

LESSONS FOR PROTECTION

A comparative analysis of
community-based child protection
mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia

INTEGRAL REPORT



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Acknowledgements

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Foreword

FROM LEARNING TO ACTION: TOWARDS VIOLENCE FREE COMMUNITIES

Violence against children occurs in many different forms, visible or hidden, starting in communities. Communities encompass other environments, including families, schools and places of work or residential care, within their own boundaries where children are exposed to different abuse-related risks. It is in communities where initial efforts are made to establish safety nets involving all key actors, along with a variety of preventive mechanisms to protect children from all forms of harm.

With its focus on child-centred community development (CCCD), Plan International has been investing considerable efforts across the Asia region in contributing towards child-safe communities that are free of violence and exploitative, harmful practices, creating a conducive environment for children's overall development and growth. Along this path, significant challenges have been faced and addressed, and have become opportunities for community members to play a role in ending violence against children.

This regional comparative analysis brings up a wealth of learning to inform our ongoing work to sustain standing mechanisms at the community level that will contribute towards the strengthening of comprehensive national child protection systems. We learnt the importance of analysing and integrating positive indigenous practices to safeguard children and build on their historical achievements; the need to follow holistic approaches to child protection, while focusing on preventive actions, including aspects of disaster-related risks in community-based actions to minimise exposure to, and damage from, natural and man-made calamities – to name but a few key findings.

The involvement of children in their own protection is an inspiring finding, indicating the critical role children can play to better protect themselves from harm, while learning to recognise and avoid risks they are exposed to in various situations. This analysis also tells us about the essential role of civil society actors, including community-based organisations, in delivering on child protection targets. It was reiterated that effective child protection, particularly the prevention of violence against children, calls for close collaboration and coordination between all stakeholders involved, including parents, community leaders, teachers, responsible professionals within statutory bodies and agencies at all levels.

This analysis also helps us recognise and scale up emerging good practices, which ideally remain to be promoted for replication in all communities. As an essential precondition for overall child development, protection remains at the very core of all interventions aimed at unlocking children's full potential.

It is our pleasure to offer this important organisational learning to all other child-focused agencies striving to ensure child protection through their own work – to increase our shared knowledge and repertoire of skills needed for timely and effective prevention and response to violence against children. It is also hoped that this shared learning will further encourage our joint efforts and help us grow together to ensure children in all communities across Asia grow into adulthood safe, protected and respected.



Raša Sekulović

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Acronyms

APPR	Annual participatory programme review
ARO	Asia Regional Office
BIIAG	Because I am a Girl
BCPC/LCPC	Barangay/Local Council for the Protection of Children
CBCP	Community-based child protection
CBCPM	Community-based child protection mechanism
CBCPS	Community-based child protection system
CBOs	Community-based organisations
CCASVA	Cambodian Children Against Starvation and Violence Association
CCCD	Child-centred community development
CD	Country director
CO	Country office
CPC	Child protection committee
CPG	Child protection group
CPiD	Child protection in development
CPiE	Child protection in emergencies
CPN	Child protection network
CPU	Child protection unit
CR	Child rights
CRC	Convention on the rights of the child
CRSA	Child rights situational analysis
CSEC	Commercial sexual exploitation of children
CSP	Country strategic plan
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
DRM	Disaster risk management
ECCD	Early childhood care development

ERPAT	Empowerment and Reaffirmation of Paternal Abilities
FGD	Focus group discussion
FPN	Family protection network
HIV	Human immune deficiency virus
HR	Human resources
ICPREC	International child protection rights and evaluation consultants
IEC	Information, education and communication
INGO	International non-governmental organisation
KPAD	Child protection committee, Indonesia
LWF	Learn Without Fear
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MCPC	Municipal council for protection of children
MER	Monitoring, evaluation and research
MIS	Management information system
MOVE	Men Oppose Violence Everywhere
MYPR	Mid-year programme report
NCPC	National Child Protection Centre
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NO	National organisation
OSCC	One Stop Crisis Centre
PU	Programme unit
SMSC/C	Stories of most significant change/challenge
SPG	Social protection group
TOR	Terms of reference
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WCPU	Women and child protection unit



Executive Summary

Child protection is a priority area for Plan International. Focussing on community-based child protection (CBCP), Plan's increasing efforts are channelled into establishing and sustaining a variety of local mechanisms, aimed at creating protective networks and environments expected to ensure protection of all children and to contribute towards strengthening national child protection systems.

From December 2011 – September 2012 a regional comparative analysis of community-based child protection mechanisms (CBCPMs) supported by Plan in the Asia region was undertaken. The overall objective of the study was to increase learning of various structural and functional aspects of the existing CBCPMs in Plan Asia and to provide a comprehensive report on their potential for increased impact and sustainability. The analysis covered 13 countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, with coordination from the Plan Asia Regional Office.

The comparative analysis has been carried out by a consultancy group in three key stages involving data collection, analysis and synthesis:

- 1) Data collection through a desk review of available information and mapping existing CBCPMs across Asia (*January – April 2012*).
- 2) Data collection and participatory analysis through field visits in five countries (Cambodia, East Timor, Nepal, Pakistan and Vietnam) using child/user-friendly participatory tools, interviews, focus group discussions (FGDs) and observation with all relevant stakeholders (*May – June 2012*).
- 3) Analysis and synthesis: comparative analysis of existing models and report writing (*May – September 2012*).

A total of 1,313 stakeholders – 797 adults (362 men, 435 women) and 516 children (202 boys and 314 girls aged 10-18 years) – were actively involved in FGDs, interviews and/or other participatory tools to share their views, experiences and perspectives on the CBCPMs.

In June 2012, Plan supported CBCPMs in 2,427 communities across 11 country programmes. More than 50 percent of these CBCPMs are in India. The majority of Plan supported CBCPMs (89 percent) are in rural communities, with only 8 percent in urban and 3 percent in peri-urban settings. Most CBCPMs are being supported as part of longer-term development programming.

Across the region, the most common structure for CBCP supported by Plan is the community level child protection committee (CPC). CPCs in most countries involve 7-20 members including: village chiefs/administrative leaders, teachers, health workers, leaders from existing women's groups, community-based organisations (CBOs) and children or youth groups, and other interested community volunteers. Increased efforts are needed to actively involve representatives from the most marginalised families and children in CBCPMs.

