girls and boys are increasingly protected from all forms of violence by child protection legislative and policy frameworks

Outcome Indicator 14.a. Ratification by key line ministries of a comprehensive sectoral policy framework on prevention, response, and data collection on violence against children
Outcome Indicator 14.b. % of child protection services governed by Minimum Standards for child protection

Output	Indicator(s)	Activities	Lead Institution(s)	Timeframe (year)					Secondary Supporting Institutions
				1	2	3	4	5	
14.1. Increased capacity of key institutions responsible for child protection to protect children from all forms of violence	14.1.a. Amendment of existing laws, policies and provisions on child protection to clearly delineate referral mechanisms, guidelines for follow up, or clear roles and responsibilities of ministries for child protection cases to comply with the 2014 legislative reform policy and the CRC	14.1.1. Based on the legislative reform policy in 2014, review and update existing laws, policies, and provisions relevant to child protection and make them and align them with the CRC, including: a) Referral mechanisms for child protection cases b) Clear guidelines for follow up on child protection cases c) Clearly identify roles and responsibilities of the ministries and relevant stakeholders in child protection cases	MoSVY	X	X	X	X	X	MoWA MoH MoJ MoEYS MoT MoLVT
	14.1.b. Development of mandatory reporting policy for violence against children and child abuse cases for all professionals	14.1.2. Develop mandatory reporting policies for violence against children and child abuse cases for all professionals	MoSVY	X	X	X	X	X	MoJ MoH MoEYS NAA MoT MoLVT
	14.1.c. Development of Minimum Standards for all child protection services	14.1.3. Develop and implement Minimum Standards for all child protection services	MoSVY	X	X	X	X	X	
	14.1.d. % of target group of stakeholders and institutions who demonstrate increased knowledge about laws, policies, and regulations on child protection	14.1.4. Promote awareness among relevant stakeholders and institutions on the child protection laws, policies, and regulations	CNCC	X	X	X	X	X	MoWA MoSVY
	14.1.e. Development of a comprehensive sectoral policy framework for participation by all key line ministries on prevention, response, and data collection on violence against children	14.1.5. Review sectoral policies of key line ministries and develop a comprehensive policy on violence against children prevention and response to strengthen the institutional response	CNCC	X	X	X	X	X	All relevant ministries
14.2. Government authorities make budget commitments for child protection	14.2.a. Ratification of child protection system advocacy strategy by key line ministries	14.2.1. Develop an advocacy strategy to establish a child protection system that meets international standards	CNCC	X					All relevant ministries
	14.2.b. % of administrative districts with violence against children or child protection activities in both their annual budgets and work plans	14.2.2. Advocate for commitment from district administrations to integrate child protection activities into their annual budgets and work plans	MoI		X	X	X	X	MoWA MoSVY

STRATEGIC AREA V: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Strategic Objective: To reduce violence against children by developing a comprehensive system for data collection and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on violence experienced by children in Cambodia

Sub-area 1: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Outcome 15. Implementation of a multi-sectoral monitoring and evaluation framework and coordinated multi-sectoral data collection and reporting system on violence against children in Cambodia

Outcome Indicator 15.a. Establishment of a Monitoring Information System (MIS) to enable the collection of and reporting on data on violence against children

Output	Indicator(s)	Activities	Lead Institution(s)	Timeframe (year)					Secondary Supporting Institutions
				1	2	3	4	5	
15.1. Effective and timely monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on the implementation of the Action Plan on Violence Against Children	Indicator 15.1.a. The monitoring, evaluation, and reporting tool for the Action Plan on Violence Against Children developed and implemented	15.1.1. Develop monitoring, evaluation, and reporting tools for the Action Plan on Violence Against Children, which outline data collection systems and agencies responsible for data collection	CNCC	X					NIS, MoP
	Indicator 15.21.b. Publishing and dissemination of Annual Action Plan Progress Reports on the Action Plan implementation	15.1.2. Prepare yearly progress reports for the Action Plan on Violence Against Children	CNCC	X	X	X	X	X	Relevant ministry institutions
	Indicator 15.1.c. Finalize mid-term review and end review summarizing progress on the implementation of the Action Plan and related data collected	15.1.3. Conduct mid-term review and end review that summarize progress on the implementation of the Action Plan on Violence Against Children and related data collected	CNCC			X		X	Relevant ministry institutions
	Indicator 15.1.d. Finalize and publicly disseminate a Final Impact Report analyzing data collected over the five-year implementation of the Action Plan, as well as best practices, challenges to implementation, and lessons learned	15.1.4. Prepare a final impact report analyzing data collected over the five year implementation of the Action Plan on Violence Against Children, as well as best practices, challenges to implementation, and lessons learned	CNCC					X	NIS and relevant ministry institutions
	Indicator 15.1.e. % of WCCC members trained on monitoring and evaluation for the Action Plan on Violence Against Children	15.1.5. Provide training on monitoring and evaluation tools to the WCCC to apply to the implementation of the Action Plan on Violence Against Children	CNCC		X	X	X	X	General directorate of local administration / Mol MoWA

