



BECAUSE **WE** MATTER

Addressing COVID-19 and Violence against **Girls** in Asia-Pacific



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BACKGROUND

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Asia is home to more than half of the world's 1.1 billion girls. Gender inequality in many parts of the region means that girls are often systematically disadvantaged and oppressed by poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination. Girls' development is hampered by child, early and forced marriage and high adolescent pregnancy rates. Across the region, gender-based violence against girls and women constitutes a serious and widespread rights violation, particularly with regard to domestic violence, marital rape, and trafficking in women and girls.

Emerging data shows that since the outbreak of COVID-19, violence against girls and women, particularly domestic violence, has intensified. UN Women has described gender-based violence (GBV) as a "shadow pandemic" coinciding with COVID-19 across the world. Globally, 243 million girls and women aged 15-49 have been subjected to sexual and/or physical violence over the previous 12 months. This number is likely to increase as security, health and income concerns heighten tensions aggravated by confined living conditions.ⁱ

Partly due to containment measures during COVID-19, systems and services that are mandated to prevent, identify and respond to violence against children are operating with limited or no capacity. Inadequate levels of government and donor investments in child protection, as well as gaps in functionality of systems and effective enforcement of laws and policies to end violence against children have been pervasive. These existing challenges have been further exacerbated by the pandemic outbreak and are now affecting all children, while disproportionately impacting girls.

Violence against children, and girls in particular, has long been a silent emergency that is now threatening to escalate dramatically. As the UN Secretary-General declared when reaffirming zero tolerance for violence against children: "It is high time to change the continuum of violence that shapes children's lives to a continuum of protection of their human rights."ⁱⁱ In April, responding to a "a horrifying surge in violence", the Secretary-General called for a global ceasefire on domestic violence against women and girls,ⁱⁱⁱ while urging countries to make prevention and redress of gender-based violence a key part of their COVID-19 responses.



During this pandemic, I have received many complaints from girls, boys, and young people about their struggles at home such as stress, exploitation, domestic violence, and child marriage. The inequality that we've been fighting against all these years re-resurfaced. Girls are suffering multiple layers of burden starting from difficulty studying at home, more house chores, and are becoming more vulnerable to gender and domestic violence. Boys are being sent to guard the village's entrance, just because they are perceived to be strong, when in fact they are children who are also vulnerable. My message to all is that equality must still be maintained, especially during the pandemic."

-Suci, Chairperson of Kediri Village Child Protection Group, Indonesia

WHY THIS BRIEF?

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This thematic policy brief aims to seek and secure commitment from regional and national leaders to urgently prioritize and invest consistently in the protection of girls, who are disproportionately exposed to multitude forms of violence and their devastating consequences. It provides evidence and raises concerns of girls' vulnerability to combined and complex risks that are further intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This brief is primarily intended for regional policy-makers and duty-bearers responsible for regulating, planning and resourcing protection of all children. It offers a set of recommendations to guide policy and investments across the Asia Pacific region to ensure gender-responsive, effective and well-resourced measures to protect all children, and particularly girls. Similarly, it is meant to provide inputs into national level policy making, budgeting and planning across the region to increase and strengthen recognition and integration of the gendered dimensions of violence, both during and after the pandemic.

“ **There is no definition of what it means to be a girl. What a man can do, a woman can do, too. I believe life would be better if we didn't have those stereotypes.**

-Lan, Grade 10, Vietnam

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“Girls and boys will experience differently, different forms of violence, at different stages of their lives.”^{iv}

THE OVERALL IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON GIRLS

While children in Asia have been spared the worst direct health effects of the Coronavirus, it has exposed millions of girls to the risk of violence, abuse and exploitation during the lockdown and periods of movement restrictions. Girls already living in violent family situations are particularly vulnerable, with the cumulative financial economic and health stress from the pandemic escalating and increasing the risk of further violence in the home. At the same time, access to health and protection services have been disrupted and girls may be particularly at risk in no longer being able to regularly access mechanisms to report abuse. Furthermore, there is evidence that sexual abuse of girls has increased, both offline and online, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Girls face unique risks to GBV in light of COVID-19. In settings where schools have been closed as a result of the pandemic, girls miss out of the protective elements associated with formal education such as life skills, access to essential information, and connections with existing referral pathways and forms of support. Without the daily routine of education, out-of-school girls are also more likely to experience violence at the hands of relatives, neighbours or others within their communities.