The main purpose of the CBCPMs is to protect children in the community from all forms of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation. CBCPMs have a primary focus on prevention work through awareness raising and early interventions, and coordinate a response either through direct action by their members or through referrals to higher level child protection bodies. However, referral mechanisms remain limited in a number of countries.

Children and young people are playing important roles in awareness raising, identification and reporting of child protection concerns, mapping of risks, and organising action to prevent or respond to child protection concerns (such as beating, child marriage, etc.) through early intervention home visits, discussions and actions with other concerned stakeholders. However, increased efforts are needed by Plan and their partners to reach and engage the most marginalised children (children with disabilities, indigenous children, out-of-school working children, child domestic workers, etc.) in child groups/clubs and in CBCPMs.

While many CBCPMs are increasingly effective in changing parents', caregivers' and teachers' behaviour to reduce physical punishment and abuse of children, CBCPMs often find it difficult to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse cases. Child sexual abuse cases are under-reported due to the shame felt by the victim and concerns of family honour. When reported, traditional forms of justice are most commonly used to address rape cases. These often focus on financial compensation, rather than criminal justice and/or support to the child. Child protection concerns such as neglect or children's engagement in work, which are rooted in poverty, are hard for CBCPMs to solve unless they can make referrals to relevant social protection or livelihood schemes. Governments are in different stages of developing national child protection systems, and child protection case management is under-developed in the region.

CBCPMs across the region are coordinating and collaborating closely with both local government and civil society actors within their communities. Where national child protection systems exist and extend to district levels, CBCPMs are connected to these systems, refer cases to them and regularly coordinate with them. Given the low capacity levels of national child protection systems across the region, especially at lower levels, more focus on building the capacity of government and civil society partners to strengthen the child protection systems and availability of protection services is needed.

Within Plan country offices, there are strong links between CBCP programmes and Plan's education programmes across the region, in particular through the 'Learn Without Fear' and 'Because I am a Girl' campaigns. In addition, strong linkages exist with the early childhood care and development (ECCD) programmes on the local level. These programmes have a strong child protection component, and complement and reinforce the CBCP programmes. There are increasing efforts by Plan to integrate disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness into CBCPM activities. However, there is relatively little evidence of cross-sectoral cooperation on HIV/AIDS or on livelihoods, with the exception of India and Cambodia.

Plan's child-centred community development (CCCD) approach, tools, and the 'Say Yes! to keeping children safe child' protection policy have significantly improved the understanding of child protection across the region. However, there is a need to invest more time and resources in capacity building efforts of front field staff and partners, as well as mentoring support to CBCPMs. Networking between CBCPMs should also be strengthened.

While all Plan Asia countries have well developed general monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks, specific indicators and processes to gather baseline and results data on child protection outcomes are under-developed. Increased efforts are needed by Plan to collect and disaggregate child protection data (according to gender, age, disability, ethnicity and other factors). Systematic monitoring of child protection caseloads is in its early stages across the region and Plan's contributions to government/INGO managed data collection and databases are limited.

CBCPMs efforts are resulting in increased awareness and reporting on child protection, decreased violence against children in schools and homes, and increased recognition and respect for children and their participation. CBCPMs are also contributing to increased birth registration. Furthermore, some CBCPMs have mobilised communities and the local authorities to develop village codes or ordinances to increase local child protection practices.

In terms of challenges, time constraints result in CBCP volunteer members struggling to dedicate sufficient time to child protection activities. Sociocultural traditions towards children and low levels of child protection awareness within the community contribute to the ongoing existence of different forms of violence against children and the relatively low levels of reporting. Furthermore, CBCPMs tend to lack sufficient guidance or referral opportunities to ensure a sensitive and timely response to child sexual abuse cases. Many CPCs also lack resources to follow up directly on emergency cases. Within Plan, limited human resources and capacity building in child protection hampers the quality and scale up of CBCPMs, particularly in combination with weaknesses in monitoring and measuring of CBCP outcomes.

Plan and its partners need to collaborate with the government in its effort to develop effective and sustainable CBCPMs to create safer communities and the prospect of a safe childhood. Efforts to strengthen CBCPMs as part of broader efforts to strengthen the national child protection systems are more effective and sustainable. Fragile and/or non-functioning child protection systems, particularly at the district levels, significantly affect the functioning of CBCPMs.

Summary of key recommendations for the strengthening of CBCPMs by Plan in the Asia region:

- Increase support to strengthen CBCPMs which are recognised and directly linked to the formal child protection system; and avoid the establishment of parallel structures.
- Increase advocacy and engagement with the Ministry of Social Welfare (or its equivalent) at the national level; and inter-agency efforts to strengthen the child protection system.
- Increase research and analysis to build upon traditional practices which support children's protection and participation, especially in indigenous communities; and to transform harmful traditional practices.
- Increase attention to gender analysis and gender sensitivity in all stages of child protection system development; including greater efforts to mainstream the engagement and role of men and fathers.
- Apply systematic internationally agreed basic requirements on children's participation¹ by Plan staff and partners; including increased efforts to reach and empower the most marginalised children in CBCP work.
- Increase advocacy and partnerships to strengthen child-friendly child protection services that support children's recovery and reintegration if they have faced abuse, violence, neglect or exploitation.
- Increase advocacy and/or capacity building roles to support the government and civil society agencies to further develop social work capacity for child protection case management.
- Learn from, replicate and scale up efforts to strengthen 'multidisciplinary teams' (like the child protection units in the Philippines or the 'One Stop Crisis Centres' in Thailand).
- Support government efforts to strengthen child protection data collection (disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, age and other factors).
- Improve Plan's own monitoring and evaluation systems and processes for measuring child protection outcomes.
- Strengthen capacity building for Plan staff, partners and CBCP system stake-holders that contribute to integrated efforts to strengthen the child protection system at community, district and higher levels.
- Develop new or improved training modules on: sensitive reporting and response to child sexual abuse; child protection case management and referrals; and advocacy to strengthen child protection systems.
- Learn from existing CBCPM work in urban settings, and to increase research, piloting and scale up CBCPMs in urban settings in every country.
- Increase planning, training and support to CBCPMs to integrate emergency preparedness as one of the CBCPM tasks.

¹ CRC/C/GC/12 (July 2009) Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No.12, The Right of the Child to be Heard.

The background of the entire page is a blue-toned illustration of several children of diverse ethnicities holding hands in a large circle. Scattered around them are numerous five-pointed stars of varying sizes. The illustration has a hand-drawn, sketchy quality.

