

Guiding Manual

Family Protection Network



August 2014



Plan

As an international child-centred development organisation
Plan International Cambodia does not tolerate any forms of child abuse

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FOREWORD

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has demonstrated its commitment to the protection of children by becoming a state party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992 and has ratified both of its optional protocols on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Children Pornography and on children involvement in armed conflict. In July 2007, the Constitutional Council in Cambodia reaffirmed Cambodia's commitment to the principles set out in the Convention as a way to safeguard a future for all children in Cambodia.

To support the commitment of the RGC to respond to the child protection issues and make children safe from all forms of violence, Plan International has implemented a community based child protection mechanism in Cambodia through establishing Family Protection Networks (FPNs) since 2007 in Plan target areas. The FPN is one model of community based child protection mechanism designed at community and sub-national level to strengthen and promote the protective environment in order to improve child well-being, children's participation and to fulfill children's rights to protection.

The development of the Family Protection Network Guiding Manual is a great initiative to improve the child protection system at various levels in Cambodia. The manual was compiled through a participatory process that included inputs and ideas from Government authorities, civil society organizations, parents and children related to child protection mechanisms at the national and sub-national levels and through a good experience and lesson of Plan International. This manual also demonstrates the information on child rights, child protection, linkage of existing structure of Government and Family Protection Network at different levels, the good practices and experiences of the Family Protection Network members, partner organizations based on the evaluations/studies of Plan International and the roles and responsibilities in child protection mechanism at national, provincial, district, commune and village levels.

On behalf of the Secretariat General of Cambodia National Council for Children (CNCC), I would like to recognise and highly appreciate the Family Protection Network model and strongly suggest to members of the Cambodia National Council for Children at national and sub-national level, local authorities and civil society organizations to cooperate and replicate this model in order to strengthen effective child protection systems at all levels in Cambodia.

As Plan International Cambodia, we acknowledge ministries and relevant institutions parents/caregivers and children for providing great inputs and experiences in the development of this guiding manual.

Plan International Cambodia



Phnom Penh, December 04, 2014

CNCC's Acting Secretary General



Her Excellency Nhep Sopheap

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A special thanks goes to the Family Protection Network Members and members of the Provincial Women's and Children's Consultative Committee, the District Women's and Children's Consultative Committee, Provincial Department of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, the Commune Committee for Women and Children, Commune Councils and Village Chiefs and Village Safety Committees. Their input was valuable.

We thank the children in Children's Clubs, Child Advocacy Network, Cambodian Children and Young People Movement for Child Rights and other child volunteers for their input and feedback. This manual has strongly benefited from their contributions.

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2 consultants who support for the development of the manual

Mrs Robin Mauney and Mr Srun Rachana.

ABBREVIATIONS

CC	Commune Council
CNP	Cambodia National Police
UNCRC	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CCWC	Commune Committee for Women and Children
DWCCC	District Women’s and Children’s Consultative Committee
FPN	Family Protection Network
NCCT	National Committee for Counter Trafficking
NGO	Non-government Organisation
PWCCC	Provincial Women’s and Children’s Consultative Committee
NOVCTF	National Orphans and Vulnerable Children Multi Sectoral Task Force
UN	United Nations

INTRODUCTION

Children who suffer from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation struggle to thrive. They suffer from physical and psychological effects and are less likely to stay in school and are at increased for future exploitation or abuse.

Child protection is the term used to describe the responsibilities and activities undertaken to prevent or to stop children from being abused or ill-treated. Child protection is a basic *child right* guaranteed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The goal of child protection is to promote, safeguard and fulfil the right of children to protection from abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect by promoting a *protective environment* for children.

In Cambodia more than three-quarters of children have experienced at least one incident of physical violence before the age of 12 and approximately 4 percent of females and 5 percent of males have been sexually abused.¹ Children are also at risk because of domestic violence, trafficking, child labour, commercial sexual exploitation, neglect, violence between children.

To respond to child protection issues, *Family Protection Networks (FPN)* are being created to protect children within our communities. The FPN is a community based child protection mechanism that is designed to strengthen the protective environment for children, as well as children themselves in order to improve their well-being and fulfil their right to protection. FPNs address issues of violence against children including physical, sexual, emotional and neglect. The FPN works best when the community has decided that child protection issues are a priority for the well-being of children, especially the most vulnerable.

The FPNs are organized at the village, commune, provincial and national levels. The FPNs bring together key actors to develop strategies and actions to strengthen the child protection system. At the national level key actors include government ministries, law and policy makers and coordination bodies. At the subnational level key actors include provincial and local authorities, schools, health centres, police, civil society members that can be mobilized to keep children safe. Children should also be part of the process at every level.

The main actions of FPNs

- Build awareness of child protection issues at the individual and community level including children
- Establish and strengthen reporting and referral mechanisms
- Provide quality service support (health care, education, vocation training, rehabilitation and reintegration) to vulnerable children affected by violence and child survivors
- Build life skills and resilience to protect children
- Planning and mobilising resource to address violence against children issues

Purpose of the Manual

The purpose of this manual is to describe the Family Protection Network (FPN) operation including roles and responsibilities at the national, provincial, district, commune and village level. This manual also aims to provide background information on child rights, child protection.

¹ UNICEF 2014 Draft Findings on the Research on Violence against Children in Cambodia

How to Use the Manual

The manual should be used as a guide to help understand the roles of key actors in the FPN at each level of government. The manual can provide guidance to each administrative level of government on their roles and responsibilities to operate a Family Protection Network and how to apply it in their daily work.

Key Points of Each Chapter

TOPIC	Key Points
<p>Chapter 1: Child Rights</p>	<p>Child rights as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Children (UNCRC), and the principles that help to explain the rights.</p> <p>An understanding of child rights is necessary for the FPN because those rights are important for ensuring that children are protected and that their welfare is promoted.</p> <p>Child rights include rights in the areas of Civil Rights and Freedoms; Education, Leisure and Cultural Activities; Family Environment and Alternative Care; Basic Health and Welfare; and Special Protections.</p> <p>Child rights principles include the non-discrimination, best interest of the child, the right to survival and development, and respect for the views of children.</p>
<p>Chapter 2: Child Protection</p>	<p>Violence against children includes physical violence, sexual violence, emotional violence and neglect. Violence against children occurs in the home, the school, the workplace and in the community. Children who suffer from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation struggle to thrive.</p> <p>The Protection Cycle includes Learn about the protection cycle Prevention, Identification, Referral, Intervention, Recovery and Re-integration.</p> <p>A protective environment includes 1) Attitudes, customs in the community; 2) government's commitment to fulfilling protection rights; 3) Open discussion and engagement on child protection issues, Protective Legislation and enforcement; 4) the capacity of people around children to protect them; 5) Children's life skills, knowledge and participation; 6) Monitoring and Reporting; 7) Services for recovery and reintegration and 8) Complaint Feedback Mechanism.</p>
<p>Chapter 3: Child Protection System in Cambodia</p>	<p>Cambodia has a strong legal framework for Child Protection that is implemented through key actors in child protection.</p> <p>Key actors include children, parents and families, media, communities, private sectors, service providers, policy and law-makers, government and national and international NGOs and UN agencies</p>
<p>Chapter 4: Family Protection Network</p>	<p>Family Protection Network operates at the National Level, and at the Subnational Level including Provincial, District, Commune and Village Level.</p> <p>The Family Protection Network, uses the administrative structure at the subnational level of the Provincial, District, Commune Women and Children's Committees and the Village Protection Network.</p> <p>A Family Protection Network or FPN is a mechanism to enable children to realize their rights to be protected from all forms of violence and abuse. The FPN is a practical mechanism to help governments and communities at all levels to protect children. The</p>

	FPN brings together duty bearers, children and adults to build their skills and make a protective environment for children.
Chapter 5: Role of Community Groups in the FPN	Parent Groups, Children’s Clubs, Closed Groups and NGOs participate in the FPN. These groups can strengthen the protective environment by increasing community skills, promoting skills to prevent and stop violence and promoting reporting of violence.
Chapter 6: Children’s Participation in their Own Protection	<p>Children can participate in their own protection in key areas. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Keep Safe Skills; • Participation in Program Response; • Advocacy for Child Protection Issues; and • Participation in Decision-makings related to them <p>Six Principles of child participation in their own protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-discrimination and inclusiveness; • Democracy and equality of opportunity; • Physical, emotional and psychological safety of participants; • Adult responsibility; • Voluntarism, informed consent and transparency; and • Participation should be an enjoyable and stimulating experience. <p>Child Protection Risk Assessment and Mitigation</p>
Chapter 7: Key Operational Guidelines	<p>To successfully operate an FPN members are required to have procedures, mechanisms and training. Key tools are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FPN Members Code of Conduct • Tips for Talking with Victims • Recordkeeping • Feedback Mechanism • Training

Key Definitions

Child: A child is any person under the age of 18.

Child Rights to Protection: Every child have rights to be protected from all form of violence that stated in UNCRC and its' Optional Protocols irrespective of their citizenship, race, ethnicity, age, sex, sexuality, family backgrounds, disabilities, remote or urban and any other status.

Child Protection: Actions and initiatives taken to prevent and respond to violence against children. Note this does not mean the promotion of children's rights generally, but specifically as they relate to child protection.

Child Protection System: The overarching coordinated framework of laws, policies, processes, procedures, structures and services which aim to ensure the protection of all children in a holistic way.

Child Participation: Providing opportunities for children to share their views in decisions making process on matters affecting them. Child participation includes consultation or seeking children's views, and joint decision on initiatives, where adults and children make decisions together in mutual respect, interest and partnership

Violence against children (VAC): An umbrella term to cover all forms of abuse, maltreatment, neglect and exploitation of children, including discrimination, which are violations of children's rights. VAC includes physical, sexual, emotional violence and neglect.

- *Physical violence* includes many forms such as pinching, shoving, kicking, forcing children physical activity punishment (difficult work, kneeling, "exercise"), beaten by hand or with objects like a stick or whipping, burned or threatened with a weapon. It was also included the form of drug and alcohol use of children, child trafficking and child labour exploitation.
- *Sexual violence* includes sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children. It ranges from rape, unwanted touching, attempts at sexual contract, and non-contact sexual abuse including threats, luring and tricking into sexual contact, exhibitionism and verbal harassment. Sexual VAC also involves coercion into exploitative practices – particularly prostitution and pornography. Coercion includes children receiving gifts or favours in exchange for sexual activity.
- *Emotional violence* or abuse is any behavior that is designed to control and subjugate another human being through the use of fear, humiliation, and verbal or physical assaults. Emotional abuse is any kind of abuse that is emotional rather than physical in nature. It can include anything from verbal abuse and constant criticism to more subtle tactics, such as intimidation, manipulation, and refusal to ever be pleased. It was included domestic violence.
- *Neglect* is the inability to provide for children's basic needs and not care of children in all circumstances. Neglect may be intentional or from the lack of resources to care for the children. Consequences of neglect include malnutrition, low-school attendance, poor health, children working and other issues.

Child trafficking: Child trafficking is an action of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation.

Worst Forms of Child Labor: Children under 18 are prohibited from labor that jeopardises their physical, mental or moral well-being because of the type of work or the way in which it is carried out. This is considered hazardous work. Some examples of hazardous work include working underground, lifting, carrying or moving heavy loads, deep-sea fishing, working near furnaces or kilns, spraying pesticides and herbicides, or working in some agriculture settings.

Domestic Violence: A pattern of abusive behaviors by one or both partners in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family, friends or co-habitation. Domestic violence has many forms, including physical aggression (hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing objects) or threats thereof; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; controlling or domineering; intimidation.

Labor Migration: A person that migrates from their home district to another place to work. The person might migrate for a short time (seasonal migration) or for a long time. People migrate both inside Cambodia and to other countries for work.

Objective

- Define the clusters of child rights as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Children (UNCRC), and the principles to implement those rights.

Child Rights

“Rights” are things that every child should have or be able to do under laws. Child rights are listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child or the UNCRC, an international treaty and almost every country has adopted to these rights. The Royal Government of Cambodia became a party to the UNCRC in 1992 and has ratified both of its optional protocols that further clarify child rights. In July 2007, the Constitutional Council in Cambodia reaffirmed Cambodia’s commitment to the principles set out in the Convention as a way to safeguard a future for all children in Cambodia.²

Child rights are meant to safeguard the care, protection development and wellbeing of the child. Awareness and understanding of the rights by the child will empower them to claim and hold their rights, although a lack of interest or knowledge of rights does not exclude people from being entitled to rights.³

Child Rights Principles

The UNCRC also has 4 articles as **principles** that further explain and implement the rights. These are:

Non-discrimination – All children have equal rights regardless of their race, religion, culture, sex, age or abilities and no child should be treated unfairly on any basis.

Best interest of the child – The best interest of children must be the primary concern in making decisions that may affect them. This means that all adults should do what is best for children; when making decisions, adults should consider how their decisions will affect children. This also applies to all government authorities in charge of making budgets, policies and laws.

The Right to Survival and Development: Every child has the inherent right to life, and the State has the obligation to ensure the child’s survival and development. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.