I also know two girls who have just gotten married during this pandemic. I truly think that education offers us a chance to a brighter future however, due to the current pandemic, many girls are giving up their learning opportunities for marriage to alleviate the new economic hardship.

-Huu, Vietnam

Girls not in school are also more at risk of resorting to harmful work or falling prey to various forms of exploitation. Families facing limited financial resources are more likely to place girls in situations of child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) as a negative coping mechanism. This issue is itself considered to be a form of GBV, and one that is widely associated with increased rates of violence, restricted access to education, and negative health and developmental outcomes.^v

INCREASED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ^{vi}

Globally, 243 million women and girls between the ages of 15-49 have experienced sexual or physical violence perpetrated by an intimate partner over the last 12 months,^{vii} including more than 37% of all women in South Asia, 40% in South-East Asia and 68% in the Pacific.^{viii} Given economic, health, security and other stresses and shocks on women and girls, this figure is likely to increase. For every three months the lockdown continues globally, an extra 15 million gender-based violence cases are expected.^{ix} Another study estimates that domestic violence against children globally is likely to rise by 20 to 32% during quarantine, affecting some 85 million boys and girls.^x

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is widespread yet often unseen and underreported. In a humanitarian context, however, we must assume that GBV is taking place and interventions to prevent and respond to GBV are life-saving actions.^{xi} Gender-based violence is a growing concern amid reports of exponential increases. Many women and girls are being forced to 'lockdown' at home with their abusers at a time when services to support survivors are being disrupted or made inaccessible. This situation is further amplified in contexts of fragility, conflict, and emergencies where social cohesion, institutional capacity and service are undermined or limited.¹ Indeed, it is commonly acknowledged that all the grave violations against children in conflict, and sexual violence in particular, are significantly under-reported.^{xii}

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VIOLENCE IN THE HOME

An indicator of the heightened risk is the sharp rise in calls related to violence against women, in the home (domestic violence) through hotlines/helplines in countries across Asia. In India, for example, a national hotline received 92,000 calls just during the first 11 days of lockdown, while domestic violence cases have doubled in Thailand during the quarantine period.^{xiii} Similar rises have been recorded in countries including Bangladesh, Singapore and Malaysia.^{xiv}

In China, calls to women's shelters at the height of the lockdown had tripled in one county in Hubei province.^{xv} In Nepal, 37 percent of respondents (58 percent male and 42 percent female) of a survey conducted in two states said incidences of violence against children has increased due to the COVID-19 lockdown. In similar assessments with children in Bangladesh, the majority of which were girls from poor urban slums and rural communities, children indicated increases in physical and humiliating punishment at home. In India, to date in 2020, the National Commission for Women has registered 861 cases of domestic violence; in the first week of lockdown, the ChildLine India Foundation hotline received 92,105 calls about abuse and violence against children, amounting to 30% of all calls. As noted above, UNFPA recently predicted a 20% increase in domestic violence due to measures associated with managing the COVID-19 outbreak. There are concerns that between 53 and 85 million children could experience violence over an initial 3-month period of the lockdown.^{xvi}

CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE

Child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) is a violation of children's rights and denies children, especially girls, an opportunity to realise their full potential. Approximately 650 million girls and women alive today were married before their 18th birthday. An estimated 25 million child marriages have been prevented due to the progress made during the past decade, however, with the proportion of young women married as children decreasing by 15 percent. Despite this, no region is on track to eliminate the practice by 2030.^{xvii}

In South Asia, a girl's risk of marrying in childhood has declined by more than a third, from nearly 50 per cent a decade ago to 30 per cent today, largely driven by great strides in reducing the prevalence of child marriage in India. Nonetheless, South Asia remains home to more than 40 per cent of all child brides globally. This is due both to a long legacy child marriage persisting for generations and to the region's large population.