Chapter 1

**Introducing the comparative analysis
of CBCPMs in Asia**



This initial chapter provides:

- A brief introduction to Plan and their strategic child protection work in the Asia region, which encompasses a key focus on supporting CBCPMs;
- An explanation of the purpose and objectives of the regional comparative analysis on CBCPMs supported by Plan in the Asia region;
- An overview of the research methodology; and
- A brief guide to the report chapters.

A brief introduction to Plan's strategic child protection work in the Asia region:

Plan is an international child-centred development organisation working in 50 developing countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas. Plan's vision is of a world in which all children realise their full potential in societies that respect people's rights and dignity. Plan's child rights approach is grounded in its child-centred community development (CCCD) approach in which children, families and communities are active and leading participants in their own development. This approach recognises the intrinsic link between poverty and rights, where poverty is both a cause and consequence of the denial of rights. Plan has identified eight thematic impact areas in which it can effectively contribute to the realisation of child rights by applying its CCCD approach. Child protection is one of these areas.

Asia is one of the most diverse regions globally in terms of its cultural, religious, ethnic, socio-economic and political contexts. Plan International recognises childhood diversity, understanding how a range of factors such as: culture, socio-politics, gender, age, sibling position, disability, family income, religion, caste, ethnicity – impact upon girls' and boys' experiences of childhood, their well-being and the realisation or denial of their rights.² The underlying causes of child poverty are many and interrelated. Rapid development over the past decade has not been matched by adequate investment in welfare systems and services and this has increased the gap in social inequalities. Moreover, violence against children is found across the region in all settings – in families, schools, in communities, on the streets, in residential institutions, in the workplace and in prisons.³ Much violence is still hidden, and most children are not able to report acts of violence due to a lack of child-friendly, safe reporting and response mechanisms. Legislation to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation has improved in many countries, yet its implementation still lags behind.

Over the last decade, momentum has been steadily increasing to recognise the importance of child abuse as a cause for concern, and to direct actions towards both preventing and responding to such violations of children's rights to freedom from violence and harm. This emphasis has occurred at different levels over the last decade, stemming largely from the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children

² Plan International, Promoting child rights to end child poverty: achieving lasting change through Child Centred Community Development, 2010.

³ Pinheiro, P. (2006) World Report on Violence Against Children, UN.

(2002), the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children (2006) and, more recently, the Third World Congress Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (2008). A growing body of research is providing compelling evidence of the detrimental and often long-term impact of child abuse and violence, not just on an individual level but also on the socio-economic development of countries.

Defining child protection, child abuse and violence against children

Child protection as defined by Plan: *“Child protection is the term used to describe the responsibilities and activities undertaken to prevent or to stop children being abused or ill-treated. In more detail this means protecting children from specific acts of intentional or unintentional harm which may harm them physically, emotionally, sexually or by neglect.”*⁴

Child abuse as defined by Plan in their ‘Say Yes! to keeping children safe’ policy (revised 2009): *“all forms of physical abuse, emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse and exploitation, neglect or negligent treatment, commercial or other exploitation of a child and includes any actions that result in actual or potential harm to a child. Child abuse may be a deliberate act or it may be failing to act to prevent harm. Child abuse consists of anything which individuals, institutions or processes do or fail to do, intentionally or unintentionally, which harms a child or damages their prospect of safe and healthy development into adulthood.”*⁵

Violence against children as defined by the World Health Organization, which is the most universally accepted and comprehensive definition of violence against children from the World Report on Violence and Health (2002): *“Violence against children is defined as the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against a child, by an individual or group, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity. This includes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, and commercial or other exploitation that take place in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. Violence against children also encompasses societal forms of violence, such as exploitative child labour and children's involvement in armed conflict. Such violence often stems from structural causes including poverty, inequality and discrimination.”*⁶

The UN Study on Violence against Children (2006) definition of violence draws on Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as *“all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.”*⁷

4 Plan International, ARO Child Protection Programme Framework Safe and Sound, Growing up with Protection, 2011, page 3.

5 Plan International, Plan Policy, Child Protection, Say Yes to keeping children safe, 2009, page 3.

6 Krug E.G. et al (eds), World Report on Violence and Health, Geneva: World Health Organisation, 2002.

7 United Nations, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 19.

In recent years many international child protection agencies including Plan International have moved from a child protection issue focus (programming which focused on street children, child labour, trafficked children etc.) to a more integrated strategic focus on strengthening child protection systems. Child protection systems⁸ encompass comprehensive approaches to the protection of children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence and to the fulfilment of children's rights to protection. The system is made up of a set of components that, when properly coordinated, work together to strengthen the protective environment around each child. These components include a strong legal and policy framework for child protection, adequate budget allocations, multi-sectoral coordination, child-friendly preventive and responsive services, a child protection workforce, oversight and regulation, robust data on child protection issues, support for children's participation etc.⁹

Since 2006 child protection has become a key programming and thematic area for Plan International. More recently, child protection became one of the two global priorities for Plan, alongside education. Plan's child protection work incorporates work on child protection in emergencies (CPiE), child protection programming is referred to as child protection in development (CPiD) and Plan's policy to safe guard children, 'Say Yes! to keeping children safe'. Specific child protection programmes and strategies include:

- Strengthening child protection systems, focusing particularly on community-based protection mechanisms;
- Building the capacity of parents, communities and professionals to provide protection;
- Developing children's resilience and their capacity to participate in their own protection; and
- Integrated advocacy to strengthen legal frameworks and for access to basic and specialist services.

Focussing on CBCP, Plan's increasing efforts are channelled into establishing and sustaining a variety of local mechanisms, reflecting a specific child rights-based situation analysis, aimed at creating protective networks and environments expected to ensure protection of all children and contribute towards strengthening national child protection systems.

8 A 'system' means that the various parts or components are connected and reinforce each other to achieve a common goal. The system performs better the more people and actions are connected and working to achieve the same result.

9 Save the Children, A Rough Guide to Child Protection Systems, 2009.

Purpose of the comparative analysis of CBCPMs:

This report provides findings from a comparative analysis of CBCPMs supported by Plan in the Asia region. The **overall objective of this comparative analysis** is to increase learning of the various structural and functional aspects of the existing CBCPMs in Plan Asia and to provide a comprehensive report on their potential for increased impact and sustainability.¹⁰

The specific objectives of the comparative analysis were:

- to provide a broad mapping of the scale and coverage of CBCPMs supported by Plan Country Offices across the Asia region;
- to document various models and approaches in establishing, supporting and promoting such child protection mechanisms, including defining roles and responsibilities of various actors and processes supporting their functionality;
- to document common roles, responsibilities and key activities of these CBCPMs;
- to analyse identified achievements and gaps of CBCPMs in different operational contexts, including crisis/emergency, early recovery and longer-term development;
- to provide a broad overview of lessons learned on key components and processes contributing towards effective child protection and sustainable community-based mechanisms; and
- to inform the second phase field-based evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of these mechanisms for unhindered development of children and realisation of their full potential.