Respect the views of children (Right to be heard) – All children should be consulted and participate in decisions that affect their lives. Because the UNCRC applies to all children, this means that attempts must be made to ensure the participation of all children according to their stage of development and capacities.

The UNCRC organizes child rights into: Civil Rights and Freedoms; Education, Leisure and Cultural Activities; Appropriate Family Environment and Alternative Care; Basic Health and Welfare and Special Protections. All children have all these rights:

² (OHCHR, 2014)

³ (Plan Asia Regional Office, 2010)

Civil Rights and Freedoms

- Each child has the right to a name and nationality, to know his or her parents and to be cared for by them
- The government has an obligation to protect, and if necessary, to re-establish the child's identity. This includes name, nationality and family ties
- Children have the right to express their views, obtain information, and make ideas or information known regardless of frontiers
- Children have the right to freedom of thought, conscience of religion, subject to appropriate parental guidance.
- Children have the right to meet with others, and to join or form associations.
- Children have the right to protection from interference with privacy, family, home and correspondence and from attacks on their character or reputation
- Children shall have access to information from national and international sources. The media shall encourage materials that are beneficial, and discourage those which are harmful to children.
- No child shall be subject to torture, cruel treatment or punishment, unlawful arrest or deprivation of liberty.

Education, Leisure and Cultural Activities

- Children have the right to education. Primary education should be free and compulsory. Secondary education should be accessible to every child. Higher education should be available to all based on capacity. School discipline shall be consistent with the child's rights and dignity
- Education should develop the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities. Children should be prepared for active participation in a free society, and learn to respect their own culture and that of others.
- Children have the right to rest, leisure, play and participation in cultural and artistic activities.

Appropriate Family Environment and Alternative Care

- The Government must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to provide guidance for the child that is appropriate to her or his evolving capacities
- Parents have joint responsibility for raising the child, and the Government shall support them in this
- The child has a right to live with his or her parents unless this is not in the child's best interest. The child has the right to maintain contact with both parents if separated from one or both
- Children and their parents have the right to leave any country or enter their own to be reunited, and maintain the parent-child relationship
- The Government has an obligation to prevent and remedy the kidnaping or holding of children abroad by a parent or third party
- Children have the right to a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental spiritual, moral and social development. Parents have the primary responsibility to ensure that the child has an adequate standard of living. The Government's duty is to ensure that his responsibility is fulfilled
- Children without a family are entitled to special protection, and appropriate alternative family or institutional care, with regard for the child's cultural background
- Where adoption is allowed, it shall be carried out in the best interest of the child, under the supervision of a competent authorities, with safeguards for the child
- A child who is placed by the Government for reasons of care, protection or treatment of his or her physical or mental health is entitled to have that placement evaluated regularly
- Children shall be protected from abuse and neglect in family. Governments shall provide programs for the prevention of abuse and treatment of those who have suffered abuse
- Children who have experienced armed conflict, torture, neglect, or exploitation shall receive appropriate treatment for their recovery and social reintegration

Basic Health and Welfare

- Every child has the right to life, and the Government has an obligation to ensure the child's survival and development
- Disabled children have the right to special care, education and training that will help them to enjoy a full and decent life with the greatest degree of self-reliance and social integration possible.
- Children have the right to the highest possible standard of health and medical services
- Children have the right to benefit from social security including social insurance

Special Protections

- Children who are refugees, or seeking refugee status, are entitled to special protection
- Children who are under age 15 shall have no direct part in armed conflict. Children who are affected by armed conflict are entitled to special protection and care
- Children who have experienced armed conflict, torture, neglect or exploitation shall receive appropriate treatment for their recovery and social re-integration.
- Children in conflict with the law are entitled to legal guarantees and assistance, and treatment that promote their sense of dignity and aims to help them take a constructive role in society.
- No child shall be subjected to torture, cruel treatment or punishment, unlawful arrest or deprivation of liberty. Capital punishment and life imprisonment are prohibited for offences committed by persons below 18 years of age. A child who is detained has the right to legal assistance and contact with the family
- Children have the right to be protected from economic exploitation from having to participate in work that threatens their health, education or development. The Government shall set minimum age for employment and regulate working conditions
- Children have the right to protection from the use of drugs and from being involved in their production and distribution
- Children shall be protected from sexual exploitation and abuse, including prostitution and involvement in pornography. The Government shall take all appropriate measures to prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children.
- The child has the right to protection from all form of exploitation that harm any aspects of the child's welfare not covered in other areas.
- Children have a right if members of a minority group, to practice their own culture, religion and language.

Objectives

- Further define violence against children and related abuse and the child's rights to protection
- Learn about the protection cycle
- Learn about the elements of a protective environment
- Understand the National Child Protection System

Violence against Children (VAC) Occurs in Many Places

VAC is commonly categorized into physical, sexual, emotional and neglect as was defined above. In addition to many types of violence, it also occurs in many places. VAC can happen in the home, the school, child care and justice institutions, workplaces and in the community. Where violence happens can affect children's ability to protect themselves and to report the violence. So below, it explains about the violence against children in some places.

Violence against Children within the Home

In the home children may experience all types of VAC. Children can experience physical and sexual violence and abuse from parents or caregivers or others in or near the home. Children also witness violence such as domestic violence committed against a parent.

In the home children can also experience emotional violence. This can be things like name calling, or telling the child they are stupid, or lazy – some negative words.

Children also experience neglect in the home. One common case that sometimes results in neglect is when parents have to migrate to work. Children are sometimes left behind with an elder caregiver that cannot send them to school, or take out of school to go with parents to work. Children not being sent to school would be neglect. Other types of neglect that can occur is when parents are abusing drugs or alcohol and not providing good care for the children.

Violence and abuse in the family can be very difficult for children. A family is supposed to be a safe place for children. Also it is common for families to try to keep violence hidden and secret from other people. This can make it difficult for children to get help and support.

Violence against Children in Schools

In schools children can also experience all types of violence. This can be in the form of physical punishment. It can also be in the form of saying bad things to children, for example that they are lazy, stupid or bad. This is emotional violence. Children can also experience bullying from friends. This can be physical violence or can make the children feel isolated. School personnel can also abuse their power by making children do chores for grades, or even committing sexual abuse. Children spend a lot of time at school, so this should be a safe place, and if it is not it can contribute to children dropping out of school or other negative behaviors.

Violence against Children in Care and justice system institutions⁴

The institutions children live in have many names, including orphanages, children's homes, care homes, rehabilitation centers, prisons/correction centers, juvenile detention facilities, etc. They may be open or closed (i.e. where children are locked in), and may be run by Governments, private companies or individuals, or by non-governmental or faith-based organisations. Many are large-scale, and children who enter them can live prolonged periods of their lives inside. Whatever their name, these institutions govern the day-to-day lives, personal development and future life chances of a very large number of children.

Although these institutions are established to provide care, guidance, support and protection to children, the boys and girls who live in them may be at heightened risk of violence compared to children whose care and protection is governed by parents and teachers, at home and at school. Institutionalised children are often subjected to violence from staff and officials responsible for their well-being. This can include torture, beatings, isolation, restraints, rape, harassment, and humiliation. In addition, the stigmatisation, isolation and often de-socialisation that results from these institutionalised responses place boys and girls at much greater risk of being exposed to further violence and in some cases becoming perpetrators of it.

Violence against Children in the Workplace

Children that are working are at risk of all kinds of violence, including physical, sexual and neglect. Also children can be exposed to hazardous work conditions. Some examples of this are children being made to work long hours, lift heavy things, or other work they are not able to do. Children working are also at risk for sexual exploitation.

Violence against Children in the Community

The community is the area around where children live. This would be the village or commune. The community should be a safe place for children, but sometimes it can have risks for violence. For example children in the community might experience risks for trafficking. There can be people in the community that try to recruit children into risky work. Children can also experience risks from people in the community. This can be risk for rape, sexual assault or other types of violence.

Effects of Violence against Children

Children who suffer from physical or sexual violence or abuse, neglect or exploitation struggle to thrive. They suffer from physical and psychological effects and are less likely to stay in school and are at increased for future exploitation or abuse.

VAC almost always results in a sense of shame, and in many communities this is compounded by stigma associated with violence. This has a negative effect on self-confidence, compromising children's abilities to participate actively in groups and processes which explore violence and abuse. Children who have been abused are especially vulnerable to further violence or abuse partly as their lack of self-worth may make it difficult for them to report incidences of VAC or speak up for their right to be protected.

VAC has both short term and long term effects on children. In the short term children experience immediate pain, suffering and medical problems, even death. Children can also have emotional problems such as anger, hostility fear, anxiety, humiliation and an inability to express feelings. In the longer term children are more likely to drop out of

⁴ Violence against Children in Care and Justice Institutions, UNICEF IRAQ 1999

school, and have increased risk for drinking, smoking, or joining gangs. Children that are particularly vulnerable groups of children for neglect are children in very poor families, children with disabilities and children in families migrating to work.

The consequences of VAC need to be considered both in the short term and in the medium / longer term (reaching into adulthood). Physical and sexual abuse can be very damaging for a child both immediately (with the risk of injury, disability, infection and other health problems and even death) but can also have a long term impact on a child in terms of their self-esteem, sense of self-worth and ways in which they understand and relate to others (for example, by learning that violence is the only way to solve problems). Neglect, particularly with younger children can have a profound effect on the development of their brain, and physical health. Emotional abuse can be especially damaging in the longer term, with children having lower self-esteem and confidence, which can create problems which last into adulthood – for example with increased risk of involvement in criminal activities, drug and alcohol misuse and difficulties in sustaining relationships and parenting their own children.⁵

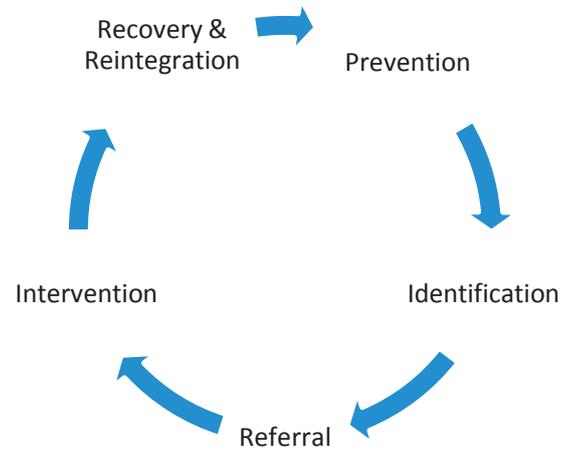
⁵ Adapted from Sticks and Stones, Plan 2013

Child Protection⁶

Child protection is the term used to describe the responsibilities and activities undertaken to prevent or to stop children from being abused or ill-treated. The goal of child protection is to promote, safeguard and fulfil the right of children to protection from abuse violence, exploitation and neglect by promoting a **protective environment** for children.

A **child protection system** is a set of laws, policies, regulations, services and capacities needed across all sectors –especially social welfare, education, health, security and justice – to support prevention and response to child protection risks.⁷ A child protection system includes government, non-government organisations, communities, caregivers and families and most importantly children themselves.

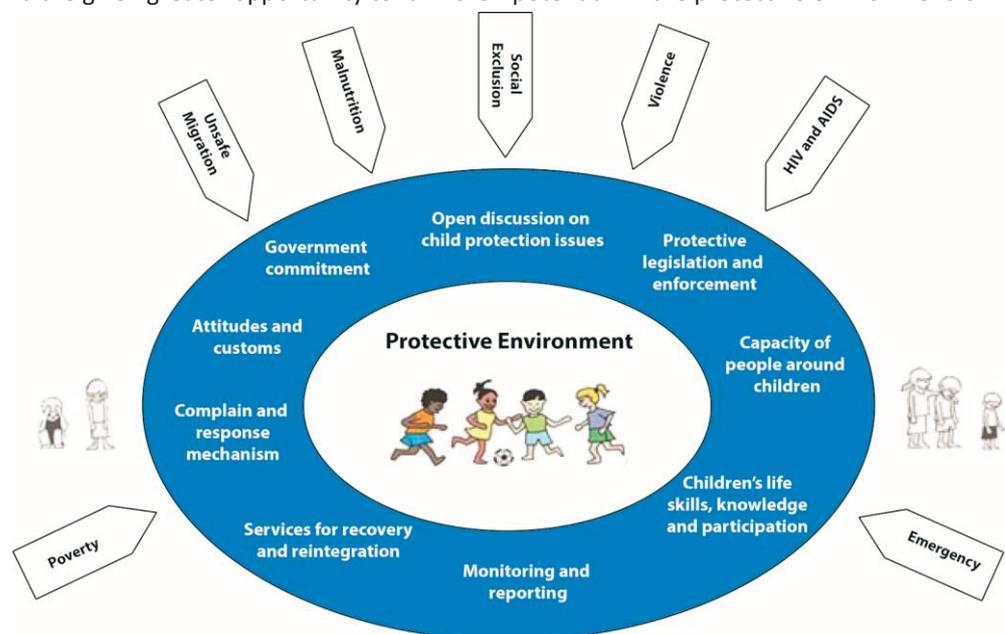
The **protection cycle** is the process by which children are protected in the community. The steps include prevention, identification, referral, intervention, and recovery and re-integration. Duty bearers, including government, civil society and NGOs have a role to play in the protection cycle. Additionally rights bearers such as children and families can be involved in all stages of the protection cycle. The roles and responsibilities of the Family Protection Network is described in Chapter 4.