When I learned that my parents wanted to marry me off, I knew I couldn't let it happen. If I did, what kind of message would I be sending to other girls? With community support, I told my parents, I'd go to the police if they didn't give up.

-Phulan, age 18, from Nepal, who is now free to continue her studies

In order to meet the target of elimination of CEFM by 2030, global progress would need to be 12 times faster than the rate observed over the past decade.^{xviii} COVID-19 will hamper these efforts, potentially resulting in an additional 13 million child marriage cases worldwide between 2020 and 2030, as per UNFPA predictions.

The consequences for girls are severe, as they are often forced out of education and into a life of poor prospects, with increased risk of exposure to violence, abuse, forced sexual relations and early pregnancy, which carries high risks of maternal mortality and morbidity.

ONLINE ABUSE

The pandemic has also seen a disturbing increase in **online abuse** against girls. As quarantine means children spend more time online to access their education, social media or other forms of entertainment, they are increasingly exposed to cyberbullying, harmful content and sexual exploitation.^{xix} In the Philippines, the government recorded close to 280,000 cases of online sex abuse (so-called cybersex trafficking) against children from 1 March to 24 May this year – almost four times as many as in 2019.^{xx} Girls whose parents are the least computer and internet savvy are at particular risk as this weakens the protection provided by parental oversight, advice and guidance. Economic pressure on families from the pandemic also heightens the potential of girls being exploited for economic gain.



It might not be known to some of us that there are also dangers behind the façade of the online world through our phones and computers. We must be extra careful as the threats are now heightened. There are online scammers and predators seeking to prey the most vulnerable ones in the world of internet -- children. We must be wary of those dangers and be vigilant to anything that we click online.

-Mau, 17, Philippines

The pandemic affects children's mental health and well-being in a number of ways, including through physical isolation and quarantine, rumours and misinformation, the closure of schools and children's activity spaces, loss of livelihoods and economic challenges, lack of access to health facilities and social stigma and discrimination. In learning from other health-related disasters, one study found that the criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was met in 30% of isolated or quarantined children based on parental reports.^{xxi} Results from a youth survey in Thailand illustrated that 7 in 10 children and young people believed that COVID was affecting their mental health.^{xxii} For girls, issues of depression, anxiety, well-being and resiliency may also be linked to other protection issues, such as prolonged exposure to violence in the home, fears of being forced into early marriage due to livelihood shocks or where existing social norms tolerates child, early and forced marriage.



I feel restless and I'm really worried about how we will cope if cases keep on increasing and I'm also worried that girls and women might be victims of various kinds of violence.

-Neha, Nepal

COVID-19 AND CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

Movement restrictions and containment measures during COVID-19 have a direct impact on the ability of child protection actors to engage with communities, as well as on the ability of communities to self-protect and support each other. Past infectious disease outbreaks have shown that community members act to protect children from the onset of the crisis, and are best placed to identify both child protection and COVID-19 related risks and respond effectively and appropriately.^{xxiii}

To prevent, mitigate and respond to gender-based violence against girls, GBV services that are often primarily designed for women must be made child-sensitive. Adolescent girls often fall between child services better suited to younger children, and GBV services primarily designed for women.

Children in alternative care situations have been forced to return to families without adequate steps taken to prepare and protect them while, conversely, children may be isolated from their families in the event of a household infection without the necessary preparation for their safety, protection and care. This may be of particular concern in crowded and densely populated IDP and refugee camp settings and amongst displaced communities where the potential for both infection and the separation and isolation of children from their primary caregivers is highly likely.