The comparative analysis had a two-pronged specific focus on the involvement of civil society, including grass-roots CBOs in CBCPMs, and children's involvement and role in their own protection within these entities. The analysis covered 13 countries where Plan works in the region: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The Plan Asia Regional Office (ARO) provided coordination throughout the process.

Despite the intention to document and analyse examples of the emerging good practices, this study did not aim to evaluate or measure the effectiveness, scalability, sustainability or impact of CBCPMs at this stage. Rather, this analysis aims to contribute towards the regional and global learning on Plan's emerging focus on CBCPMs, setting the groundwork for a more comprehensive evaluation of their effectiveness and impact.

¹⁰ See I of the Methodology: Comparative analysis of the CBCPMs in Asia – Terms of Reference.

An overview of the research methodology:

An analytical framework was developed to inform the methodology and comparative analysis process¹¹ of the CBCPMs supported by Plan in the Asia region. The comparative analysis was carried out by a consultancy group¹² in three key stages involving data collection, analysis and synthesis:

- 1) Data collection through a desk review of available information and mapping existing CBCPMs across Asia (*January – April 2012*).
- 2) Data collection and participatory analysis through field visits in five countries (Cambodia, East Timor, Nepal, Pakistan and Vietnam) using child/user-friendly participatory tools, interviews, FGDs and observations with all relevant stakeholders (*May – June 2012*).
- 3) Analysis and synthesis: comparative analysis of existing models and report writing (*May – September 2012*).

The methodology used was primarily qualitative, but quantitative data was also collected. The use of different methods (desk-based reviews, participatory mapping, child-friendly participatory tools, interviews, FGDs, observations and an e-discussion) with different stakeholders (e.g. children, young people, grass-root community-based organisations, parents, caregivers, community/religious elders, volunteers, NGO staff, Plan staff, government officials etc.) enabled the research team to gather rich information and to cross-check and validate findings.

In the initial stage of the study, the comparative analysis was underpinned by effective mapping, documentation and desk-based analysis of Plan's experiences in CBCP, their scale and scope in country programmes across the Asia region. The mapping exercise supported systematic documentation and analysis of various models and approaches to supporting child protection mechanisms. In addition, a standardised matrix using a four-category typology and classification of community protection groups, which was developed by Behnam (2008),¹³ and used by Wessells (2009)¹⁴ has been adapted and updated incorporating a 5th category to enable comparative analysis of the way community-based protection groups have been initiated and formed by Plan in the Asia region.

11 See II of the Methodology: Analytical framework for comparative analysis of Plan Asia's CBCPMs.

12 ICPREC – International Child Protection Rights and Evaluation Consultants led by Claire O'Kane and Kunera Moore; with field work studies undertaken by either one of the lead consultants or other ICPREC team members: Chandrika Khatriwada (Nepal), Shikha Ghildyal (East Timor) and Nagma Imdad (Pakistan).

13 Behnam, N 'Agencies, communities and children: a report of the Inter-Agency Learning Initiative: Engaging communities for Children's Well-being', 2008, pp. 12-19, Inter-Agency Learning Initiative.

14 Save the Children et al, Wessells, M., What are we learning about protecting children in the community? An inter-agency review of evidence on community based child protection mechanisms. Executive Summary. 2009.

Categories of typology and classification of community protection groups

Category 1 Direct implementation by agency: the agency is a service provider, and community members are beneficiaries.

Category 2 Community involvement in agency initiative: the agency is a promoter of its own initiative, a planner and a trainer, and community members are volunteers, and beneficiaries.

Category 3 Community-owned and managed activities mobilised by external agency: the agency is a catalyst, capacity builder, a facilitator of linkages, and a funder after community ownership has developed. The community members are analysts, planners, implementers, assessors, and beneficiaries.

Category 4 Community owned and managed activities initiated from within the community: the agency is a capacity builder and funder, and community members are analysts, planners, implementers, assessors, and beneficiaries.

Category 5 Builds upon local government structures and community involvement mobilised by external agency: The agency is a catalyst, capacity builder, a facilitator of linkages, and an initial interim funder until local/national government resources can be secured to ensure the sustainability of the community protection groups. The local and government and community members are analysts, planners, implementers, assessors, and beneficiaries.

In the second stage of the study, field studies were undertaken in five countries. By considering criteria that enabled the selection of a diverse range of countries for the field study countries,¹⁵ it was decided to undertake them in Cambodia, East Timor, Nepal, Pakistan, and Vietnam.

To complement the mapping information in countries where the field study did not take place, Plan's child protection focal points in each country collected primary qualitative data from Plan's child protection programme staff, civil society and/or government partners, as well as from adult and child members of CBCPMs. Two participatory tools were used: 'H' assessments and stories of most significant change/challenge (SMSC/C). 'H' assessments allowed different stakeholders to share their views on the main strengths and achievements, challenges and weaknesses of their CBCPMs,¹⁶ as well as practical suggestions to improve CBCPMs in their country context. The SMSC/C allowed stakeholders to identify, share and document stories concerning the most significant processes, mechanisms and/or outcomes concerning CBCP.

For each of the field country studies, eight days of field work were undertaken. Child and adult-friendly participatory tools enabled children, young people and adults to be active agents in research, analysis and documentation. Core research tools used during each of field study visits¹⁷ included:

- Interviews and FGDs with Plan staff and partners who are actively engaged in CBCPM work.

¹⁵ See IV of the Methodology: Criteria for selection of countries to be visited during field research.

¹⁶ See VI of the Methodology: Methodology used during field visits with CBCPM members, children, parents/caregivers, government officials and other stakeholders.

¹⁷ Ibid

- FGDs and the use of participatory tools with members of CBCP committees/groups.
- Participatory tools with children and young people's representatives (especially with those who are actively engaged in CBCP activities either through their child groups/councils and/or through children's representation in the CBCPMs).
- Observation in the community and interviews with parents/caregivers and village heads.
- Interviews with local officials, and if possible with district and/or national officials.
- Interviews of FGD with Plan staff and other agencies supporting child protection system strengthening.