Elements of a Protective Environment for Children⁸

A protective environment for children provides children the support they need to grow and develop, have their needs met, their rights respected and are given greater opportunity to fulfil their potential. If the protective environment is in place, the protection risks or concerns are prevented or reduced and if they do occur action can be taken quickly.

Protective environments for children are based on the presence of *nine elements* that reflect both the needs of children and the rights outlined in both the UNCRC and national laws.



These nine elements are interrelated and reinforce each other to reduce child protection concerns:

⁶ (Child Protection Working Group - Sudan 2012)

⁷ (Plan 2013)

⁸ (Child Protection Working Group - Sudan, 2012)

Element 1 Attitudes, customs, in the community: Attitudes and customs of people in the community are important to creating a protective environment for children. For example there can be negative attitudes or customs in the community that promote abuse of children. Some examples are community customs of hitting children for punishment or attitudes that boys get priority for school over girls.

Element 2 Government commitment to fulfilling protection rights: The Governments' commitment to respecting, protecting and fulfilling child protection is important to the development of a protective environment. Governments have a fundamental role and need to show commitment at all levels to creating strong standards, policies, systems and Programmes and to enforcing them.

Element 3 Open discussion and engagement with child protection issues: At the local level, children and communities need to be free to speak up about child protection concerns affecting them or other children. At the national level, media attention and civil society engagement with child protection issues also strengthens the protective environment.

Element 4 Protective legislation and enforcement: A legislative framework designed to protect children from abuse and its enforcement is an essential element of a protective environment. However, laws alone are not sufficient – they need also to be put into practice and enforced fairly.

Element 5 The capacity of people around children to protect them: Members of Family Protection Networks, parents, traditional and religious leaders, health workers, teachers, police, media, businessmen, social workers and many others who interact with children need to be equipped with the motivation, skills and authority to protect children. This includes identifying and responding to child protection concerns. The capacity of families and communities to protect their children is very important in providing a protective environment.

Element 6 Children's life skills, knowledge and participation: Children are less vulnerable to abuse when they and their caregivers are aware of their right not to be exploited or of services available to protect them. With the right information, children can draw upon their knowledge, life skills and *resilience* to reduce their risk of abuse, violence or exploitation. If children do suffer abuse, violence or exploitation, then life skills and resilient characteristics can help them to deal with and recover from such experience.

Element 7 Monitoring and reporting: An effective monitoring system records the incidence and nature of child protection abuses and allows for informed and strategic responses. Such systems are more effective when they have participation of the community. Community-based monitoring also helps to increase awareness of the causes of child protection concerns, which children are more vulnerable than others and the places and situations where risks occur.

Element 8 Services for recovery and reintegration: Children who experience any form of abuse, violence, exploitation or neglect are entitled to care and non-discriminatory access to basic social services. These services must be provided in an environment that fosters good health, self-respect and dignity of the child.

Element 9: Child Protection Complaint and response mechanism accessible to community and children: Children that experience abuse and receive response and services should also have a mechanism to provide feedback to the service providers and duty bearers. This can be in the form of case reporting telephones (hotlines or helplines) suggestion boxes, participation in regular meetings of duty bearers and service providers, reflection meetings with children, information boards, feedback during programme evaluations or other regular mechanisms established in the community.

Child protection is relevant to all groups in society and is a responsibility of all. These responsibilities are at all levels of government including Local Authorities, Commune Councils, CCWC at commune level, district and provincial women's and children's consultative committees, justice system authorities and national coordination bodies for the protection of children and women.

Objectives

- To understand the protective legal framework in Cambodia
- To understand the key actors in child protection
- To understand the National Child Protection Framework

Legal Framework of Child Protection

A key element of a protective environment for children is the system of laws and policies that protect children. Although FPNs are not legal organizations, they need – as every citizen of Cambodia does – to work and exist within the national law. Cambodia is party to the UNCRC and has laws, sub-decrees and policies that protect children from violence and abuse. The following are key laws and policies that protect children:

Constitution

- The Constitution of Cambodia prohibits physical abuse of any individual
- The Constitution of Cambodia respects the rights of children as outlined in the UNCRC in particular the right to life, education, and from economic or sexual exploitation

Domestic Violence Law

- The Domestic Violence Law protects a spouse, a dependent child and any person living in the household and dependent on the household from emotional, physical and sexual abuse.
- The Domestic Violence Law says the nearest competent authorities can and should urgently intervene in domestic violence that is occurring or is about to occur in order to prevent the violence and protect victims. The nearest competent authority includes the Village Chief, Commune Chief or any Commune Council members, any police, Officials of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs

Penal Code

- The Penal Code makes acts of domestic violence a crime that can be punished with imprisonment under different offenses in the code, such as intentional violence on a spouse or child.⁹
- The Penal Code states that the legal age of sexual consent is 15 years of age.¹⁰ The Penal Code also offers imprisonment provisions for rape¹¹

Civil Code

- The Civil Code states that members of families shall respect each other’s rights and freedoms and prevent domestic violence¹²
- The Civil Code says that parental power may be suspended or removed by the court, if a parent abuses his or her rights or neglects his or her obligations towards their child.¹³

Law on Marriage and Family

⁹ Penal Code, article 222

¹⁰ Penal Code, article 239

¹¹ Penal Code, article 239

¹² Civil code, article 943

¹³ Civil Code, article 1048

- The Law on Marriage and the Family says that parental power can be terminated and transferred to any organization or relative for parents who mistreat their child.¹⁴

Laws, Subdecrees and Prakas on Education

- Students have the right to be respected and be treated with dignity and the right to be free from torture or physical and mental punishment.¹⁵ Teachers shall not physically or mentally punish their pupils.¹⁶
- All forms of punishment are prohibited such physical penalties (ex. beatings, kneeling down, standing under the sun) or emotional punishment (ex asking pupils to write an entire lesson for many times in excess of his/her capacity, causing mental suffering, or causing humiliation).¹⁷

Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation

- Sexual intercourse with a minor under 15 is illegal
- Sexual intercourse or other contact with a minor over 15 by promising anything of value is punishable by prison
- Soliciting a child for prostitution is illegal
- Pornography of children is illegal

Alternative Care Guidelines

- Provide for alternative care placement for a child that is not able to be cared for in the family.

Minimum Standards of Residential Care for Children

- Corporal punishment, solitary confinement, tying up children, and other forms of discipline that adversely affect the child’s physical, mental, emotional and social development should be avoided.

Prohibition of Hazardous Child Labour

- Children under 18 are prohibited from hazardous work that jeopardizes their health, security, or morals

Village Commune Safety Policy

- Safe Village/Commune/Sangkat Policy encourages all Government institutions, civil society organizations, political parties and competent authorities from all sectors to jointly establish an effective safety net for protecting citizens and promoting stability, security, order and development. This policy prioritizes “no domestic violence” and “no trafficking of women and children”.

Birth Registration

- Parents should register a child within 30 days with the local authorities. Birth registration is important because it helps to realize other rights such as health care, school enrolment, protection from child labor, and later other rights such as getting a Cambodian ID Card, Family Record Book, Residence Record Book, passport, opening a bank account, employment or credit.

Nationality

- UNCRC says every child has a right to a nationality. Children born in Cambodia ‘to parents ‘legally’ living in Cambodia have the right to Cambodia nationality.

¹⁴ Law on Marriage and Family, article 119

¹⁵ Law on Education, article 35.

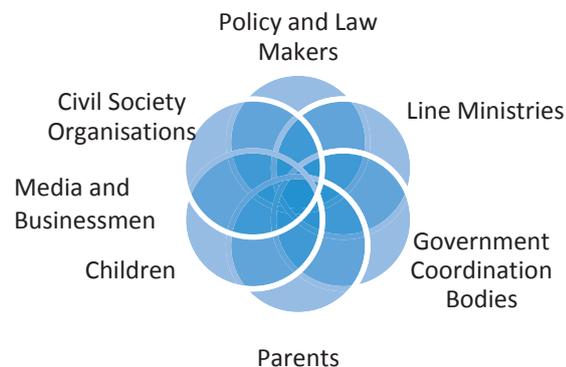
¹⁶ Sub-degree No. 126 on the Code of Conduct of Teachers (2008), article 12

¹⁷ Prakas No. 922 on Problems relating to Imposing Penalties on Pupils (2006), issued by the Ministry of Education, Youth & Sports

Key Actors in Child Protection

Everyone has a role to play in child protection. People from all levels of society including children, parents, other community members, civil society organisations, media, businessmen, policy and law-makers and line ministries and coordinating bodies to actively contribute towards the protection of children from harm and abuses and helping to ensure that their rights are respected, protected and fulfilled.

Together all these key actors can form the protective environment for children.



Children – Children have an important role in child protection, especially by becoming more aware of how they can protect themselves from risky and harmful situations. It is also important for children to have access to information about services to help them report and recover from any negative or abusive situation. Children also have a unique understanding of their own situation and can advocate on child protection issues and contribute to the design and practice of child protection programmes.

Parents and families: Parents and families are the first and most effective system of support for children (especially very young children). Parents and families provide a safe environment for children to live, go to school and participate, and live free of violence. Parents can also participate in community efforts to improve child protection.

Media: The media can help to ensure that issues relating to children, including any violations of their rights, are not ignored, aware of and are placed on the public agenda, provide information on how to protect children from violence and how to report the cases and sometimes media can raise the issues to Government and relevant stakeholders for intervention. Moreover media can control the news or information or article on the violence against children to ensure that the information will not provide more harm and risk to children.

Businessmen: Businessmen are responsible not only the benefit for their business but they can also help to protect children from violence. They can develop their child safe business including internal regulation to protection children in their place, respect the labour laws and support financially to the children affected or at risk to violence.

Communities: Children live within communities so communities are both sources of threats but also as have a role in child protection. Communities can make the community safer for children and can develop systems to respond when children's rights are violated

Service providers: Services for children can range from education and health care Programmes to more specific interventions. The service providers can help those children who have suffered abuse, violence and/or separation from their family on time with their ethnic professionalism.

Policy-makers and law-makers: It is important that the policy makers and law makers consider how policies and laws are developed, their purpose and the likely effects on children – which can be both positive and negative and enforce the implication of the laws and policies.

Government – By signing the UNCRC Cambodia has the responsibility of trying to meet the standards for child protection it contains. Government also influences the laws and policies that other service providers will follow,

such as stakeholders coordination, setting procedures concerning employment, the education system or how the justice system should handle children in contact with the law.

National Child Protection Framework

At the national level, the relevant State bodies are responsible to develop a child protection system that promotes a protective environment for children at all communities in the country and an effective response when child protection concerns are raised.

The key State bodies at the national level are *policy and law makers, ministries, and government coordination bodies. Parents, children and civil society organisations should participate at this level.*

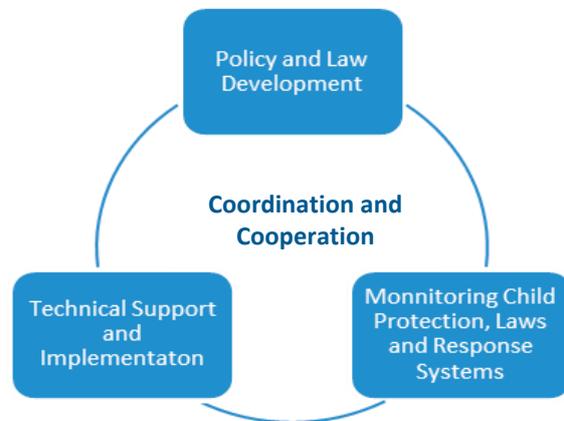


Figure 1 Key Roles of FPN at the National Level

Key roles of the state Bodies at the national level

Policy and Law Development: At the national level the role is to develop legal frameworks on child protection, develop national plan of action based on international good practice and learnings from monitoring the implementation of the child protection related laws and adopt the state budget to allocate for the implementation of the national plan.

Monitoring Child Protection Laws and Response Systems: At the national level the role is to review and study the laws and policies, study the real situation of child protection issues, and make suggestions to improve the system. This includes making recommendations on laws and policies to fill any gaps and promoting enforcement.

Technical Support and Implementation: At the national level the role is also to coordinate technical assistance and promote the implementation of child protection activities and to disseminate information through media. This includes to enforce the law application in line ministries, to provide capacity building to practitioners, to promote educational actions about the protection of children in the education system and media, and to involve children to be heard at all levels.

Child Participation at the National Level

At the national level children can participate through both consultation (seeking views of children) and through collaborative participation (joint decision making with children). All child participation should follow the National Guidelines for Applying Child Participation.¹⁸

Child participation should be encouraged for all children and should always be voluntary and with permission. Permission form and chaperone form are in Annex 6 and Annex 7. Participation should be encouraged of both boys and girls and vulnerable or maginalised children including children with disabilities.