15.2. A comprehensive system in place for data collection and monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the nature and extent of violence against children	15.2.a. Development of sector-specific data collection and reporting procedures for core violation and protective environment indicators (health, education, justice, police, social services, etc.)	15.2.1. Develop sector-specific procedures for data collection and reporting against the core violation and protective environment indicators	Mol	X	X	NIS
	15.2.b. Establish reliable database for all data on violence against children	15.2.2. Develop a harmonized database for population of data on the indicators on violence against children generated by relevant sectors	NIS, MoP	X	X	MoSVY
	15.2.c. Annual publishing of an analytical report on core violation and protective environment indicators	15.2.3. Publish annual analytical report outlining the core violation and protective environment indicators	CNCC		X X	NIS, MoP
	15.2.d. Publishing of mid-term review and final-term review and dissemination to all participating ministries	15.2.4. Conduct mid-term review and final-term review on the implementation of the Action Plan on Violence Against Children	CNCC		X	General Directorate of Planning, MoP

Sub-area 2: Monitoring Violence Against Children Prevention and Response Evidence Base

Outcome 16. Strengthened evidence base for strategies on prevention and response to violence against children in Cambodia							
Outcome Indicator 16.a. Incorporation of violence against children and child protection issues in to the research agenda and key national surveys							
Output	Indicator(s)	Activities	Lead Institution(s)	Timeframe (year)			Secondary Supporting Institutions
				1	2	3	
16.1. Strengthened cooperation and capacities of local and international universities and research institutions to conduct rigorous evaluations of child protection programmes	16.1.a. # of robust prioritized evaluations of the impact of policies and programmes on core violence against children indicators	16.1.1. Develop partnerships with local and international universities and research institutions and encourage robust prioritized evaluations on the impact of particular policies and programmes on core violence against children indicators	CNCC	X	X	X	Relevant ministry institutions
	16.1.b. Development of a funding mechanism for prioritized evaluations on policies and programmes targeting violence against children	16.1.2. Develop a strategy to raise fund for commissioning evaluations of policies and programmes targeting violence against children	CNCC	X	X	X	Relevant ministry institutions
16.2. Key stakeholders have increased awareness of lessons learned and best practices in child protection to prevent and respond to violence against children	16.2.a. % of government and CSO child protection institutions that have integrated evaluation findings into the design of their services and programmes	16.2.1. Document lessons learned and best practices based on evaluation of policies and programmes targeting Violence Against Children for policy advocacy on child protection and violence against children	CNCC	X	X	X	Relevant ministry institutions
	16.2.b. # of professionals exposed to programme evaluation findings through meetings, workshops, online platforms, and social media	16.2.2. Widely disseminate the findings of programme evaluations in meetings, workshops, online platforms, and social media	CNCC	X	X	X	Relevant ministry institutions

6. MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of the Action Plan is required to ensure successful implementation. The goal of these efforts will be to identify progress in activities to prevent and respond to violence against children, as well as to identify weaknesses, gaps, and challenges. The successes and obstacles identified during implementation will inform adjustments to strategic interventions and will be documented as lessons learned and best practices to be disseminated and used in planning the next steps for interventions to end violence against children.

The monitoring and evaluation of the Action Plan will include an annual activity report, a mid-term review, an end review, and a final evaluation. New and existing mechanisms and tools will be used to establish a data collection system to monitor implementation of the Action Plan in cooperation with line ministries and CSOs. The monitoring system will coordinate data collection on violence against children and provide access to available data from different sources on a regular and reliable basis. This will enable government ministries and other stakeholders to systematically assess trends for improved interventions for violence against children. This system will provide government ministries with resources for policy development and analysis, and for improving performance in service delivery. It will also identify the most efficient use of available resources, as well as implementation difficulties, thus enhancing transparency and accountability of government actions.