The main participatory research tools used with children and adults included¹⁸ [visual mapping](#) of protection issues; [time lines](#) by CBCP members to identify key achievements and challenges; [Venn diagram mapping](#) of CBCPMs and their linkages; [response pathways](#) exploring how child protection risks/concerns are identified and followed up; [body mapping](#) to explore the outcomes of CBCP on girls' and boys' lives; [‘H’ assessments](#) of the strengths/achievements, weaknesses/challenges faced by CBCPMs; [interviews](#) with parents/caregivers and village heads; [drawings](#) by children of their protection issues and/or how they are solved through CBCPMs; and [SMSC/Cs](#) to share case stories that illustrate the achievements of their CBCPMs.

A total of 1,313 stakeholders – 797 adults (362 men, 435 women) and 516 children (202 boys and 314 girls aged 10-18 years) – were actively involved in FDGs, interviews and/or participatory tools to share their views, experiences and perspectives on the CBCPMs.¹⁹

Ethical guidelines²⁰ were applied throughout the study, particularly in preparing for, undertaking and following up the field work to ensure safe, ethical and inclusive participation of girls and boys with attention to the issues of: informed consent, assessment of risks, and opportunities to report on protection concerns relevant to Plan's child protection policy.

Country reports on CBCPMs were documented for each of the 13 countries.²¹ In the third phase of the study, analysis was undertaken to compare the different CBCP programmes, models, approaches, and methods used by Plan in each country. In early August 2012 a four day e-discussion on critical issues relating to CBCPMs was organised, enabling Plan child protection focal points and other interested staff and partners from the region to further engage and share their perspectives on emerging critical issues and lessons learned concerning CBCPMs.²²

18 Ibid

19 See V of the Methodology: Stakeholders involved in CBCPM study in countries across the region.

20 See VII of the Methodology: Ethical guidelines, and VIII of the Methodology: Child and adult friendly information about consultations on CBCP.

21 See Compendium of Country Reports on CBCPMs.

22 A report sharing outcomes of the e-discussion was prepared and circulated among the participants and findings informed this regional report.

Guide to the report chapters

- Chapter 2 provides an overview of the [scope of CBCPMs in Asia](#): their number, different models and main locations of CBCPMs supported by Plan in the region.
- Chapter 3 focuses on the [structural aspects of CBCPMs](#). It shares more detail and comparative analysis on the different types of structures of CBCPMs in different countries. It analyses issues of representation and inclusion, who is involved and how they are selected or elected in different countries.
- Chapter 4 discusses the [functional aspects of CBCPMs](#): details and comparative analysis about the objectives and activities of CBCPMs are presented, and the roles and responsibilities of different members/actors in different country contexts.
- Chapter 5 explores [children's participation and involvement in CBCPM](#), looking at the role of children and young people in CBCP work in different operational contexts. It analyses the work of child groups/clubs, and the role of children's representation within the CBCPMs. Reflections on the strengths, challenges and opportunities for increasing meaningful participation in CBCPMs are also explored.
- Chapter 6 [Responding to child protection concerns and case management](#) shares more details about how different child protection concerns are identified and followed up by CBCPMs, and child protection case management in different operational contexts.
- Chapter 7 [Linkages with stakeholders, structures and sectors](#) analyses the CBCPM's links with other sectors, civil society organisations and/or local governance structures at district, provincial or national level.
- Chapter 8 outlines Plan's current [capacity and support systems for CBCPMs](#) in Asia: it reflects on existing capacity building support that is provided to community members, children, and other stakeholders (e.g. government officials) in different operational contexts; and on different ways to further strengthen CBCPMs.
- Chapter 9 describes the [monitoring and evaluation systems and processes](#) of CBCPMs in different country contexts; their strengths and limitations.
- Chapter 10 [Key achievements and challenges](#) shares significant achievements, while also acknowledging and describing significant challenges faced.
- Chapter 11 [Lessons learned and conclusions](#) shares key lessons learned and reflections of this comparative analysis.

A key summary of learning is included at the end of each chapter.

The background of the entire page is a blue-toned illustration of several children of diverse ethnicities holding hands in a large circle. Scattered around them are numerous five-pointed stars of varying sizes. The style is a simple, sketchy line drawing.

Chapter 2

Overview of the scope of CBCPMs in the region

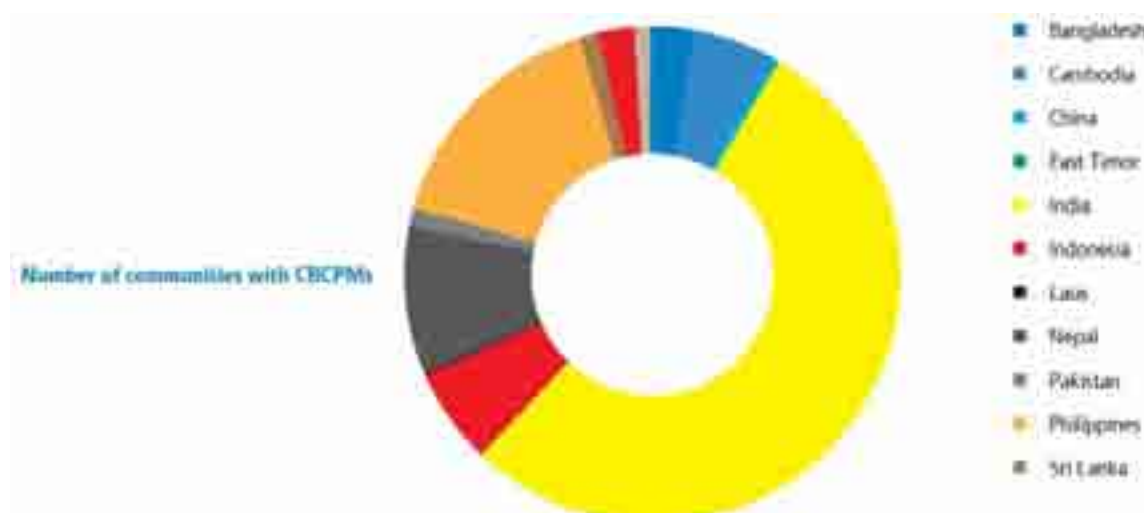


Plan's programming on child protection is relatively new in terms of its organisational work. Despite working in some countries in Asia for more than 30 years, most countries only started their child protection programmes between 2004 and 2006. While support for CBCPMs was initiated as early as 1997 in Indonesia and 1999 in Nepal, in most country programmes, the CBCPM work had not been implemented until 2005, with a few countries (East Timor and Laos) yet to establish protection mechanisms at the community level, although progress has been made in establishing district or provincial level child protection networks in these countries.