Children should be clearly informed before and during their participation. The child’s participation should begin with an assessment of the child protection risk for the participation and action plan to mitigate the risks. The risk assessment

¹⁸ The Decision on Guideline for Applying Child Participation was passed by Cambodia National Council for Children on 24 February 2014.

will be developed and discussed among organizers and how to mitigate this risk and the risk form for children should be developed to ask children to fill in. Also the participation should be planned so the child has all the resources and support they need to participate. This includes clear information, safe transportation, knowledge on how to protect themselves from abuse or accident, reporting mechanism, first aid, clothing, and other preparation. If the child is out of the community or away from guardians safety should be ensured through chaperones (one chaperone should take care maximum 2 or 3 children) or other support mechanism. Also follow-up after the event such as reflection with children, activity result sharing to children and safety of children returning back to home should be always carried out.

Some examples of child participation at the national level are consultation with children on policy development and implementation and Programme planning. Other examples are awareness raising or prevention events that can be developed with children and adults working hand in hand to plan and carry out the events.

Key Linkages

Cambodia National Council for Children(CNCC)	Monitor implementation of Child Rights in Cambodia; Report to RGC and UNCRC on situation of child rights in Cambodia; Coordinate ministries, other key actors at the national level to advocate for development and implication of Child Protection Policies, Laws and Systems at National Level
National Orphans and Vulnerable Children Multi-Sectoral Task Force (NOVCTF)	Facilitate coordination among key stakeholders to jointly identify national programme priorities, and harmonize activities for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Monitor, assess and recommend specific actions on OVC
National Committee for Counter Trafficking (NCCT)	Coordinate with Ministries, partner institutions and relevant countries to protect citizens especially women and children from trafficking, smuggling, labor exploitation and sexual exploitation; Monitor situation and report to the RGC or relevant authorities
Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY)	Orphans and Vulnerable Children Programmes Anti-trafficking and re-integration programme Inspections of Alternative Care Programmes Juvenile Services and Juvenile Delinquency
Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA)	National Plan of Action Violence Against Women National Plan of Action Anti-trafficking Violence Against Children Study
Ministry of Commerce (MoC)	Promotion of Economic Opportunity, Promote corporate and business social accountability
Ministry of Interior (Moi)	Implementation of Commune Safe Policy, Strengthening Cambodia National Police, Anti-trafficking programmes, police hotlines functioning
Ministry of Health (MoH)	Forensic Exam in Rape Cases and treatment for victims from violence
Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MoLVT)	Labor issues including Migration and Child Labor
Ministry of Justice (MoJ)	Child Justice Working Group, Appeals Court, Supreme Court, Phnom Penh Municipality Court
Ministry of Finance and Economics	Funding for Child Protection intervention and action
Council on Agriculture and Rural Development(CARD)	National Social Protection Strategy
NGO Committee on the Rights of the Child(NGOCRC)	Alliance of 49 national and international GOs that advocates for child rights and monitors UNCRC implementation
ECPAT-Cambodia	Network of National Organisations working to end child trafficking and prostitution
Cambodia ACTs	National Network of NGOs working to flight child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children
Child Advocate Network(CAN)	National Children’s Network participating and providing input on Child Protection Issues to Ministries, Coordination Bodies and Coalitions
Cambodia Children and Young People’s Movement for Child Rights (CCYMCR)	National Children and Youth Network participating and providing input on Child Protection issues to Ministries, Coordination Bodies and Coalitions
Plan International Cambodia	International Child Rights NGO, child rights and protection programme

Winrock International	Anti-trafficking programme support
Save the Children International	International Child Rights NGOs, child protection programme
UNICEF	UN Promotion of Child Rights and Child Protection System
ILO	Focus on Worst Forms of Child Labor
Academy Association/Institutions	Research on Child Protection, Training of Social Workers
Chamber of Commerce of Cambodia	Partnerships to promote a protective environment and child safe work place, support to pregnant workers
Trade Unions	Partnerships to promote a protective environment

Objective

- Understand the Family Protection Network’s goals, objective and operations the Provincial, District, Commune and Village Levels.

What is a Family Protection Network?

A Family Protection Network (FPN) is a mechanism to enable children to realize their rights to be protected from all forms of VAC. The FPN is a practical system to help governments and communities at all levels to protect children. The FPN brings together duty bearers, children and adults to build their skills and build a protective environment for children.

The objective of the FPN is to help girls and boys understand their rights to protection, be aware of the protection structure and mechanisms and utilize the gained skills to keep themselves safe from all forms of VAC. The FPN accomplishes this by



- *Improving its’ own legal capacity and child protection skills.* The FPN focuses on improving reporting, referral and response skills of the FPN at all levels;
- *Increasing parents and caregivers awareness of protective behavior.* This FPN promotes parents knowing how to care for and protect their children in the home and in the community;
- *Increasing children participation in their own protection by building their child safe skills and knowledge and increasing participation in decision-making; and*
- *Increasing the responsiveness and allocation of resources.* This includes improved response when child protection issue occurs and increasing resources to prevent protection issues from occurring.

FPN Structure at the Subnational Level

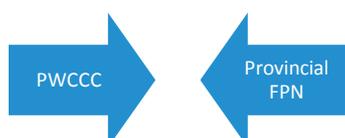


Figure 2 FPN is part of the existing Government Administrative Structure

The FPN at the sub-national level works in cooperation with the existing government structure. The FPN uses the administrative mechanisms of the Provincial, District, Commune and Village. The FPN works with the Provincial Women's and Children's Consultative Committee (PWCCC), the District Women and Children's Consultative Committee (DWCCC), and the Commune Committee on Women and Children (CCWC); and at the Village Safety Committee. At each level the roles and responsibilities of the FPN and child protection system are different, but each level is interrelated and must work together to develop and implement a system of protective laws and policies, develop a protective environment, monitor child protection, and provide adequate response when children experience violence or abuse.

A key role is of the FPN at the subnational level is implementing the Ministry of Interior's Safe Village Commune and Sangkat Policy Guidelines, and any other laws on child protection. The FPN provides a model mechanism to bring together key actors, build capacity and improve the child protection system.

Provincial FPN



The Provincial FPN uses the operational mechanism of the Provincial Women and Children Consultative Committee (PWCCC).

MEMBERSHIP

The Provincial FPN has a chairperson that is a female councilor selected by the council. There are three vice-chairpersons: a council selected by the council, a female deputy governor (in charge for implementation and resource mobilization coordination), and the director or deputy director of the PDoSVY. The director or deputy director of MoWA is a permanent member. Other members include representatives from the Departments of Planning, Health, Rural Development, Education Youth and Sports, Labor and Vocational Training, Agriculture, Police commissariat, Inter-Sectoral Division, Association of Commune/Sangkat Councils and other institutions as needed. The Provincial FPN encourages participation of NGOs, child representatives and other community representatives to provide input on child protection issues on the PWCCC.

DUTIES

The primary duties of the Provincial FPN are to:

DISSEMINATE LAWS AND POLICIES

The Provincial FPN has a key role to disseminate laws and policies child protection to the district and commune level authorities and the community. The Provincial FPN would work closely with the District FPN to accomplish this duty. This includes dissemination of new laws and to raise awareness on existing laws;

COLLECT AND ANALYZE INFORMATION

The Provincial FPN should collect and analyze information on the situation of women children (and families), from the district and commune level authorities, and NGOs. This input should be provided systematically through regular reports and through monitoring of the situation. Input should also be sought from children and families and the Provincial FPN should encourage the lower levels to include input from children. This will provide important information to help the Provincial FPN to understand the child rights situation.

REINFORCE THE NATIONAL LAWS/POLICIES

The Provincial FPN should issue important guidelines or Dekas/Decisions or information and that can reinforce the National Child Protection System including line ministries law and policy makers to draft and implement laws and guidelines related to child protection based on analysis of child protection issues at the sub-national level.

STRENGTHEN CAPACITY OF THE DWCC

A key role of the Provincial FPN is to identify gaps in capacity and provide training, and support to the District and Commune Level FPNs (DWCC and CCWC) so they have full capacity in administration of their roles as duty bearers in child protection. This can include capacity building on child rights, prevention and response actions.

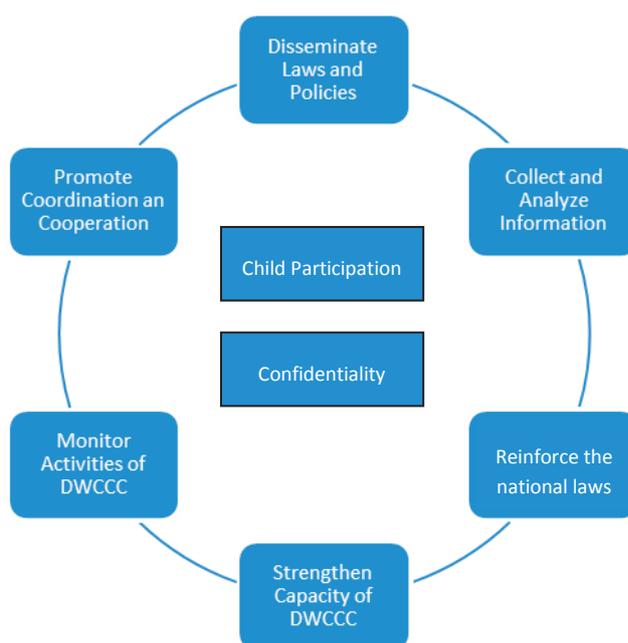
MONITOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DWCC

The Provincial FPN has the responsibility to monitor the activities of the District FPN (DWCC) to ensure effective implementation of its roles and responsibilities. This includes monitoring through field visits and regular written reports.

PROMOTE COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

The protection of children requires participation of many key actors both in the government and in the community. The Provincial FPN should promote good coordination with other government bodies and NGOs to ensure successful child rights implementation.

Figure 3 FPN Roles at Provincial Level



CHILD PARTICIPATION

At the provincial level children can participate through both consultation (seeking views of children) and through collaborative participation (joint decision making with children).

Children participation should be encouraged to all children and should always be voluntary and with permission. Consent forms are in Annex 6 and Annex 7. Participation should be encouraged of both boys and girls and vulnerable or marginalised children including children with disabilities.

Children should be clearly informed before and during their participation. The child's participation should begin with an assessment of the child protection risk for the participation and action plan to mitigate the risks. The risk assessment will be developed and discussed among organizers and how to mitigate this risk and the risk form for children should be developed to ask children to fill in. Also the participation should be planned so the child has all the resources and support they need to participate. This includes clear information, safe transportation, knowledge on how to protect themselves from abuse or accident, reporting mechanism, first aid, clothing, and other preparation. If the child is out of the community or away from guardians safety should be ensured through chaperones (one chaperone should take care maximum 2 or 3 children) or other support mechanism. Also follow-up after the event such as reflection with children, activity result sharing to children and safety of children returning back to home should be always carried out. The process to involve children has to do base on the National Guideline on Child Participation.

Some examples of child participation at the provincial level are consultation with children on child protection issues and implementation of policy and programme planning or evaluation. Children can be invited to meetings or special consultations held with them. Children consulted on their views about protection issues, or they can help to collect information on protection issues. Other examples are children awareness raising or prevention events that can be developed with children and adults working hand in hand to plan and carry out the events.

The Provincial FPN (PWCCC) is responsible for should also provide technical support and ensure the District and Commune Level FPN's to promote child participation in line with the National Guideline on Child Participation.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The Provincial FPN is responsible for ensuring confidentiality policies and working with the District, and Commune FPNs to ensure confidentiality is maintained. The confidentiality policy should include the following information.

Children: District, Commune and Village FPNs should not share any information about the minor victim except with the relevant authorities. For any other resources (NGOs, Monks, Pagodas, etc.) consent to share information must be obtained from a non-abusive parent or guardian. Victims/survivors should not be talked about in public or in front of people who are not authorities.

Confidentiality is important because:

- Victims feel safe and secure
- Victims feel they have someone trustworthy to speak with

Not keeping confidentiality can:

- Cause rumors to spread out within a community about the victim
- Cause problems with a legal case if information is leaked
- Cause future victims to be afraid to report.

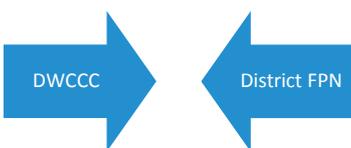
MEETINGS

Meetings of the Provincial FPN should be held quarterly and annually. At the meetings discussion should be held about current issues of child protection.

KEY LINKAGES

- ❖ *Cambodia National Council for Children (CNCC)* at the Provincial and National Levels: The Cambodia National Council for Children has a role at the National and Provincial Levels to monitor the child rights situation in Cambodia and recommend laws and policies to promote child rights. It is important to link with the CNCC at each level to ensure that good information on the child rights situation goes to the national level to prepare for advocacy for good laws and policies;
- ❖ *Provincial Orphans and Vulnerable Children Multi Sectoral Task Forces (POVCTF)*: Some provinces have the orphans and vulnerable children multi sectoral task forces that promote standards and expansion of services to children. If a task force exists in your province it is a key linkage for promoting social services for the children affected by violence;
- ❖ *Provincial Court*: For criminal cases of domestic violence, rape or trafficking the court process will be held at this level. The court have to be strengthened their capacity to address children's cases base on legal framework and UNCRC standards.
- ❖ *Provincial Departments*: Each provincial line department should work together at this level to promote child rights and child protection such as integrate FPN mechanism, identify issues, advocate for solutions and provide information and services to their own ministry on key child rights and child protection issues;
- ❖ *Civil society groups at provincial level*: In each province, NGOs promote child rights through prevention, protection activities, service provision and technical support. NGOs are key linkages to promote child rights and child protection at the community level. Other civil society groups that related to children such as media, trade union, hotel association, guide associations, academia groups etc could contribute to address the issues of children mainly the violence against children issues through their expertise and skills.