7. COSTING THE ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan includes cost estimations as a supportive annex. This will help inform more extensive costing procedures by line ministries as they integrate violence against children activities into their annual operational budgets.

Line ministries are responsible for securing funding for violence against children activities through support from the RGC national budget or development partners, the private sector, civil society and other donors. Estimating the cost of long-term (five-year) sector development strategies supports implementation by helping to determine how best to allocate and prioritize limited resources and identifying resource gaps to direct fundraising activities.

8. CONCLUSIONS

The Action Plan aims to develop Cambodia's child protection system into a strong framework for comprehensive and proactive interventions that prevents girls and boys from exposure to violence and responds holistically when violence does occur. In services, Cambodia will move toward a fully integrated coordinated multi-sectoral child protection approach with key actors collaborating and cooperating to provide better child-friendly, survivor-centred and inclusive interventions. Cambodia will move from developing basic laws and policies to strengthening the understanding, implementation and enforcement of these laws and policies at the national and sub-national levels. A comprehensive data collection system will be developed and implemented to monitor and evaluate the Action Plan. In 2021, through review, monitoring, and evaluation in the final year of the plan, we must achieve positive outcomes as a result of this five-year effort with support and active engagement from ministries, relevant institutions, and civil society in each of the activities.

9. GLOSSARY

Child; also, Minor	A person below the age of eighteen years
Child Labour; also, Labour Exploitation of Children (see also, Worst Forms of Child Labour)	Work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development and includes work that: is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; deprives them of the opportunity to attend school; obliges them to leave school prematurely; or requires them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work ^[42] . Child labour is considered a form of exploitation of children.
Child Marriage	Culturally or legally sanctioned union made between two people, in which at least one party is below the age of 18, that establishes certain rights and obligations between them, their children, and their broader families (in-laws). Includes informal unions in which children under the age of 18 live with an unmarried partner. A form of exploitation of children ^[43] .
Child Trafficking^[44]; also, Trafficking In Person, Human Trafficking	A crime involving the movement of children within a country, or across borders, whether by force or not, for the purpose of labour or sexual exploitation.
Child-Friendly	Places, systems, procedures or services designed and operated in a manner that prioritizes the safety and interests of children and takes into consideration the developmental, physical, psychological, psychosocial, and spiritual wellbeing and needs of the child with particular awareness of risks to children from vulnerable or at-risk groups or in potentially harmful circumstances.
Children in contact with the law	Anyone under age 18 who comes into contact with any justice system (criminal, civil or administrative), in any capacity – whether as victims/survivors or witnesses of a crime, the subject of a custody hearing, or as suspected or accused of committing an offence themselves.
Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)	Independent non-Government organizations serving the interest and welfare of social groups, through activities such as provision of services, community mobilization, policy research and advocacy, and are often formed and governed by members of those social groups themselves. CSOs have a special ability to undertake activities that are crucial for an effective response to the situation on the ground. CSOs include INGOs, NGOs, DPOs, SHGs and CBOs.
Corporal Punishment; also, Physical Punishment	Any punishment in which physical force is used and intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, however ‘light’ it may be. Examples include: hitting the child with the hand or with an object (such as a cane, belt, whip, shoe, etc.); kicking, shaking, or throwing the child, pinching or pulling their hair; forcing a child to stay in uncomfortable or undignified positions, or to take excessive physical exercise; and burning or scarring the child.
Edutainment	Educational entertainment
Emotional Violence; also, Emotional Abuse	Any ‘hostile or indifferent parental behaviour which damages a child’s self-esteem, degrades a sense of achievement, diminishes a sense of belonging, prevents healthy and vigorous development, and takes away a child’s well-being’ ^[45] . It is characterized by ‘persistent negative attitudes; promoting insecure attachment; inappropriate developmental expectations and considerations; emotional unavailability; failure to recognize a child’s individuality and psychological boundaries, and cognitive distortions and inconsistencies’ ^[46] . Additionally, emotional violence can be perpetrated by a child’s peers, such as bullying. Examples include: terrorizing and threatening, spurning and rejecting, isolating or ignoring, a child, or demonstrating favouritism; neglecting a child’s mental health or medical and educational needs; the use of insults, name-calling, humiliation, belittling, ridiculing and hurting a child’s feelings; exposure of a child to domestic violence; placement in solitary confinement, keeping a child in isolating, humiliating or degrading conditions of detention; and psychological bullying and hazing by adults or other children, including via information and communication technologies (ICTs) such as mobile phones and the Internet, known as ‘cyber-bullying’ ^[47] .