Overview and main locations of CBCPMs supported by Plan countries in Asia:

The diagram overleaf shows the main locations and types of CBCPMs supported across 13 countries in the Asia region, though in two out of these 13 countries – East Timor and Laos – the CBCPMs are not yet established. As of June 2012 CBCPMs were being supported by Plan in 2,427 communities across 11 country programmes.²³ In addition, over 4,000 children's groups are being supported in child protection programming areas. The country programmes supporting CBCPMs in the highest number of communities are those of India, the Philippines, Cambodia and Nepal.

Figure 1: Number of CBCPMs per country



	Bangladesh	Cambodia	China	East Timor	India	Indonesia	Laos	Nepal	Pakistan	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Vietnam
Number of CBCPMs	67	129	7	/	1,300	157	/	238	51	387	30	54	27

²³ However, this number of communities includes some commune, VDC and municipality level communities (from China, Nepal, the Philippines and Vietnam), thus the actual number of village communities reached will be higher.

Figure 2: Overview of CBCPMs supported by Plan across Asia region



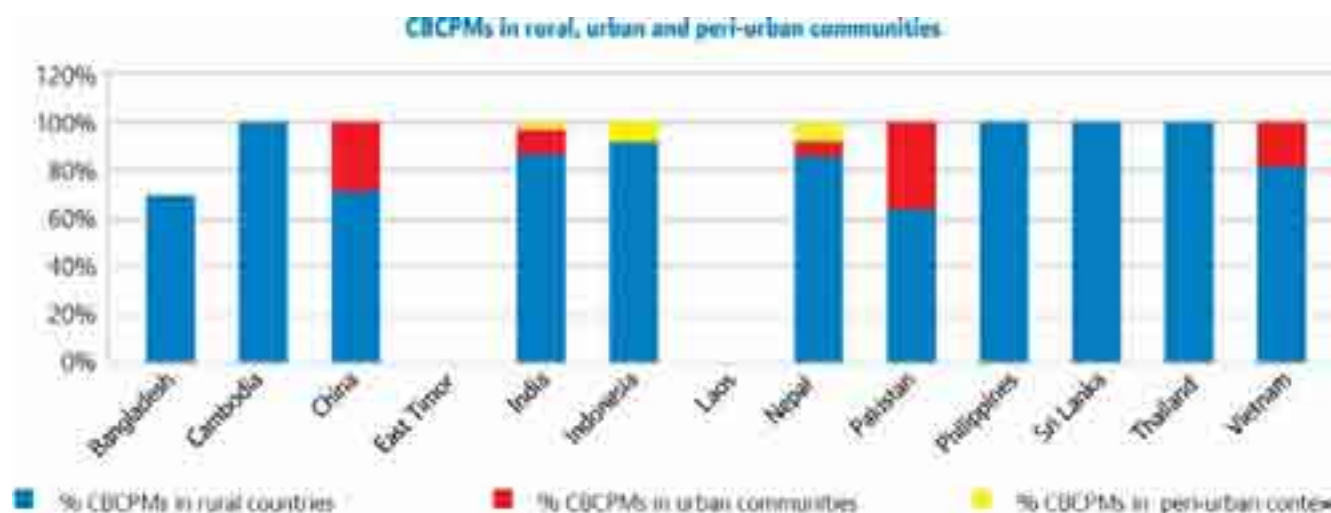
While most country programmes are supporting one type of community or commune-based child protection structure, as well as community-based child groups, some countries (particularly the Philippines and Nepal) are supporting various child protection structures, all of which play a role in community-based child protection systems (CBCPSs). Furthermore, in many countries, school-based child protection mechanisms are also being strengthened.

Plan Nepal has been supporting CBCPMs in three different ways:

- i) groups and structures are created by the specific project (i.e. Freed *Kamalari* Development Forum, child protection groups (CPGs), vigilance/surveillance groups etc.);
- ii) CPGs that have been formed with specific guidelines by the government and/or owned by government and non-government actors (i.e. VCPC, Child Helpline 1098); and
- iii) groups and structures created by Plan Nepal (and/or other child-focused organisations) for the empowerment of children, adolescents and women (i.e. child clubs and their network, BLOP, women's/mother's groups, and para-legal committee etc.).

Plan country programmes have supported significantly more CBCPMs in rural communities, with relatively few in urban or peri-urban settings. Overall, 89 percent of the CBCPMs supported by Plan in Asia are in rural communities, 8 percent in urban and 3 percent in peri-urban settings.

Figure 3: Overview of settings of CBCPMs per country



Factors that help/hinder CBCPM in urban contexts:²⁴

Table 1: Factors that help/hinder CBCPMs in urban contexts

Factors that <i>help</i> the establishment and scale up of CBCPMs in urban contexts:	Factors that <i>hinder</i> the establishment and scale up of CBCPMs in urban contexts:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan staff and partner staff with good skills in community mobilisation and facilitation. Existing presence of Plan or NGO partner in urban communities. Increased availability of and proximity to information, facilities, helplines and services. Increased access to media (TV, radio, newspapers, sign boards) and social media (internet and mobile phones) which can be used in innovative ways to increase awareness, prevention and reporting on child protection. Better literacy rate. Local government willing to support efforts. Some countries (e.g. Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines) are developing child-friendly city/municipality programme. Proactive youth. Aware religious leadership. Community interest in protecting their children. Potential of mobilising different actors to play a role in child protection prevention and reporting (for example, rickshaw drivers). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Size and dispersed nature of the population 'heterogeneous community'. Complexity of structures/networks, lifestyles in urban contexts. Less 'common interest' and less linkage among people/ neighbours in urban contexts. Less trust among people in urban contexts, lack of 'geographic' boundaries. Vested interests of different groups. Lack of awareness about child protection and child protection services among children and adults. Lack of volunteerism – people more focused on personal interests and need to earn a livelihood. Children move beyond their 'community area' and many children are working for their living (thus have less 'free time'). Interference of different political groups. Weaknesses in local governance mechanisms. Limited opportunities for civil society engagement in some socio-political contexts. Lack of donor focus on urban context. Community vulnerability complex poverty. Organisational and management priorities. Lack of staff expertise; insufficient staff. No comprehensive programme or strategy on CBCPMs.