District FPN



The District FPN uses the operational mechanism of the District Women and Children Consultative Committee (DWCCC).

MEMBERSHIP

The District FPN is led by a female councilor selected by the council that serves as chairperson; a councilor selected by the council, a female deputy governor (In charge for implementation and resource mobilization coordination), Chief or Deputy Chief of the Office of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation or Chief or Deputy Chief of the office of Women's Affairs as permanent members and deputy administrative officer. The members are from the Office of Planning, Office of Health, Office of Rural Development, Office of Education Youth and Sports, office of Labour and Vocational Training, Office of Agriculture, Inspector or Deputy Inspector of Police and Military Police Inspection, Chief or deputy chief of relevant office of Sala Krong, Sala Srok and Sala Khan, Focal Person for women and children affairs of the commune and sangkat, representatives of other institutions as needed.

The District FPN encourages participation of NGOs, child representatives and other community representatives to provide inputs and feedback regularly on child protection issues.

DUTIES

The key duties of the District FPN are to:

GATHER INFORMATION

The District FPN should gather information on child protection issues in their district. Information can come from regular reports from the Commune Councils (CC), CCWCs, parents, and children. It can also come from inviting children, parents, NGOs or others that know about current child protection issues to come to District FPN meetings and report on specific topics. Some topics to explore include unsafe migration, violence against children, trafficking or other children protection issues.

PROVIDE INFORMATION TO PROVINCIAL LEVEL

The District FPN has a responsibility to provide information on current child protection issues to the provincial and national level. This provides the higher levels with the information they need to draft successful laws and guidelines that address gaps in child protection laws and policies.

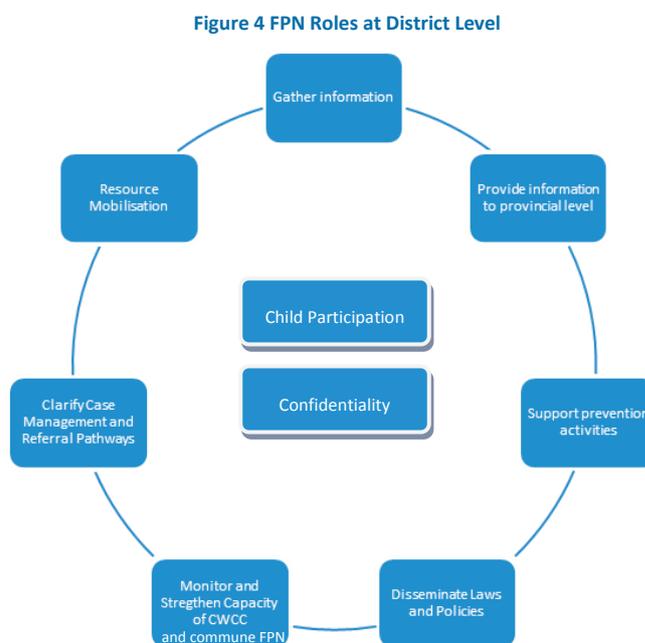
SUPPORT PREVENTION AND PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

Prevention and protection activities are important to make children safe from all forms of violence. The District FPN can provide assistance and cooperation to provincial governors and commune councils on the integration of the gaps interventions and actions into provincial plan and Commune Development Plan(CDP) and Commune Investment Plan(CIP). They could attend and organize the awareness raising or behavior change promotion activities, mobilize resources and child protection responses.

DISSEMINATE LAWS AND POLICIES

The District FPN also has a key role to disseminate new laws/policies and to raise awareness on existing laws and policies to commune level authorities and the community with working closely with the Provincial FPN. This can be in the form of awareness campaigns, community forums or other mechanisms.

The District FPN should issue guidelines or Deka/Decisions or provide important information and that can reinforce the National policies and contribute inputs to draft and implement laws and guidelines of line ministries and policy makers related to child protection based on analysis of child protection issues at community level.



STRENGTHEN CAPACITY OF THE CCWC OR COMMUNE FPN

A key role is to identify gaps in capacity of the Commune FPN and provide training, and support to the CCWC so they have full capacity in administration of their roles as duty bearers in child protection at their communities. This can include capacity building on child rights, legal knowledge, child protection information collection, prevention and response actions including referral and case management.

MONITOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CCWC OR COMMUNE FPN

The District FPN has the responsibility to monitor the activities of the Commune FPN to ensure effective implementation of its roles and responsibilities. This includes monitoring through attending the commune events, CCWC meetings, field visits and regular CC written reports.

CLARIFY CASE MANAGEMENT AND REFERRAL PATHWAYS

The District FPN should promote good coordination with other government bodies and NGOs to ensure successful child rights implementation especially child protection. The Governmental institutions includes health, health, education, social affairs, legal assistant institutions and NGOs who provide the social services, counseling services, rehabilitation services, legal services etc. The development of Clear referral pathways and case management procedures is important role in cooperation with the different organizations or government entities and the District FPN should identify the resources and services available in the community that support the development.

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

The District FPN should also support the mobilization of resources in the community to protect, prevent and respond to violence that children and families have experienced. This includes resources in the government budget and also resources from civil society organisations, business corporations and community members. Sometimes this is in the form of formal budgets or donations to respond to specific child protection issues.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

At the district level children participation is also base on the national guideline on child participation and process like provincial FPN to involve children at provincial level at above.

Some examples of child participation at the district level are consultation with children on child protection issues through allowing children to raise their concerns and issues at District Council meetings, WCCC meetings, public forum, Feedback meeting to services, district programme planning or evaluations. Other examples are the organizing and implementing the events that such as awareness-raising or prevention events that need a cooperation with children in mutual understanding and agreement on roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and children.

The District FPN should also provide capacity building and technical support to the Commune FPN's (CCWC) to promote child participation in their work in line with the National Guideline on Child Participation.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The District FPN is responsible for ensuring confidentiality policies and working with the CCWC (Commune FPN) to ensure confidentiality is maintained. The confidentiality policy should include the following information.

Children: The District, Commune and Village FPNs should not share any information about the minor victim except with the relevant authorities. For any other resources (NGOs, Monks, Pagodas, etc.) consent to share information must be

obtained from a non-abusive parent or guardian. Victims/survivors should not be talked about in public or in front of people who are not authorities.

Confidentiality is important because:

- Victims feel safe and secure
- Victims feel they have someone trustworthy to speak with

Not keeping confidentiality can:

- Cause rumors to spread out within a community about the victim
- Cause problems with a legal case if information is leaked
- Cause future victims to be afraid to report

MEETINGS

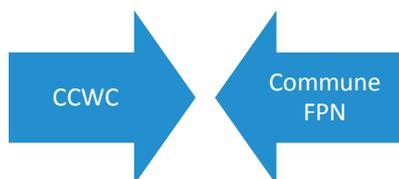
Quarterly Meetings: Regular meetings of the District FPN should be held quarterly. The meeting is the same with the regular DWCCC meetings but it includes more participants such as civil society representatives, children representatives private sector representatives and community representatives. The meetings should discuss general child protection issues, discuss activities, trainings or structures for referrals or other system issues. Issues of child protection and violence against women and children are discussed at all meetings. At the quarterly meetings members should NOT discuss specific cases using names to respect the confidentiality right of the victim/survivor.

Annual Meetings: In addition to the quarterly meetings an annual meeting should be held to review the year, identify successes and challenges and set prioritized action for the next year.

KEY LINKAGES

- ❖ PWCCC(Provincial FPN)
- ❖ CCWC(Commune FPN)
- ❖ District Office of Social Affairs, Women’s Affairs, Health, Education, Labour and Vocational Training, Religion
- ❖ District Operation for Health
- ❖ Police, Military Police
- ❖ NGOS
- ❖ Children’s groups
- ❖ Media and private sector association

Commune FPN



The Commune FPN uses the operational mechanism of the Commune Committee for Women and Children (CCWC).

MEMBERSHIP

The Commune FPN or CCWC is led by the Commune Chief. 1st Deputy or 2nd Deputy Commune Chief in charge for the CCWC play role as vice chair and one female commune staff or women and children’s focal point play role as

permanent member. Other members are from commune council members, health center chief or deputy chief, school director or deputy director, commune police chief or deputy chief, community representatives and child representatives.

DUTIES

The commune FPN has key duties following:

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND PREVENTION

The commune FPN should raise awareness in the community on laws and policies on children's right to protection. This could include awareness on the law on domestic violence, anti-trafficking and other child protection issues. This will help children understand their rights and how to take action when their rights are violated. They should also promote prevention activities related to child protection issues in the community which conducted or organized by NGOs, children's groups or Government authorities. Other prevention activities include education on safe migration, how to prevent themselves from violence, promotion of children enrolling and attending school, campaigns on violence against children, or parent education.

IDENTIFICATION OF CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES IN COMMUNITY

The Commune FPN has the responsibility to identify child protection issues and trends in the community. One mechanism is to work with the CC and Village Chiefs to develop community social service mappings of vulnerable children and families in the community.

Other ways to learn about child protection issues is to gather information from Village Chiefs, Children, Community Members, NGOs and other stakeholders on child protection issues through community forums, home visits or coordination meetings.



PLANNING, MONITORING, REPORTING AND BUDGET ALLOCATION

The Commune FPN has the responsibility to prepare annual plan of action for the commune and to allocate the budget to respond to child protection issues. The Commune FPN must ensure that children's and women's issues are taken into consideration in the commune investment plan and the district integration workshop process.

The Commune FPN must also ensure that CCWC and CCs guidelines and policies are implemented.

COORDINATION

The Commune FPN should ensure good coordination with other government bodies and NGOs that are working on child protection. The Commune FPN should also report and requests from the community to the Commune Council and the DWCCC.

CASE REPORT INTERVENTION

Children's issues: The Commune FPN has the responsibility to take immediate action in cases of violence and trafficking reports of children. The first task is ensure the child is safe and free from the threat of all kinds of violence. If the child is in immediate danger call the police to intervene.

Women’s issues: The Commune FPN has the responsibility to act but should ask the victim/survivor if they want to report the crime or be referred to any services. Adults have the right to refuse services. However if the woman is in immediate danger the police should be called.

CASE REFERRAL

The Commune FPN should refer the child and family to resources and services in the community. Referrals should be based on the individual situation of the child and family.

Possible referral resources include Police, DoSVY, DOWA, and NGOs working in the community.

Adults should only be referred with their consent.

- **Rape or Sexual Abuse of a Child:** If the Commune FPN receives a report that a child (under 18) has been raped or sexually abused the Commune FPN should immediately report the case to the police and take the child to the Referral Hospital for the Forensic Examination.
 - *It is important that the child is taken to the hospital as soon as possible to receive medical treatment, and to collect evidence. Delays can result in in-effective treatment and evidence not being available.*
 - *It is important to respect the child’s confidentiality and not share information about the situation with anyone except the authorities.*
- **Child is in Immediate Danger of Violence or Trafficking:** If the Commune FPN receives a report of a child in immediate danger of violence or trafficking, the police should be called immediately.
 - *If a child cannot be safe in the family, call the DoSVY office for an alternative care placement.*
- **Other Child Protection Concerns:** When other child protection concerns such as lack of food, staying out of school, migration, Disaster situation, neglect or other issues received, the Commune FPN or designated representative such as the CCWC Focal Point should visit the child and family in cooperation with the Village Authorities and assess the situation to determine the best intervention.

Resource and Referral Directory

It is important to identify in advance any resources in the community.

A directory that includes type of service provided and contact information should be available and updated regularly. This will provide easy access to information about possible resources to help families. A sample is in Annex 3.

RESOURCES MOBILISATION

It is important for the Commune FPN to identify in advance any resources in the community so that referral resources are easily available. This includes Government services, NGO services, Pagoda and other possible resources such as families with more resources that are willing to help.

The Commune FPN should mobilize resources in the community to support the child and family. This includes to:

- Ensure that child and family gets food and basic household materials if needed;
- Ensure the child and family have a safe place to spend the night.

Possible ways to mobilize resources include:

- Collaborate with relevant NGOs to support children based on assessment of the situation;

- Mobilize resources to support victims from monks and pagoda, elders and other community people, private businessman, sellers, etc.
- Set-up saving boxes in the community for regular contributions to help children in need so emergency funds are available if needed.

MAPPING KEY RESOURCES AT THE COMMUNE LEVEL

- The Commune FPN should map NGOs providing different services in the commune or village. The mapping should identify types of services provided. The information gathered should be used to develop a booklet with name or organizations, types of services provided and contact information. See Sample Resource Directory format in Annex 3.