The Coronavirus has caused delays to decisions in child justice systems, particularly worrying in countries that allow pre-trial detention of children.^{xxiv} COVID-19 has highlighted that governments in Asia must recognize and designate child protection services and workers as essential during public health crises.



EXISTING INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS TO BUILD ON

“States should ensure that anti-violence policies and programmes are designed and implemented from a gender perspective, taking into account the different risks facing girls and boys in respect of violence; States should promote and protect the human rights of women and girls and address all forms of gender discrimination as part of a comprehensive violence-prevention strategy.”

UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children, Recommendation 10

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND STANDARDS

Gender-based violence is a pervasive and devastating manifestation of discrimination against women and girls. International human rights standards are instrumental in providing a solid framework for preventing and responding to violence against girls in both public and private spheres, including:

- the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC),
- the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women,
- the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages and
- the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or

Punishment, providing a solid framework for preventing and responding to violence against girls in both public and private spheres.

Unfortunately, non-compliance with international human rights obligations to protect girls from all forms of violence remains a serious challenge in Asia Pacific and elsewhere.

PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES ON WHICH TO BUILD

Governments and regional bodies in the Asia-Pacific have made impressive and significant progress to protect all children, not least since many countries grapple with development issues, fragility, conflict and emergencies. Despite considerable progress in adopting progressive policies, implementation has been far slower. This gap is largely the result of deeply entrenched cultural values, attitudes and practices that are rooted in gender stereotypes and ultimately justify exploitative behaviour and violence against girls and women^{xxv}. Furthermore, donor investments in ending violence against children make up just 0.6% of total Official Development Assistance and 0.5% of global humanitarian funding^{xxvi}. Funding for GBV in humanitarian contexts is even lower, at 0.12%.^{xxvii}

Unless increased and urgent investment is made in key areas, COVID-19 threatens to roll back the crucial progress made and undermine investments to date. In relation to the 2030

Sustainable Development Goals, a new generation of regional plans on ending violence against children, aligned with them, is being developed. These plans now need increased investment and must draw on lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, helping to strengthen national legislation and public policies, consolidate data and research, and promoting awareness-raising campaigns.

There are robust and comprehensive policy and national frameworks developed and adopted across the region, that reiterate prospects of continuous action and investment in protection all children, and girls in particular and on which we can build:

IN SOUTHEAST ASIA/ASEAN:

- **Declaration on the Commitments for Children in ASEAN (2001):** The Declaration states ASEAN’s commitment to protect and promote children’s rights. It calls on ASEAN countries to protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, trafficking and exploitation at home, in school and in the community.
- **The ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children 2016-2025 (RPAEVAC)** commits all member states to protect children from violence and support child victims. The RPA is the roadmap to implement the region’s 2013 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Children.
- **The Regional Plan** aligns with the 2030 Agenda and proposes concrete actions to be achieved within a clear timeframe for violence prevention and children’s effective protection.
- **The ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)** promotes implementation of the Regional Plan and reviews progress across the region.

The Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence against Children (PPAEVAC) of the Republic of the Philippines (2017-2022) is a multi-sectoral road map designed for the progressive reduction of violence against children. This is part of the Government’s general commitment to build an enabling environment that respects, protects and fulfils the rights of all children.

In Indonesia, the amendment to the Marriage Law on the minimum age of marriage and the national strategy for the prevention of child marriage the National Strategy for the Elimination of Violence against Children (2016–2020), which provides cross-sectoral guidance.



IN SOUTH ASIA/ SAARC:

- **SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia, (2002):** The Convention envisages facilitating the development of the full potential of the South Asian children. A regional task force has also been formed in all member states to monitor and assess the implementation of various provisions of the Convention.

- **The Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage in South Asia** has been extended for a further five years (2018–2023) and its implementation is pursued through national plans in Afghanistan and Nepal and a multimedia campaign in Bangladesh.