42 ILO, Migration and Child Labour.

43 Hamilton C., Legal Protection from Violence: Analysis of Domestic Laws Related to Violence Against Children in ASEAN Member States, 2015.

44 ILO, Towards the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (TECL), 2007.

45 Iwaniec D., The Emotionally Abused and Neglected Child, 1995, p.14.

46 Glaser, In Clinical Paediatrics: Child Abuse, 1993.

47 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), The Rights of the Child to Freedom from all Forms of Violence, 2011.

Harmful sexual behaviour of children	Sexual behaviours expressed by children and young people under the age of 18 that are developmentally inappropriate, may be harmful towards self or others and/or be abusive towards another child, young person or adult.
Law Enforcement Officer	Any government officer, agent, or employee authorized by law as responsible for or engaged in the prevention, investigation, apprehension, or detention of individuals suspected or convicted of offenses against the criminal laws. Examples include national and military police officers, judges and judicial officers, prosecutors, detention centre employees, inspection agents, and other agents of the government with the authority to investigate or enforce compliance with the law.
Learning About Living Cambodia	A cross-media life skills programme that enables and encourages young people to engage with gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) issues. It combines a computer-based eLearning system with a mobile phone question and answer service. It also makes provision to include whatever new media is available for young people in different countries.
Media House	An organization whose core competency is the creation of information content which is sold as a 'product' and disseminated to information consumers via one or more publishing technologies, including print publishing, radio & TV broadcasting, and internet publishing.
Neglect; also, Negligent Treatment^[48]	<p>The deliberate failure to provide for the development of the child in all spheres: health, education, emotional development, nutrition, shelter, social protection, among others.</p> <p>Definitions of neglect need to take into account the availability of resources, so that neglect is distinguished from deprivation due to poverty.</p> <p>Examples include: (a) physical neglect: failure to protect a child from harm, including through lack of supervision, or to provide a child with basic necessities including adequate food, shelter, clothing and basic medical care; (b) psychological or emotional neglect, including failing to provide any emotional support and love to a child, chronic inattention and being 'psychologically unavailable' by overlooking a young child's cues and signals, and exposure to intimate partner violence or drug or alcohol abuse; (d) educational neglect: failure to comply with laws requiring caregivers to secure their children's education through attendance at school or otherwise; and (e) abandonment^[49].</p>
Online Child Sexual Exploitation^[50]	A form of exploitation and child sexual abuse that occurs on ICT platforms, such as websites and other online platforms, phones, and mobile apps and includes: Production, possession and distribution of child sexual abuse material online Grooming of potential child victims online with the intention of sexual exploitation Live streaming of child sexual exploitation and abuse
Peer-to-Peer Approach / Programme	Activities aimed at cultivating dialogue between youth peers to give each other feedback
Physical Violence against Children^[51]; also, Physical Abuse	The deliberate or intentional use of force or power that either results in, or has the potential to result in causing bodily harm. Examples include: hitting or beating with hands or an object, slapping, kicking, throwing, shaking, pinching, pulling hair, boxing ears, caning, whipping, biting, strangling, scratching, scalding intentionally, burning, choking, trying to drown, poisoning, forced ingestion, suffocating, or using or threatening with a weapon such as a knife or other weapon. In many cases, physical violence against children may be administered as a form of punishment.
Prakas	Regulations enacted by the line ministry to operationalize a specific law or sub-decree.
School participation	Participation of children in school decisions and rules, school activities, school events and positive perception of school participation.
Service provider	A government or charitable organization providing a service to advance human welfare, such as child protection services, counseling or health care, especially for disadvantaged children and adults.

48 Krug E., World Report on Violence and Health, 2002.

49 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), The Rights of the Child to Freedom from all Forms of Violence, 2011.