24 Identified by Plan staff and partners who were involved in the e-discussion on critical issues concerning CBCPMs.

Considering the trends towards urbanisation²⁵ and increased protection risks faced by children in urban poor areas, there is a recognised need within Plan to learn from existing CBCPM work in urban settings, and to increase piloting and scale up of CBCPMs in urban settings in every country. The fast pace of urbanisation in Asia reflects a rapidly changing world. Asia is home to half of the world's urban population and 66 out of the 100 fastest-growing urban areas.²⁶ With urbanisation there are increased numbers of children working and living on the street, and child domestic workers. The most marginalised children are facing increased protection risks in urban centres, including the risks of economic and sexual exploitation, drug use and coming into conflict with the law. Rising youth unemployment and inequality increase youth's frustrations due to the social divides. Such frustration can lead to increased violence, crime and drug use.²⁷

More systematic child rights situation analyses are needed in urban settings. Furthermore, working in collaboration with the concerned government authorities, requires increased efforts to better map and understand community governance mechanisms, and practices that can contribute to child protection mechanisms in urban settings.

CBCPMs as part of longer-term programming and/or in emergency programming

Climate change and natural disaster disproportionately affect children and families in the Asia region.²⁸ At the time the comparative analysis was undertaken no CBCPMs were functional in communities that were affected by natural disasters or armed conflicts. However, in the past child protection committees have been established as part of the flood response in Pakistan; the tsunami response in Sri Lanka; and in camps of internally displaced people following political violence in East Timor.

The majority of current CBCPMs are being supported as part of longer-term development programming. However, there is increased dialogue and planning to integrate emergency preparedness as one of the CBCPM tasks, so that community members, including children, have increased knowledge and skills to prevent risks, and to increase the care and protection of children in the event of an emergency. Some CBCPMs in Indonesia and Bangladesh have already included disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness into their training and regular programmes.

25 UNICEF, The State of the World's Children: Children in an Urban World, 2012.

26 Ibid

27 Ibid

28 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at <http://www.unescap.org/stat/data/syb2011/II-Environment/Natural-disasters.asp> accessed on 14-08-2012.

Role of community-based CPCs as part of the tsunami disaster response, Sri Lanka: Community-based CPCs were established in communities affected by the 2004 tsunami. The interventions were carried out by the special Plan Program Unit for Tsunami Disaster Response. Plan's role was to conduct the psychosocial interventions for the children and support the family re-unification process of separated children. After family re-unification the CPCs have supported the functioning of children's resource centres in communities where the children were given the opportunities to access learning, recreation, sports and cultural events.

Plan's Child Protection work in IDP Camps, East Timor:²⁹ The political and ethnic violence of April and May of 2006 resulted in the displacement of over 150,000 people into host communities and camps. Plan's emergency response activities included taking responsibility for coordination in 13 camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs). Plan focussed its work on children and collaborated closely with UNICEF and the government to bring other child protection actors together to form a child protection working group. Through this it developed a structure for child protection work that encompassed both community groups and elements of the formal child protection mechanism.

Summary of key learning on the scope of CBCPMs

- Plan's programming on child protection is relatively new in terms of its organisational work.
- As of June 2012, CBCPMs were being supported by Plan in 2,427 communities across 11 country programmes.³⁰ More than 50 percent of these CBCPMs are in India.
- The majority of Plan supported CBCPMs (89 percent) are in rural communities; with only 8 percent in urban and 3 percent in peri-urban settings.
- Due to current trends in urbanisation and increased protection risks facing children in urban poor areas, there is an increased recognition within Plan to pilot and scale up CBCPMs in urban settings.
- Most CBCPMs are being supported as part of longer-term development programming. However, there is increased planning to integrate emergency preparedness as one of the CBCPM tasks.

29 Save the Children UK, Discussion Paper: Strengthening National Child Protection Systems in Emergency through Community based Mechanism; Published on behalf of the Child Protection Working Group of the UN Protection Cluster, 2010.

30 However, this number of communities includes some commune, VDC and municipality level communities (from China, Nepal, the Philippines and Vietnam), thus the actual number of village communities reached will be higher.



The background of the slide features a faint, light blue illustration of several children of diverse ethnicities holding hands in a large circle. Scattered around them are numerous small, five-pointed stars. The overall color scheme is a gradient of blue, with a lighter band across the middle where the text is located.

Chapter 3

Structural aspects of CBCPMs



This chapter includes an analysis of:

- The main models and approaches used by Plan in different countries to engage with communities and to form CBCP structures;
- Processes for mobilising communities and/or local authorities and ensuring sufficient sensitisation on child protection in order to establish effective child protection structures;
- Number and type of members in CBCP structures – including analysis regarding the representation and participation of women, men, and children;
- Whether CBCPM members are volunteers or receive a stipend or wage; and
- Key reflections and lessons learned regarding different structures.

Community-based child protection mechanisms or systems?

Within the region some Plan countries prefer to use the term CBCPMs, while others prefer to use CBCPSs. Through the e-discussion involving Plan staff and partners it was recognised that both terms are relevant and are inter-dependent, with the ‘system’ reflecting broader macro level processes and their linkages, and ‘mechanisms’ referring to more specific components within the system, particularly at the local community and district levels.

Main models and approaches to establishing CBCP

In some contexts Plan is working directly and/or through civil society partners to mobilise community involvement in child protection committees (CPCs). However, in most contexts Plan has a more explicit focus on engaging with, sensitising and strengthening, local government actors to fulfil roles and responsibilities for child protection either directly or through government support to community protection groups. Thus, we have built upon the typology of agency engagement with CBCP groups developed by Behnam³¹ to include a fifth category which emphasises an agency’s engagement with local governments and their responsibilities for child protection, including support for CBCP groups.

31 Behnam, N ‘Agencies, communities and children: a report of the Inter-Agency Learning Initiative: Engaging communities for Children’s Well-being’, 2008, pp. 12-19.