India: #KnotSoYoung aims to prevent child marriage, mobilizing thousands of children and adolescents, emphasizing girls' education and creating a network of youth leaders. The Government of India is implementing a number of poverty alleviation programmes, aimed in part at reducing the vulnerability of women and girls to child, early and forced marriage and trafficking, heightened risks in times of COVID.

I can't sleep well now as I feel stressed. I am always in fear and worried that my relatives or loved ones might be affected by the virus. I heard about a child marriage incident recently. Unfortunately, it couldn't be stopped due to lockdown.

-Meghla, 16, Bangladesh

- **The South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children** led to the development of a regional strategy and action plan to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation, including online. The implementation of the strategy is supported by national coalitions and an expert advisory group. Both could now be brought into play in the protection of children in the pandemic.

In Sri Lanka: the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs has prioritized case management and improving the collection of administrative data for children who have been victims of violence and abuse. The National Child Protection Authority has streamlined its hotline, provided training, and launched guidelines and standards for the police on how best to handle child abuse cases.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

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All actors should ensure that girls are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in leadership and decision-making around all areas of program/policy design and implementation, in order to ensure that GBV prevention, response, and coordination approaches can be carried out in a way that is context-specific, sustainable, and adapted to the gendered dimensions of the COVID-19 pandemic.^{xxviii}

GENDER EQUALITY AND GIRLS EMPOWERMENT

Gender equality should be adopted as a key principle underlining the protection and care of girls with gender sensitive and transformative laws and policies effectively enforced. Effective gender-sensitive reporting and referral mechanisms need to be established, strengthened and supported. An empowering and participatory approach, which includes not only listening to the voices of girls, but supporting their safe participation and leadership in the decision-making process, should be consistently promoted by all child protection and other actors. Diversifying outreach activities to ensure marginalized girls, including those living with disabilities, understand their rights and where they can obtain support is essential.

INVESTMENT IN STRONG GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS

Girls often fall through gaps of child protection and GBV systems and therefore it's essential that gender-transformative CP systems are prioritised. To ensure protection of all children and girls in particular, child protection systems need to be strong and well-resourced in order to respond to the crisis situation, adapted to provide remote protection during the COVID – 19 pandemic. All aspects of child protection systems – including laws and policies, law enforcement agencies and child protection services - need to take into account different gender dimensions underlying violence affecting girls and be informed and guided by gender sensitive and responsive principles and actions, including age and sex-disaggregated data.

GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH

explicitly tackles the root causes of gender inequality, particularly unequal gender power relations, discriminatory social norms, policies and legislation. It aims not only to improve the daily condition of girls, but also to advance their position and value in society. Gender transformative approach is focused on achieving positive changes and sustainable outcomes for girls. It implies three dimensions of change: norms, attitudes and behaviours; social and economic resources and safety nets; and policy frameworks and budgets.

LAWS AND POLICIES THAT PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY

Backed by effective and progressive implementation, comprehensive approaches and robust monitoring and evaluation, gender sensitive legal and policy frameworks are critical to the protection of children, particularly girls. This calls for increased financing of child protection and for building on investments made to date.

GENDER RESPONSIVE CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

Child protection services play a critical role in both responding to and preventing violence against children. To be effective, child protection services need to be well-resourced and supported with increased numbers and reach, of trained and skilled child protection workers and effective systems for reporting and responding to violations. The **social service workforce** is essential during the pandemic and need to be provided with the necessary personal protection equipment (PPE) to enable them work with communities, children and families safely.

Community-level approaches and systems are also vital to prevent and respond to violence and exploitation and to keep girls safe. Community systems should be supported to address harmful practices, behaviours and attitudes and, should be invested into the greatest extent possible.

Gender based violence (GBV) services must be prioritised as an essential and lifesaving component of the humanitarian response to COVID-19, ensuring that necessary services remain open, and that adequate funding is provided in order to enable targeted, safe, appropriate, and high quality GBV interventions to take place. **Child helplines and GBV hotlines** should be supported both financially and through skill-building, while it is also critical to improve monitoring and reporting of risks faced by girls and young women both on- and offline.