50 WeProtect Global Alliance, Our Strategy to end the Child Sexual Exploitation of children Online, 2016.

51 WHO website; Fulu E., National Survey on Women's Health and Life Experiences, 2015.

Sexual Violence against Children^[52]; also, Sexual Abuse, Child Sexual Assault	<p>Any sexual act - or attempt to obtain a sexual act - that is perpetrated against a child without their consent or understanding, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening, by any person, or group of persons, regardless of their relationship to the victim.</p> <p>Sexual violence encompasses a range of offences, including completed non-consensual sex acts (i.e., oral, vaginal or anal rape; pressured intercourse), attempted non-consensual sex acts, abusive sexual contact (i.e., unwanted touching), and non-contact sexual abuse (e.g., threatened sexual violence; exhibitionism; verbal sexual harassment). This also includes the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful or psychologically harmful sexual activity; the exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices; and the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials. It may also include involving children in looking at or in the production of sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual violence may include violence perpetrated against girls and boys by male and female adults, and violence perpetrated against a child by other children.</p>
Theory of Change (ToC)	A structured explanation of how certain activities or interventions are understood to produce a series of results, which in turn contribute to achieving final intended impacts (in this case, the reduction or elimination of violence against children in Cambodia).
Worst Forms of Child Labour (see also, Child Labour)	All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery; the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic purposes; the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities ^[53] .

52 WHO website; Fulu E., National Survey on Women's Health and Life Experiences, 2015.

53 ILO, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999. Ibid

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ANNEX I: Sustainable Development Goals and Targets Relevant to Child Protection

Sustainable Development Goals and Targets Relevant to Child Protection	
4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	Goal 4: Quality Education Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
	4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
5 GENDER EQUALITY 	Goal 5: Gender Equality Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
	5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
	8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
	16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

ANNEX II: International and Cambodian National Legal and Policy Framework on Children's Rights in Cambodia

International Conventions on the protection of children's rights ratified by the Royal Government of Cambodia:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1992)
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1992)

The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 1993 Constitution of Cambodia recognize the following rights of all children:

- Article 2 – The right of the child to non-discrimination
- Article 3 – The best interests of the child
- Article 19 – The right of the child to protection from all forms of physical or mental violence, abuse or neglect, or exploitation
- Article 32 – The right of the child to protection from economic exploitation
- Article 33 – The right of the child to protection from illicit use of narcotic drugs
- Article 34 – The right of the child to protection from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse
- Article 35 – The right of the child to protection from the abduction, sale and traffic in children
- Article 36 – The right of the child to protection from all other forms of exploitation
- Article 37 – The right of the child to protection from torture, cruel or inhuman treatment, capital punishment, and unlawful deprivation of liberty
- Article 39 – The right of the child to physical and psychological recovery and social integration
- Article 40 – The rights of the child accused of infringing the penal law and measures for dealing with such children outside of judicial proceedings

Optional Protocols to the CRC

- The Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
- The Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict

Children's Rights in the Cambodian Constitution

- Article 31 – Requires the State to recognize and respect human rights as stipulated in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including covenants and conventions related to human rights, women's and children's rights
- Article 47 – Enshrines a duty of parents to care for and educate their children to become good citizens and establishes a corresponding duty for children to care for their parents in old age
- Article 48 – Requires the State to protect the rights of children as stipulated in the "Convention on Children", particularly the right to life, education, protection during wartime and from economic or sexual exploitation. The State is required to protect children from acts that are injurious to their educational opportunities, health, and welfare
- Article 73 – Requires the State to give full consideration to children and mothers and to establish nurseries and help support women and children who have inadequate support

Cambodian National Laws and Policies on Children's Rights

- Cambodia Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015)
- National Action Plan on Child Development (2016-2018)
- National Social Protection Strategy for the Poor and Vulnerable (2011-2015)
- National Strategic Development Plan (2014-2018)
- Juvenile Justice Law (2016)

Violence, Abuse, Exploitation, and Neglect

- Criminal Code (2009) – Offenses Against Minors
- Law on Tourism (2009)
- Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation (2008)
- Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of the Victims (2005)
- Law on Abortion (1997)
- Law on Labour (1997)
- Plan on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (2008-2012)
- The Village/Commune Safety Policy (2010)
- National Action Plan on Violence Against Women (2014-2018)
- National Plan of Action on Counter Trafficking (2014-2018)
- Sub-Decree on Management of the Sending of Cambodian Workers Abroad through Private Recruitment Agencies (2011)

- Sub-Decree on Establishment of the National Committee to Lead the Suppression of Human Trafficking, Smuggling, and Labour and Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children (2009)
- Sub-Decree on Establishment of the Department of Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection at the Ministry of Interior (2002)
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- Sub-Decree on Export of Khmer Labour to Work Overseas
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Education and Welfare

- Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2009)
- Law on Education (2007)
- Law on Land Traffic (2007)
- Law on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS (2002)
- Sub-Decree on Professional Conduct of Teachers (2008)
- National Policy on Early Childhood Care and Development (2010)
- National Standards for Care, Protection and Support of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (2010)
- Policy on Education for Children with Disabilities (2008)
- Child-friendly School Policy (2007)
- Life Skills Education Policy (2006)
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- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Policy on Child Protection Policy in Schools (2016)
- Ministry of Health, Clinical Handbook on Health Care for Children Subjected to Violence or Sexual Abuse (2017)

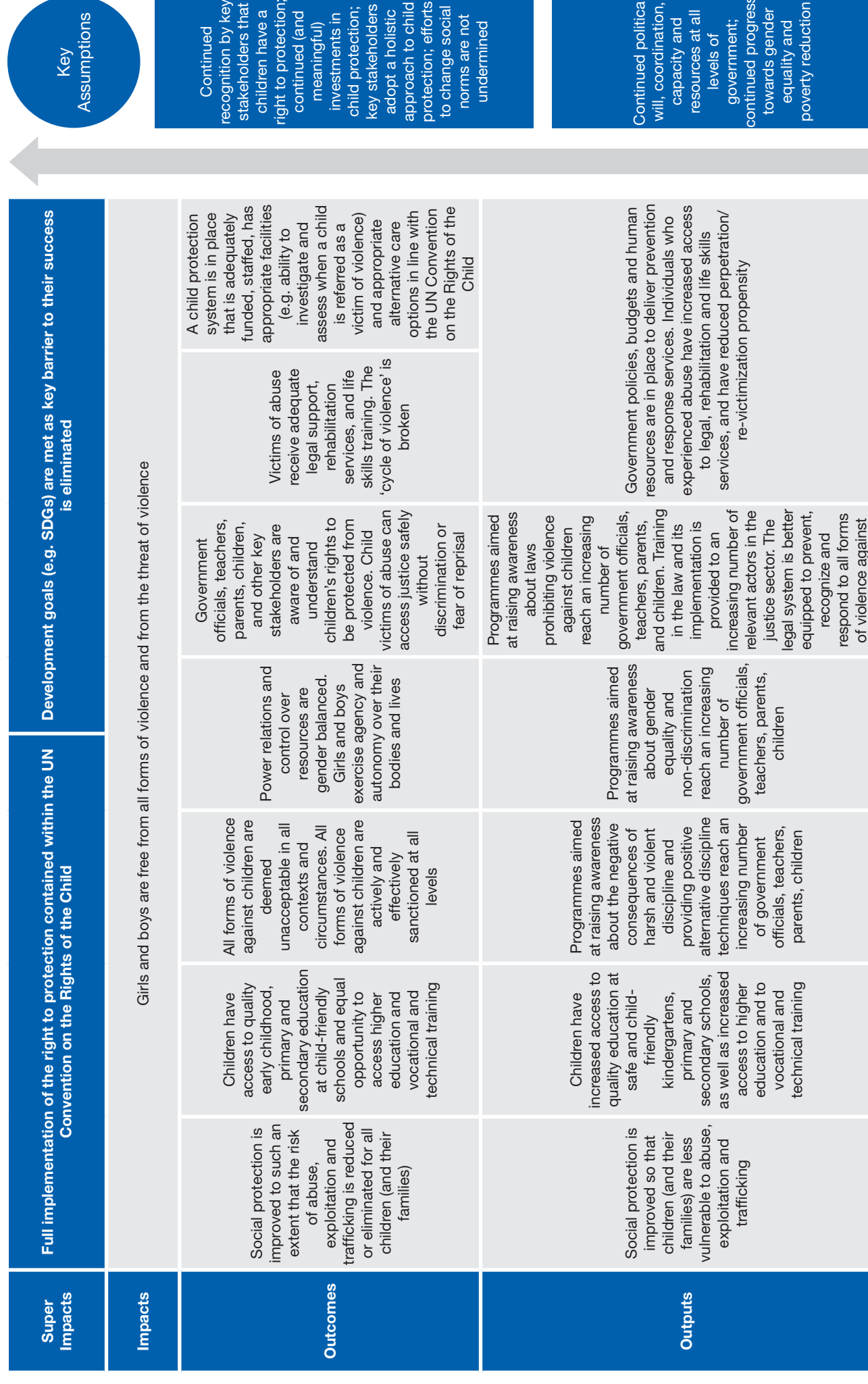
Family and Alternative Care

- Law on Inter-Country Adoption (2009)
- Civil Code – Minimum marriage age 18
- Policy on Alternative Care for Children (2006)
- Circular on Reintegration and Follow-up of Victims Staying at State and NGO Centres (2007)
- Ministry of Justice, Explanatory Note on Adoption (2016)
- Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Action Plan on Improving Child Care with the Target of Safely Returning 30 Per Cent of Children in Residential Care to their Families 2016-2018 (2016)
- Government of Cambodia, Sub-Decree on the Management of Residential Care Center (2015)

Children Involved with the Justice System

- Law on Drug Control (2011)
- Law on Prisons (2011)
- Criminal Code (2009) – Provisions Relevant to Children in Conflict with the Law
- Criminal Procedure Code (2007)
- Civil Procedure Code (2006)
- Juvenile Justice Law (2016)
- Sub-Decree on Establishment of the National Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre for Drug Addicts (2010)
- Village Commune/Sangkat Safety Policy Guidelines (2010)

ANNEX III: Theory of Change on Violence Against Children in Cambodia



Barriers/ Bottlenecks	Lack of donor support; structural global inequality; norms around intergenerational debt	Lack of qualified teachers, low salaries for teachers, perceptions of low rates of return for education, high opportunity costs pushing children into the labour market, unsafe schools	Resistance to adapting long-standing, socially dominant gender-discriminatory practices	Resistance to adapting long-standing, socially dominant gender-discriminatory practices	Lack of trust in legal system; resistance against national laws; non-implementation of laws; competing legal systems (religious, customary, etc.); failure to take children's complaints seriously; desire to resolve issues within the family or community	Lack of existing services, lack of capacity to staff such services, lack of facilities and assistance and care; privacy, confidentiality and dignity of victims; reluctance amongst victims of abuse to come forward due to stigmatization and negative perceptions of the quality, appropriateness and costs of response services	All identified barriers and bottlenecks are adequately addressed; the Cambodian Government continues to take primary responsibility for preventing and responding to violence against children; responsibilities of service providers are clearly defined and allocated