FOLLOW-UP AND MONITORING

The Commune FPN should follow up with the child and family case to check the progress and identify any new issues and ensure the safety of the child with family or referral services or court proceedings. This is called case management. After immediate intervention and response the CCWC Focal Point or other designated representative in cooperation is expected to follow-up with the family or case based on need. Immediately following there is likely to be more time spent with the child or family and later as the family stabilizes less.

A monthly case conference is expected to happen with all cases at the commune level among only the responsible authorities and to be updated for all cases in case management book which was kept in confidentiality. The purpose of the review is to identify the progress of the family and any needed resources. During the review process it is very important to respect the family and child's confidentiality. A sample Case Conference (Case Management Report) Form is available in Annex 4.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

The Commune FPN is responsible for promoting child participation in line with the National Guidelines on Child Participation. At the commune level children can participate through both consultation (seeking views of children) and through collaborative participation (joint decision making with children).

Participation should be encouraged to all children and should always be voluntary and with permission. Permission forms are in Annex 6 and Annex 7. Participation should be encouraged of both boys and girls and vulnerable or marginalised including children with disabilities. Children should be clearly informed about the exact responsibilities in the participation. The child's participation should begin with an assessment of the risk to the child for participating and a plan to mitigate the risks. A form is available in Annex 5.

Children should be provided clear information, transportation, clothing, and other preparation about what to expect and how to participate. If the child is out of the community or away from parents or guardians safety should be ensured through chaperones or other support mechanism. Also follow-up after the event should be provided to ensure understanding and promote accountability.

Some examples of child participation at the Commune level are consultation with children on child protection issues at Commune Council meetings and in programme planning or evaluations (Commune Development Plan and Commune Investment Plan). When children participate in meetings they should be allowed to speak and be provide follow-up information on the results. Other examples are events that such as awareness-raising or prevention events that can be developed with children and adults working hand in hand to plan and carry out the events. The Commune FPN should support the child led prevention and awareness raising activities and the function of child clubs.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The Commune FPN is responsible to ensure confidentiality of the child and family. The Confidentiality Policy should be promoted by the Commune FPN at the Commune and Village Levels. The policy should include:

Children: The Commune and Village FPN should not share any information about the minor victim except with the relevant authorities. For any other resources (NGOs, Monks, Pagodas, etc.) consent to share information must be obtained from a non-abusive parent or guardian. Victims/survivors should not be talked about in public or in front of people who are not authorities.

Confidentiality is important because:

- Victims feel safe and secure
- Victims feel they have someone trustworthy to speak with

Not keeping confidentiality can:

- Cause rumors to spread out within a community about the victim
- Cause problems with a legal case if information is leaked
- Cause future victims to be afraid to report

Village FPN



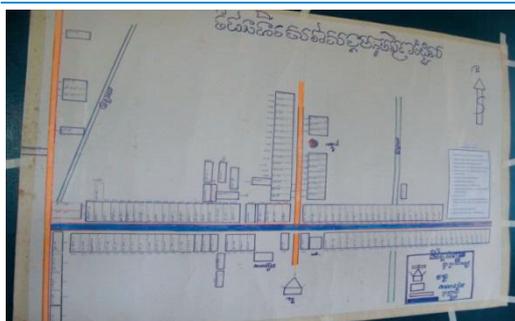
The Village FPN works in connection with the Village Safety Committee at the village level. The Village Protection Network is the mechanism closest to people living in the community and can be a key resource for identifying community child protection issues, building a protective environment and referring children and families to relevant government resources when response is needed.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Village FPN includes Village Chief or Deputy Chief, 2 Community Elders, 1 teacher, 1 Religious representative, 2 child representatives (boy and girl), 2 closed group representatives, 2 representatives from Parent Groups and Community Based Groups and NGOs.

The Village FPN builds on the government administrative structure to promote the building of a protective environment for children. This includes Parent Groups, Children's Groups, and Closed Groups.

DUTIES



IDENTIFICATION OF CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES IN THE COMMUNITY

The Village FPN has the responsibility to identify child protection issues and trends in the village. The Village FPN can gather information on child protection issues from children, parents, community members, schools, NGOs and other stakeholders on child protection issues through community forums, visits or participation in

coordination meetings and community mapping to identify domestic violence families, families who have children at risk of violence and other children's issue at the community.

Social Services Mapping: The Village FPN should support the social services mapping of the village. The social services mapping is a way for communities to participate in identifying and plotting - on a map - the various resources and services available in their village such as schools, health clinics, sanitation facilities, water sources, community rice banks, NGOs, rich families who potential to support, and pagodas. The map also identifies the households in the village that are most in need of additional assistance. Each village will develop a map and keep one copy in the village and another copy is sent and kept at the commune. The social services mapping should be updated quarterly.

Sometimes children or adults will also make a report of an immediate crisis in child protection to the local authorities. In those cases the authority receiving the report has the responsibility to respond as outline below.

RESPONDING TO CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES IN THE COMMUNITY

INTERVENTION

Village FPN can intervene immediately such reconciliation to domestic violence, physical and emotional violence against children and neglect, support children affecting from this issue to access primary services, advice to parents and adults do not commit the physical and emotional violence against children again. But if the physical violence is serious or criminal, FPN at village level have to report immediately base on section below.

REPORT

Children: The Village FPN has the responsibility to report any cases of violence or trafficking immediately in case the issue beyond the village chief authorization to the nearest competent commune authority. This includes the Police or the Commune Chief or the CCWC.

Special Note: In cases of sexual violence or rape, the child's case should be immediately reported to the police and the child taken to the Referral Hospital for the medical treatment and the Forensic Examination.

Special attention should be paid to child victims mainly girl. Talking to a male policeman, male local authorities or others will be difficult. Take the victim to the Referral Hospital as soon as possible because they are prepared for this type of case.

REFER

Child protection problems or cases identified at the village level should be referred to the Village Chief, and if the issue cannot be resolved at the Village Level, the child protection issue should be referred to the police, CCWC or other authorities.

In the following circumstances the Village Chief (or any duty bearer) should immediately refer to higher authorities.

- **Rape or Sexual Abuse of a Child:** A case of rape or sexual abuse of a child under 18 should be reported immediately to the Police. The child should be taken to the Referral Hospital for medical treatment and the completion of the Forensic Examination.
 - *It is important that the child is taken to the hospital as soon as possible to receive medical treatment, and to collect evidence. Delays can result in in-effective treatment and evidence not being available.*
 - *It is important to respect the child's confidentiality and not share information about the situation with anyone except the authorities.*

- **Child is in Immediate Danger of Violence or Trafficking:** If the Village Chief or Village FPN receives a report of a child in immediate danger of violence or trafficking, the police should be called immediately.
 - *If a child cannot be safe in the family, the Police or Local authorities should call DoSVY office for an alternative care placement. DoSVY can help to find a temporary placement for the child under the authority of the government.*
- **Other Child Protection Concerns:** When other child protection concerns such as lack of food, staying out of school, migration, or other issues are identified the Village Chief or his/her designee should visit the child and family to assess the situation to determine the best intervention.

Children should not participate in visits to families with child protection issues.

FOLLOW-UP

The Village Chief or his designee of FPN at village should follow-up with the child and family to provide support for the child and family with a child protection issue. This could also mean provide supportive counseling to the family or child.

Follow-up should be on cases reported to police, other service providers and authorities, in relation to: 1) The status and well-being of the child; 2) What the police, health care providers are doing; 3) The legal status of the case; 4) Re-integration and safety when the victim returns to the community. Then FPN at village level mainly Village chief can update the information to the family who face the issue with confidentiality.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The Village FPN should follow the confidentiality policy for child victims which is stated in above section(FPN at commune level).

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND PREVENTION

The Village FPN also has a role in information dissemination. This includes:

Raising awareness in the community on new and existing laws and policies on children’s right to protection in working closely with the CWCC.

Promoting prevention activities related to child protection issues in the community including education on safe migration, promotion of children enrolling and attending school, campaigns on violence against children, or parent education in cooperation with NGOs, or Government authorities.

Objectives

- To understand the roles and importance of different community groups contribute to the FPN

Parent groups

Parent groups are parents in the community that can serve as positive role models in the community, identify and report on child protection issues and generally help to build a protective environment for children.

Parent Groups have a key opportunity to share knowledge to other community members, parents and children about what violence, exploitation and abuse is. This can include:

- Sharing knowledge about laws, policies on violence, exploitation and abuse;
- Sharing knowledge about the negative effects of violence, exploitation and abuse on children and families;
- Participating in meetings with the Commune Council and CCWC to highlight issues related to children and parent's perspectives on violence, exploitation and abuse.

Parent groups also have an obligation to report cases of abuse and help to mobilise resources. This can include:

- Report and refer cases of violence and trafficking to police, village chief, health centers, other relevant authorities and provide information and evidence for the investigation base on their safety priority.
- Collaborate with NGOs to support referral and follow-up processes when needed; and
- Contribute to mobilization of resources to help victims of violence and children left alone when parents migrate
- Meet with other members of the group to find solutions.

Parent groups should also hold regular meetings and should:

- Call meetings with the community to discuss issues around violence, laws, policies and the impact of violence;
- Provide advice to other community members to attend meetings; and
- Encourage and give particular support to marginalized groups that don't attend meetings normally through home base discussion.

Children Clubs

Children's clubs are groups of children that are organized by themselves in the community with recognition from authority and community. Two children's clubs representatives participate in the Village and commune FPN. The Children's Groups provide an opportunity for children to participate in protection through:

- Sharing knowledge to their peers what violence, exploitation, abuse and trafficking is and how to be protected against it. Some children can be identified as peer educators and can provide significant information to children their own age about prevention of violence, knowledge of where to seek support and report;
- Report cases of violence and trafficking to parents, elders, teachers and local authority. Children should NEVER try to intervene in a case of violence or abuse themselves but should always report to the local authorities or police base on their confidentiality and safety.
- Participate in meetings with the Commune Council, the CCWC, the DWCCC and the PWCCC to highlight issues related to children and children's perspectives. This is an opportunity for children to provide input into government development plan processes;

- Participate in community activities encourage others to do the same such as collect children issues, conducting awareness raising on child rights and child protection issues, relate and work with adults in community to lobby for important of their participation; and
- Be a role model for others in not using violence.

Closed groups

Closed groups are groups in the community that are made of men and women who are either experiencing violence or committing violence. Closed groups are separated by male group and female group. Closed groups have key roles following:

- Share knowledge and experience on what violence, exploitation and abuse is, including laws, policies, health and psychosocial implications;
- Share about methods and experience to end violence in their own family;
- Learn about rights to live without violence;
- Report and refer cases in community to police, health centers, village chief and other relevant authorities;
- Be a role model for non-violence family for other children, parents and community members; and
- Cooperate with authorities in case out of control and at risk to violence in family to solve it positively.

Civil society organisations

NGOs including media groups, private sector unions working in the community should promote an increased protective environment for children. This includes strengthening their own organizations capacity and promoting increased capacity in the community. Some ways NGOs can do this are to:

- Promote wide understanding of Child Protection Policies, child rights, child participation and confidentiality policy within their organization;
- Strengthen the capacity and knowledge of FPN at all levels and other community groups on child protection, trafficking, child exploitation, violence against women;
- Disseminate information on laws, polices, guidelines, case management and ensure that it is available to all;
- Advocate to Government at all level to develop laws, policy, plan and to enforce its implementation;
- Give technical support to FPN at all levels for case management and resource mobilization; and
- Provide social services and support to children affected by violence in the community
- Promote child participation in their own protection including supporting the child led activities in communities
- Develop phase-out strategy with FPN.

Objective

- To better understand principles and methods how children can be involved in their own protection
- To understand risk assessment and planning for child participation

Principles for Child Participation^{19 and 20}

Child participation should be guided by the following general principles. All child participation must serve children's direct or indirect best interest for short or long term interest. If not the child should not be involved.

1. **Non-discrimination and inclusiveness:** When collecting children's views, make sure that the views of children from different groups are included, girls or boys, out of school children, working children, children with disabilities, child with HIV, children of ethnic minorities groups, children living in remote areas, children living in care centres or living in correction centers and so on. The measurement actions should be developed to ensure the inclusion of all kinds of children success.
2. **Democracy and equality of opportunity and respect for all children's views:** All children should have the same chances, and allowing people to have their say. Child participation should have an arrangement or process for children to freely express their personal view on the discussion subject matter, and their ideas must be respected accordingly. Adults can also raise their ideas to discuss with children in any necessary case and children are the one to give feedback and agreement.
3. **Safety:** The children should be protected and their security ensured pre-event, during-event and post event. Child Protection measurement plan and procedures have to be developed and included in the whole activity or event plan. Risk assessment must be made in order to take preventative measures to ensure the safety for children.
4. **Adult responsibility:** The support of adults should be available at all times for child participation (pre-event, during the event and post event). Adults should make sure that children have all the relevant information about the topics for discussion and fully understand all information. The reading material and speaking language should be easy for children to understand and the environment should be child friendly.
5. **Voluntarism, informed consent and transparency:** Child Participation must be voluntary and not forced upon any child. Children can freely choose to join or not to join the participation process and to withdraw themselves from the process at any time with informing to organizer. Children should receive full and easy understandable information on the background, purpose, agendas/topic, time, organiser and venue and expected outcomes before they decide to participate or not. This information includes possible protection risks that might happen in the process such as travel accident or so on. After the event the children should be informed on the even outcome.
6. **Participation should be an enjoyable and stimulating experience:** even if it is a serious topic or issue, it does not have to be boring! Activities that include children should be child friendly. The child participation process should not cause disadvantage to education, recreational activities with friends and work for family and extra burden to boys and girls or other vulnerable children groups.