The **continuity of sexual and reproductive health services** must be assured to promote access for girls of reproductive age, and the obstacles and barriers to addressing the **mental health, psychosocial well-being and resiliency** of girl survivors and those most at-risk must be urgently promoted.

I would like to request for governments to set up a hotline number for girls to get answers to their questions and stop the violence they may face during lockdown.

-Kamala, Nepal

In Vanuatu: Adopted a national strategy on online child protection 2014–2021 and the national child protection policy 2016–2026

Online child protection should be widely understood and used by children and families accessing the internet and should be coordinated with broader child protection systems.

INVESTMENT / REINVESTMENT IN GIRLS

Targeted investment (or reinvestment where that investment has been undermined by the COVID-19 pandemic) in adolescent girls, as a unique group with interlinked vulnerabilities, opportunities and perspectives, is needed. This includes scaling up investments in girls'

In my opinion, now is the time to complete our studies to succeed in the future, not to get pregnant early.

-Cristina, age 16, from Timor-Leste, who advocates to end child marriage and teen pregnancy in her community

programming models that will accelerate progress towards developing adolescent girls' education and skills; ending gender-based violence, including child marriage and ensuring girls have accurate, timely and accurate respectful health information and services. Synergies must be built and partnerships expanded between adolescent girls' skills development and women's economic participation to address persistent gender divides.^{xxix}



CALL TO ACTION

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The COVID pandemic of unprecedented nature and scope is threatening to reverse decades of progress achieved across Asia Pacific in reducing violence against children, particularly girls. Regional leaders and governments across the Asia Pacific region are called to prioritise and invest in the protection of girls as disproportionately affected by violence triggered by the pandemic and must take urgent and concerted action to:

- 1** Ensure that the response to COVID-19 does not compromise and decrease the commitments and investments made to child protection and girls' empowerment in the region;
- 2** Prevent escalation of harmful gender norms, discriminatory practices and inequalities due to the pandemic;
- 3** Inform and guide policies, interventions and systems around the COVID-19 response by the protection needs of girls and young women, placing these needs at the centre of response efforts;
- 4** Uphold the continuity of protection services, especially for girls and young women, with specific reference to updating sexual and gender-based violence and other gender related reporting and referral pathways; and
- 5** Support meaningful engagement of girls and young women, consult them on support needed and prioritize their role in families and communities, and ensure their participation in decision-making processes.

Reflecting the vision of the **Sustainable Development Goals 2030** agenda bringing the global community united in solidarity, every girl in our region should be able to grow and develop free from violence and fear, fully protected, respected and empowered. Girls need protection and support to realize their full potential to learn, lead, decide and thrive – and become what they truly are: the pillars of each society, the future of the world of equity and justice.

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- iii <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/1061052>
- iv Dr Shiva Kumar, Know Violence in Childhood
- v GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND COVID-19: THE COMPLEXITIES OF RESPONDING TO "THE SHADOW PANDEMIC" A Policy Brief | May 2020, CARE
- vi GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV): When directed against girls or boys because of their biological sex or gender identity or sexual orientation, any type of violence can also constitute gender-based violence. GBV results in physical, sexual and psychological harm to both girls and boys, women and men and includes any form of violence or abuse that targets women or men on the basis of their sex. Unequal power relations between men and women significantly contribute to GBV, which is intended to maintain gender inequalities and reinforce traditional gender roles for both women and men. Although men and boys are also victims of GBV, especially in trafficking, conflict and educational settings, the majority of GBV victims worldwide are female. Gender-based violence cuts across public and private spheres, including: home, school and work, and takes place during peacetime and conflict. It is both a human right and a development issue, with negative consequences for both women and men. "Plan International's Position Paper – The Rights of Children and Young People to Live Free from Violence", Plan International, 2018
- vii UNDP Brief: Gender-Based Violence and COVID-19
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- xi The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2019 Edition, 2019. P.123.
- xii From "Gender Matters": <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/stop-war-children-2020-gender-matters>, p. 17. Verified cases of violations against children – 25,451 violations in 2018 – are the tip of the iceberg
- xiii <https://www.ucanews.com/news/thai-virus-lockdown-brings-rise-in-domesticviolence/87981>
- xiv <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/coronavirus-lockdown-govt-helpline-receives-92000-calls-on-child-abuse-and-violence-in-11-days/article31287468.ece>; In Bangladesh, April's national impact and needs assessment compiled by a range of stakeholders including World Vision revealed that beatings by parents or guardians had increased by 42%; that there was a 40% increase of calls to the child helpline; and that 50% of those interviewed said the safety and security of girls was an issue in the lockdown. (p.9).