Initiatives^[54]	Implement programmes aimed at reducing poverty and inequality (e.g. social protection programmes, livelihood empowerment interventions, employment opportunities, etc.)	Implement initiatives aimed at increasing school attendance, reducing (informal) fees, increasing school safety and improving quality of education, raising awareness about the benefits of education	Implement programmes aimed at changing social norms that are non-violent discipline and promote healthy and nurturing relationships; also building on norms of non-violent behaviour found in religious teaching	Implement programmes aimed at changing discriminatory gender norms (e.g. include discussion of gender-based discrimination and violence in school curriculum; positive programmes such as girls clubs)	Implement programmes aimed at raising awareness about laws prohibiting violence against children and build capacity of police officers, social workers, prosecution, judiciary and teachers to engage in implementing the laws	Implement programmes that provide legal support, rehabilitation services, and life skills to victims of abuse	Identified determinants of violence against children are assumed to operate similarly in different regional and local contexts, so that conclusions about prevention and response priorities can be generalized at the national level; however, actual interventions are assumed to be tailored to local contexts
Determinants	Poverty and socio-economic inequality	Education	Norms supportive of violent discipline	Discriminatory gender norms	Impunity/Lack of awareness about laws	Previous experiences of violence ^[55]	Lack of services
Evidence	Systematic literature review and secondary analysis of existing datasets on violence against children in Cambodia						
Problem	Girls and boys are subject to different forms of violence and threats of violence in the home, in school and in the community, which violates their right to physical integrity and right to protection and impacts negatively on a range of other rights, including the right to education and the right to develop to their full potential						

54 For a more detailed discussion of key prevention and response initiatives at the household, school, community, and governmental level see the National Action Plan to prevent and respond to Violence Against Children in Cambodia. The Violence Against Children Action Plan also includes key activities to be undertaken in terms of legal reform and monitoring/data collection.

55 Existing evidence suggests that previous experiences of violence increase children's exposure to re-victimization as well as the likelihood of violence perpetration later in life (as adults).



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