Methods for Child Participation in Protection²⁰

Children have the right to participate in their own protection. Key mechanisms in the FPNs for child participation are Children's Clubs, prevention programmes, and input into the assessment, planning, and evaluation of programmes.

¹⁹ (Sticks and Stone manual by Plan ARO 2013)

²⁰ (Sticks and Stone manual by Plan ARO 2013)

Children can be involved in their own protection in four distinct but connected ways.²¹ These are each ways that FPNs can promote participation of children in protection.

1- Development of Keep Safe Skills

The first way children can learn to protect themselves is to learn what is called “keep safe skills”. Some examples of keep safe skills are to learn to recognize different types of risk and VAC, be aware of different preventive actions they can take and knowing where to seek help and support. Teaching these types of skills are good activities for the FPN in the community. These skills can be taught in community forums, schools, and in child clubs. This includes:

Learn to recognize different risks and types of abuse: Children should learn about the different types of abuse (physical, sexual, emotional and neglect) about the dangers of drugs, the risks of trafficking and migration and other vulnerabilities in their community. Good ways for children to learn about these risks are through community programmes, or programmes in schools and in child clubs. Children can also participate by mapping risks in their community and raising awareness of risks through peer education and other community events. When children face risk they should also be taught how to respond.

Be aware of preventive actions: There is no one way or one thing that children can learn to prevent abuse. And it is the responsibility of adults to prevent abuse and protect children. But children can learn behaviors to reduce the risk of some types of abuse. Sometimes these preventive actions might include avoiding not being alone in some places. This is a good opportunity to lead discussions with children to get their ideas on ways to learn preventive actions.

Know where to seek help and support: Children should be taught where to seek help and support when they or peers are exposed to violence. Children often say they are afraid to report because they will not be believed, or they will be talked about or at risk in the community. So learning where to report is very important for children to know and to be safe to report. Children should be encouraged to know the different paths they can report safely to responsible adults, neighbors, local authorities, police or other authorities.

2- Participation in Programme Responses

Children can participate in programme responses to abuse. As children learn about their rights, learn about the risks of abuse, preventive actions and places to seek help, children can design, run and review programmes in community with collaboration with others. Their programme responses have to be ensuring that it will not affect to the safety of children and not allow them to response the criminal case of violence against children. One way that children can participate based on their own knowledge and skills is to design programmes through Children’s Clubs and Peer Education and Support Programmes that identify protection risks, teach preventive skills and raise awareness of reporting.

Other ways children can participate in programme responses is through participation in the design, monitoring and evaluation of programmes run by government or NGOs. Children can provide input throughout the programme cycle. Ways children can provide input is through programme managers seeking input during the design, implementation, monitoring or evaluation process. Other ways for children to participate is through feedback mechanisms on an on-going basis. These mechanisms can include suggestion boxes, or consultation meeting with children, or other regular mechanism for children to report on their experiences to programmes.

²¹ (Sticks and Stone manual by Plan ARO 2013)

3- Advocacy by Children

Children can also participate in advocacy efforts to enforce the laws and policies child protection issues, to create necessary actions to change behavior of people and to influence policy development. Children have significant experience and understanding of child protection issues and concerns and are the best source for understanding and being informed.

Children can also play advocacy role through Children Networks such as Child Advocacy Network (CAN), Cambodia Children and Young People Movement for Child Rights (CCYMCR) to Government authorities at the national and subnational levels: commune meetings such as Commune Councils and CCWC, or district meetings such as District Councils and WCCC, or national meetings such as the CNCC or national level NGO coalitions, or regional and international level such as ASEAN, UN and International forums.

Another way children participate in protection is through participation in the FPN. Representatives of the Child Clubs (one boy and one girl) participate in FPN at all levels to raise their concerns, call for change and influence the decisions at all levels to child protection issues.

4- Involvement in Decision-making

Children can also participate in their own protection by being involved in decisions of Government and NGOs at all levels relating to their own protection – including the empowerment of the most vulnerable and marginalised children. For example children can be being involved in care planning meeting, and having a say about where they should live if it is not safe for them to be at home. Another way again can be to provide feedback through a systematic feedback mechanism on the quality of services they have received.

5- Response Process

In Annex 8 is a drawing of the process for reporting and responding to abuse. Children can participate in the response process, but a word of caution is that children's response should be age appropriate and not place significant responsibility on the child. Key areas to consider are:

Children should never...

- Children should never participate in an active child protection case. When children learn of a child protection issue they should report to an adult, an elder, the village chief, police or other local authorities base on safety principle. A child should not ever try to intervene directly in a child protection situation on their own
- Children that are participating in the FPN Network should never participate in an 'investigation' or 'intervention' in an active abuse case

Children can...

- Children can report to adults or authorities when they learn of an abuse situation and are confident on their safety
- Children share information with peers on places to report and seek help and support
- Children can share information on what is abuse, ways to prevent abuse and protect yourself with peers
- Children can share information about community resources to children that are experiencing abuse and encourage those children to participate with them.

Factors that influence children’s participation in protection²²

A number of factors influence the extent that children can participate and be involved in their own protection. These include:

Age

Babies and young children are especially vulnerable to abuse as they are almost completely dependent upon their carers for protection and to meet their needs. Children of all ages often find it is difficult to speak out about abuse (especially if the abuser is someone who the child has a close relationship with and so may feel loyal too, or if it is someone who is in a position of power and the child is afraid of the consequences). As children grow, their capacities and safety confidence increase, the possibility to include them in protection becomes easier.

Disability

Children with disabilities are often separated and kept isolated. It is important to be able to identify those children and help the community to overcome negative ideas about their capacities of children to participate. Sometimes adults such as parents, or relatives want to protect their child, but may have a limited idea about their potential because of a disability and not understanding about the importance and rights of the participation of children with disabilities.

The inclusion of children with disabilities may be difficult to logistical arrangements such as needing to make sure that buildings are accessible and transportation is provided. But we have to learn different ways or make special arrangements for communication, for example using sign language and proper planning and budgeting to support this arrangement and facilitation.

Gender

Boys and girls have different experiences in childhood. This includes both their experiences of being a child, and also the nature of violence that they can encounter. For girls sometimes they are more at risk for abuse within the family if they are kept near home, and this also makes them less likely to be able to get support. For boys, they are sometimes expected to work and earn money and may be more at risk of abuse outside the home or being involved in dangerous labor or drug abuse or gangs. There is also a belief sometimes that boys cannot be sexually abused. This is not true base on some studies there are many cases of sexual abuse against boys.

Environment – including emergencies

The community (or environment) in which children live also impacts the extent to which children’s views and opinions which are encouraged and valued, and to what degree they are seen as individuals with rights. Initially children’s participation might be less, but as the authorities, community, families and children themselves learn about child rights, children’s ability to participate in their own protection will increase. It is important to assess the safety of involving children and promote their involvement only when it can be carried out safely.

One concern is emergency situations such conflict and disasters (flooding, drought, land falling, fire, lightning etc). The normal ways of keeping children safe may be not working well. For example child protection workers have to do other tasks such immediate basic needs for the general population or children may be separated from their normal carers – either leaving them without care or placed in an institution where they may face different forms of violence. Emergencies can also bring with them new and different risks. These can include unknown workers who are new to the

²² (Sticks and Stone manual by Plan ARO 2013)

area that may pose a risk to children. Parents and other adults under stress as a result of the emergency and its consequences (such as loss of home, livelihood and bereavement) may find it more difficult to respond appropriately to children leading to higher levels of corporal punishment. So the child protection workers have to integrate child protection in emergency and ensure that child protection are aware of emergency response workers, child protection assessment included in Emergency Rapid Assessment and Situation Updated Report, reporting mechanism for child protection issues accessible, child friendly space development, identify key role of emergency staff related to child protection, feedback mechanism from communities and children accessible and action taken.

Risk Assessment and Mitigation for Child Participation

It is important when including children that a careful assessment of safety and protection risk is completed. Sadly sometimes, empowering children or encouraging participation can put them at risk. One example is if a child gets known by an abuser that is not happy about what the child is saying, the child could be at risk for abuse.

Prior to completing any activity including children the child protection risk assessment should be completed. This should be completed regularly and with all new events. The steps are to work with the child to identify the risks, how to mitigate the risks and who the child can ask for help or call if needed when processing the consent form. Another step, the organizer have to discuss together during the event/activity planning on the child protection risk, risk level, concrete action to mitigate and response risk, responsible person and time then ask approval from their management. A sample risk assessment forms based on the National Child Participation Guidelines and Plan International is available in Annex 5.

Objectives

- To understand the FPN Members Code of Conduct
- To learn about relevant skills to address child protection issues of FPN such as how to talk to victims, recordkeeping and the victims feedback mechanism
- To guide about the topic and training required for FPN members

FPN Members Code of Conduct

The FPN Members should all abide by the same code of conduct when working with children. This code of conduct is to be encouraged to sign by all members outlining how FPN members hold act to children. FPN member will also require additional training to be able to carry out their duties.

FPN members WILL:

- Treat all children and young people with respect and equity and support the child led activities and initiatives
- Provide a welcoming, inclusive and safe environment for all children, young people, parents, staff and volunteers;
- Respect cultural and background differences of children;
- Encourage open communication between all children, young people, parents, staff and volunteers in related to child protection issues
- Allow children and young people participate in the decisions that affect them and listen them;
- Report and refer any concerns of child abuse;
- Exercise due care in all matters related to our function and not divulge any confidential information about a child and other child protection network-related matters;
- At all times, be transparent in FPN actions and whereabouts;
- Take responsibility for ensuring FPN is accountable and do not place yourselves in any position in which there is a risk of allegations being made.
- Self-assess our behaviour, action, language and relationships with children; and
- Speak up when we observe behaviour of colleagues that cause concerns.

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- Request any service or favour from a child or family in return for protection or assistance.
- Do things of a personal nature that a child can do for him/herself, such as assistance with toileting or changing clothes.
- Take children to my own home or sleep in the same room or bed as a child.
- Blame, look down, Smack, hit or physically assault children.
- Develop a sexual relationship with a child or a relationship with a child that may be deemed exploitive or abusive.
- Behave provocatively or inappropriately with a child.
- Condone or participate in behaviour of children that is illegal, unsafe or abusive.
- Act in a way that shows unfair or differential treatment to children.
- Photograph or video or voice recording a child without the consent of the child and his/her parents or guardians.

Signed..... Date.....

Tips for Talking with CHILD Victims²³

Talking with child victims about abuse is sensitive. The first response they receive from you is very important to their recovery. Abuse victims say they are afraid to report because they will not be believed or they will be blamed so how you respond matters!

The most important thing you can do is treat the person respectfully, listen to what they say and keep as confidential. It is not up to you to decide who is right or wrong. You are to listen, help to problem solve and refer to authorities or other social services.

Following are some important tips on talking with child victims. These are key elements of a child rights approach. These are necessary skills to further develop and with training.

If you are not comfortable talking to a child victim, call for support from skilful and experiential person talking with victims.

Reassurance <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Always introduce yourself to the victim✓ Always ask for a name and refer to the person by name✓ Explain that you are here to help him/her	Victim's choice <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Share as much information as possible to enable the victim to make an informed choice✓ Work together to solve the problems✓ Explain everything you do, every step you take in the process
Confidentiality <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Explain and reassure the victim about the principle of confidentiality. This means you will not share information about their case except with authorities as required.	Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Avoid victim blaming questions such as why were you there? Or what did you do to make him mad? Only ask what happened and let the person tell their story.
Empathy <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Listen carefully and respectfully.✓ Do not pity the person, but treat their experience respectfully✓ Try to put yourself in the place of the victim without losing professionalism	Quick response and coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Make sure that you have all contact information for services available at all times.✓ Ask immediate response from police, health care, social services.✓ Coordinate with other services such as NGOs and civil societies.
Privacy <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Take the victim to a private place to talk so that other people nearby cannot listen. Do not let people interrupt. Turn off the ringer on your phone.	
Information <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Provide information to the victim about everything thing you do, every step you take in the process	

²³ Term of Reference of FPN, Plan International Cambodia 2013

Recordkeeping

The Commune FPN or CCWC should follow up with the child and family case to check the progress and identify any new issues and ensure the safety of the child. This is called case management. After immediate intervention and response the CCWC Focal Point or other designated representative is expected to follow-up with the family or relevant stakeholders or case based on need. Immediately following there is likely to be more time spent with the child or family and later as the family stabilizes less.

A monthly case conference is expected to happen with all cases at the commune level. The purpose of the review is to identify the progress of the family and any needed resources. During the review process it is very important to respect the family and child's confidentiality.