^{xv} According to the statistics of the Women and Children's Rights Protection Association, a volunteer organization against domestic violence in Jianli County, Hubei Province, there were 175 domestic violence incidents in February 2020, nearly double than in January and more than three times the same period in 2019. In China, the hashtag #AntiDomesticViolenceDuringEpidemic has taken off as part of advocacy with links to online resources - helping to break the silence and expose violence as a risk during lockdown.

^{xvi} World Vision: A PERFECT STORM: MILLIONS MORE CHILDREN AT RISK OF VIOLENCE UNDER LOCKDOWN May 2020

^{xvii} United Nations Children's Fund, Child Marriage: Latest trends and future prospects. UNICEF, New York, 2018, p. 2

^{xviii} United Nations Children's Fund, Child Marriage: Latest trends and future prospects. UNICEF, New York, 2018, p. 2

^{xix} <https://www.unicef.org/thailand/media/4181/file>

^{xx} <https://news.trust.org/item/202005290900403ejzo/?fbclid=IwAR3qQ2sB8lwmagVowX9b7zUo63r1zaDKkfVr-N2N6uAYwbcQofHxjNIB0zg>

^{xxi} <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24618142/> Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Parents and Youth After Health-Related Disasters, 2013.

^{xxii} Unicef EAPRO COVID-19 Situation Report No. 9 6 June-19 June 2020, p.2.

^{xxiii} CP Alliance COVID guidance, Working with Communities to keep children safe, June 2020

^{xxiv} www.savethechildren.net/sites/www.savethechildren.net/files/Joining%20Forces%20Asia%20Joint%20Statement%20200420.pdf

^{xxv} UN WOMEN, <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/focus-areas/end-violence-against-women>

^{xxvi} E/CN, 9/2012

^{xxvii} <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/where-s-money-how-humanitarian-system-failing-fund-end-violence-against-women-and-girls>

^{xxviii} GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND COVID-19: THE COMPLEXITIES OF RESPONDING TO "THE SHADOW PANDEMIC" A Policy Brief | May 2020, CARE

^{xxix} Gender sensitive, responsive and transformative Child Protection reflects different stages of integrating gender dimensions into measures and processes preventing and responding to violence against all children. While gender sensitive Child Protection takes into account different specific ways in which violence is differently affecting girls, boys and children with other gender identities, gender responsive Child Protection takes proactive steps in addressing and responding to different gender dynamics driving violence. Gender transformative child protection both addresses immediate needs of children affected by violence, while ensuring that overall situation of every child and the way s/he is being treated is improved on a continuous basis and with lasting positive effects.

^{xxix} United Nations Children's Fund, UN Women and Plan International, A New Era for Girls: Taking Stock of 25 Years of Progress, New York, 2020



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Save the Children

Save the Children International is a worldwide non-profit organization that aims to improve the living of children. At Save the Children, we believe all children deserve a future and we do whatever it takes to save children, transforming their lives and the future we share. In Asia, Save the Children has worked for more than 30 years across 23 countries. From responding to massive earthquakes, tsunamis, and cyclones to providing quality education, lifesaving health care, and nutrition to children in impoverished nations, we work in the poorest and most vulnerable communities throughout the continent.



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