A sample Case Conference Form is available in Annex 4.

Feedback Mechanism

Children and families that are beneficiaries of services and interventions should have a mechanism to provide feedback to the duty bearers on the service or intervention they received. Each level of the FPN should establish a feedback mechanism.

One example of a feedback mechanism is a suggestion box. Suggestion boxes should be maintained at the commune level. Additionally other service providers should provide a mechanism like a suggestion box or regular reflection meeting. Other ways to obtain feedback are through processes such as opportunities for beneficiaries to participate in programme evaluation and evaluation meetings.

To establish the feedback mechanism should provide all information to children and families about this mechanism and also have to take action to respond all the feedbacks publicly and transparency base on the resources and reasons.

Training Required for FPN Members

Members of the FPN are asked to do many responsibilities which are not always skills they already have. To ensure that the FPN works effectively and fulfill their responsibilities, all members have to be equip with necessary skills they need.

The FPN members should receive at least trainings or skills in the following:

- ❖ Child Rights and other Human Rights
- ❖ Violence against children, Child Protection Laws and Policies, Child Protection system
- ❖ Key child rights issues including domestic violence, unsafe migration, child labor, children on the move, etc
- ❖ Parenting skill and how to take care their children
- ❖ Child participation and how to promote child participation in their own protection
- ❖ Assessing Child Safety skill
- ❖ Community Resource mobilization
- ❖ Talking with victims that disclose violence or abuse
- ❖ Understanding confidentiality
- ❖ Case management and reporting
- ❖ Child Protection Planning and operationalisation of the planning
- ❖ Managing meetings and coordination skill (for children and adults)

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ANNEX 1: MANUAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

This manual was developed through a participatory process. The first step was to review the current Terms of Reference for the Family Protection Network. Next a desk review was completed to understand current good practices on community based child protection networks, identify current laws and policies related to child protection and review sample community based child protection network manuals. The next steps were to interview people at the National Level and Subnational Levels working on Child Protection. Site visits to Kampong Cham Province and Siem Reap Province. A complete listing of those interviewed is listed below. They included government authorities, child protection NGOs, community members including parents and children. A draft manual was then created. This draft was reviewed at the community level by Family Protection Network Members and Children and at the National Level by Children and Youth network, Plan's NGO partners and Plan's Child Protection Team. With this input the Draft Manual was updated.

Persons interviewed are listed below:

Key Informant	Type of Interview	Number of Groups or Individuals
<i>Kampong Cham</i>		
Family Protection Network	Mapping Activity and Focus Group Discussion	3
Village Chief	Key Informant Interview	2
Closed Group (men)	Focus Group Discussion	3
Closed Group (women)	Focus Group Discussion	4
DoSVY	Key Informant Interview	1
CCWC	Focus Group Discussion	3
Children's Group		
CCASVA	Key Informant Interview	2
<i>Siem Reap</i>		
Family Protection Network	Mapping Activity and Focus Group Discussion	2
Village Chief	Key Informant Interview	2
Closed Group (men)	Focus Group Discussion	1
Closed Group (women)	Focus Group Discussion	1
DoSVY	Key Informant Interview	1
CCWC	Focus Group Discussion	1
LAC	Key Informant Interview	2
<i>National Level</i>		
Save the Children Child Protection Programme		1
UNICEF		1
NOVCTF		1
CNCC		1
World Vision		1
Child Advocate Network(CAN)		3
Cambodia Children and Young People Movement of Child Rights(CCYMCR)		3
Child Wise Cambodia		1

Validation Workshop at the Subnational Level: Validation workshops were held for 2 days in Kampong Cham. One had child participants (25) and the other was Family Protection Network members (23).

ANNEX 2: FPN MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT FORM

The FPN Members should all abide by the same code of conduct when working with children. This code of conduct is to be encouraged to sign by all members outlining how FPN members hold act to children. FPN member will also require additional training to be able to carry out their duties.

I WILL:

- Treat all children and young people with respect and equity and support the child led activities and initiatives
- Provide a welcoming, inclusive and safe environment for all children, young people, parents, staff and volunteers;
- Respect cultural and background differences of children;
- Encourage open communication between all children, young people, parents, staff and volunteers in related to child protection issues
- Allow children and young people participate in the decisions that affect them and listen them;
- Report and refer any concerns of child abuse;
- Exercise due care in all matters related to my function and not divulge any confidential information about a child and other child protection network-related matters;
- At all times, be transparent in FPN actions and whereabouts;
- Take responsibility for ensuring I am accountable and do not place yourselves in any position in which there is a risk of allegations being made.
- Self-assess my behaviour, action, language and relationships with children; and
- Speak up when I observe behaviour of colleagues that cause concerns.

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- Use inappropriate, offensive or discriminatory language when speaking with a child or young person.
- Request any service or favour from a child or family in return for protection or assistance.
- Do things of a personal nature that a child can do for him/herself, such as assistance with toileting or changing clothes.
- Take children to my own home or sleep in the same room or bed as a child.
- Blame, look down, Smack, hit or physically assault children.
- Develop a sexual relationship with a child or a relationship with a child that may be deemed exploitive or abusive.
- Behave provocatively or inappropriately with a child.
- Condone or participate in behaviour of children that is illegal, unsafe or abusive.
- Act in a way that shows unfair or differential treatment to children.
- Photograph or video or voice recording a child without the consent of the child and his/her parents or guardians.

Signed..... Date.....

EVERY FPN MEMBER MUST SIGN THIS FORM

ANNEX 3: SAMPLE RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Service Provider	Contact Information Telephone Address	Contact Persons Name	Services Provided
<i>Government</i>			
Village Chief			
Commune Police			
District Police			
Military Police			
CCWC Focal Point			Coordination of services and referral
Health Center			Medical Care for minor injuries and referral
Referral Hospital			Forensic Examination
Judicial Police			Support for Domestic Violence Victims in Legal System
DOSVY			
DOWA			

Other Services	Service Provider Name	Service Provider Contact Info	Notes or Types of Services Provided
Helpline			
Safe Shelter			
Parent Education			
Psycho-social support for Children			
Psycho-social support for Adult (domestic violence)			
Services for Perpetrators			
Income Generation			
Parent Education			
Educational Support			
Legal Information and Advocacy			
Reintegration			
Other Services			

ANNEX 4: SAMPLE CASE CONFERENCE REPORT

Children and Women Case Conference Report
Form For Month:

No	Name of Victim	Age		Current Address	Name of Perpetrator	Age		Current Address	Type of Crime or Problem	Place of crime	Date of Crime	Solutions or Action	Finish	Not Finish
		M	F			M	F							
1														
2														
3														
4														
5														
6														

ANNEX 5: CHILD PROTECTION RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION FORMS

1- Risk Assessment form for Children

This form is to think about and discuss with their parents/guardians on the risk that could happen to them during their travel to participate in events or activities. The adults/organizers who invite children or parent or chaperone should help children identify this risk if they need support. This form can be used in cooperation with the consent form.

<p>Risk Identify what risk you expect could happen and affect you during participation</p>	<p>How to Mitigate (reduce) the Risk Think about ways that you can mitigate (reduce) the risk based on your thinking and experience</p>	<p>Who could support this? When you face the risk and mitigate it, who would you be able to ask for help during your travel and participation during the event</p>
<p>Child’s Name and signature: _____</p>	<p>Parent name and Signature: _____</p>	<p>Date: _____</p>

2- Child Protection Risk Assessment Form for Organizers

For Identifying and assessing risks for planning events involving children

Activity Name:

Organisational name:

Time:

L: Low M:Medium H: High

Likelihood	H-3	M	H	H
	M-2	L	M	H
	L-1	L	L	M

Risk Assessment		Risk Management					
Step 1: What is the events and stage of the events(before, during and after)?	Step 2: Who is at risk? (Think about specific children at risk and the factors which put them at risk)	Step 3: What are the risks? Think of the risks that could happen to children base on travelling, venue, health, security, natural disaster, food, accommodation, friends and chaperone)	Step 4: What are the control measures currently in place? Think of the current policy or procedures or practice in place in the organizations to protect children from all risk identifies	Step 5: Risk Calculation(refer the table above right side)	Stage 6: What are the agreed additional controls/actions to be put in place to mitigate the risk? Think of additional and concrete action to be undertaken for the events to mitigate and response the risk	By Whom	Be When
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk Level	

Prepared By:

Print Name

Signature

Date

Management Sign off:

Print Name

Signature

Date

ANNEX 6: PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

I, _____, parent of child _____ living in _____ hereby consent for my child to participate in _____ workshop/consultation/event _____ organized by _____ from _____ with departure date _____ and arrival date _____.

The objective of my child’s participation in the even/activity is to _____. After being explained by _____ (organizer, focal point), I agree to let my child travel with and under the care and support of _____ (chaperone, staff, etc.) of organizing agency _____. All expenses on travel, accommodations, foods and others are covered by _____. I am aware that risk might happen in traveling and in the course of this event/activity. In case of emergency I can contact organizers at _____ and I can be contacted at or care of _____.

Agreed by Children: Children name _____ Children signature or thumbprint _____

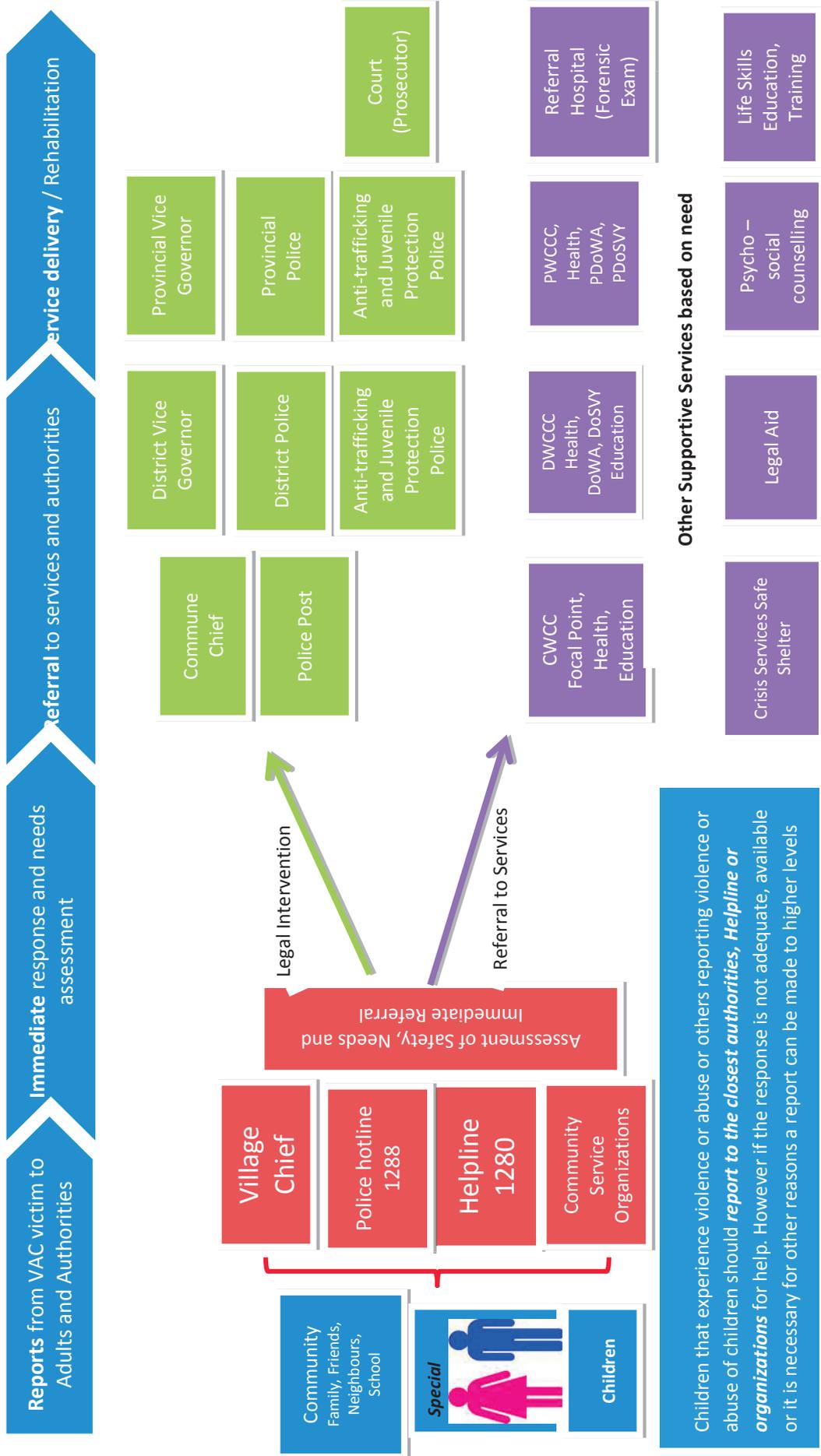
Parent’s Signature or Thumbprint

Parents Name (Print)

Date

ANNEX 8: CHILD FRIENDLY REPORTING AND RESPONSE MECHANISM

Child Friendly Reporting and Response Mechanism





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