Table 2: Main models and approaches used by Plan to form community-based child protection structures

Plan country:	Comments on CBCPM model/structures:
Direct implementation by agency	
<i>In all of its community-based protection work Plan is engaging and mobilising community members (women, men and children) and/or concerned local authorities to form some kind of CBCP structure to engage local people in identifying and responding to child protection concerns in their community.</i>	
Community involvement in agency initiative	
Pakistan	CPCs and/or watch groups are in the early stages of formation. Plan and their NGO partners are engaging with existing CBOs to enlist, train and support community volunteers to carry out child protection tasks.
East Timor	Plan is in the very early stages of developing CBCPMs. Child protection networks (CPNs) have been established at district (and higher levels) and efforts are underway to establish CBCP groups. There is community interest to build upon the traditional structures called <i>adat</i> that regulate people's lives at the village (Suco) and sub village level (Aldea); and to involve traditional leaders, as they already take on some roles regarding follow up and protection from domestic violence. Community level committees will link to the district level CPNs, which include an assigned child protection officer (government official).
Community owned and managed activities mobilised by external agency	
India	Plan India is supporting CBCPMs in seven States (Delhi, Uttarkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Orissa, and Andra Pradesh). In addition to sensitising and mobilising members of local governance institutions (<i>see below</i>), Plan through partnerships with local NGO partners is also supporting the formation of community-based CPCs. In many communities there is increasing ownership and self management of the child protection activities. Furthermore, members of community-based children's groups are actively involved in child protection activities.
Nepal	Plan Nepal is working in 13 districts. In addition to supporting village CPCs (<i>see below</i>), Plan is also supporting more informal community protection groups, vigilance/surveillance groups, women's groups, adolescents groups and child clubs in some districts. Some of these structures are linked to specific projects (e.g. surveillance groups promoting safe migration and anti-trafficking) while others have broader objectives to empower children and/or women.
Philippines	In addition to supporting the local government child protection councils (<i>see below</i>), Plan is also supporting more informal community owned and managed initiatives on child protection and parenting, including family watch groups, parenting education groups and men's groups. These groups involve interested community volunteers, parents, mothers, fathers and men who want to prevent and respond to different forms of violence against children and women.
Community owned and managed activities initiated from within the community	
<i>There is no documentation of examples where Plan has supported community CPGs which have been initiated within the community. However, it is possible that such examples exist, especially in communities that have replicated community child protection groups, by learning from neighbouring communities which have had agency support.</i>	
Builds upon local government structures and community involvement mobilised by external agency	
Bangladesh	Sixty-four CPGs/social protection groups (SPGs) have been formed in seven districts (Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Dinajpur, Gazipur, Dakar city, and Bogura and Barguna districts in non-sponsorship areas). The CPGs are formed under the umbrella of Union Parishad (the lowest level of local governance/administration), specifically under the government mandated 'women and children repression and prevention standing committee'. The CPGs involve: union parishad level administrative leaders as head of the CPG; representatives from the standing committee of women and child repression and prevention; a teacher; a representative from the local education authority; a health worker/doctor; a lawyer; community representatives (male and female from existing CBOs); women's representatives; and five children's representatives (two boys, three girls). In addition, school management committees (SMCs) are being supported by Plan to establish and implement child protection reporting mechanisms, with links from the union to higher level education offices.
Cambodia	Plan and their NGO partners supported formation of family protection networks (FPNs) in 129 villages in 17 communes in two districts in Siem Reap and one district in Kampong Cham provinces. Plan has advocated for these FPNs to be recognised as the lowest level of the National Children and Women's Protection Network that is implementing the 2010 Ministry of Interior's "Safety village commune/Sangkat Policy Guideline". ³² The village level FPNs include the village chief, parents and children representatives, and elderly persons or monks. The community level FPNs link with, and are supported by the commune council on women and children (CCWC) comprising of commune chiefs, vice-assistant to commune chiefs, commune police and children's representatives. They are also linked to district, provincial and national level councils for children and women and to referral mechanisms which include services run by NGOs.

32 Safety Village Commune/Sangkat Policy Guideline, May 2010; as well as the related earlier laws on domestic violence, drugs and prostitutions offences.

Plan country:	Comments on CBCPM model/structures:
<i>Builds upon local government structures and community involvement mobilised by external agency (continued)</i>	
China	Plan China has piloted CBCPMs in seven communities in three counties (Chunhua, Hanying and Yang County). The Women's Federation (WF) is Plan's primary partner. WF township staff members will be responsible for coordinating the child protection work of village committees and school committees. The village committee is the elected seat of the Communist Party representatives, with a women's representative, village mediator and the village leader. Plan hopes to build the capacity of the women's representatives to become the child protection focal point. At the provincial level, the WF sits on the district and provincial level inter-agency group on children and women's affairs, and takes a lead on child protection issues. Plan is also starting school-based child protection working groups that will include the principal responsible for student affairs, a guidance counsellor, and core teachers. These child protection working groups will coordinate with the women's representatives at village committee level for the work/follow-up on child protection.
India	Plan and their NGO partners are supporting the formation of community-based CPCs in seven States. Plan is advocating for the CPCs to be recognised as the lowest level child protection structure with formal links to the local government and to strengthen links with protection structures and welfare mechanisms at the block, district and state levels as envisaged in the government's Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS). Furthermore, in Uttarkhand, Plan and partners are strengthening the capacity of existing village councils/assemblies to act as CPCs. In some areas children's councils are also formed, and children council members are encouraged to participate in the local governance meetings. SMCs are being formed to ensure that schools that are safe and free from corporal punishment, verbal abuse, discrimination, bullying and sexual abuse.
Indonesia	Plan has supported the formation of Child Protection Village Committees (KPADs) in 147 villages and 10 semi-urban areas, in the nine 'regencies' (districts): Rembang, Surabaya City (Timor Tengah Utara), Grobogan, Kebumen, Kefamenanu, Soe, Sikka, Dompu and Lembata. The committees are licensed by the local government, through a 'letter of decree'. Community members can put themselves forward to volunteer on the KPAD, followed by community election. KPADs usually have three to five government members, the village leader, teacher, health worker, CBO representatives, religious leaders, traditional leaders, youth/children, and village government in line with the official letter of decree. The decree describes KPAD's vision, mission, principle, KPAD structure, role and responsibilities, its referral system and networks.
Laos	Plan Laos is in the early stages of collaboration with the government to form a provincial level child protection network (CPN) committee in Bokeo province. Plan will consider replicating and scaling up UNICEF's model of Child Protection Networks in three districts and their respective villages in Bokeo province. At the district level the CPN usually brings together concerned government officials from each department including: the Labour and Social Welfare District Officer, the District Prosecutor, the District Public Security Officer, Lao Front for National Construction Officer, Lao Youth Union Officer, Lao Women Officer, District Commission for Mother and Children Officer, District of Information and Culture Officer, District Cabinet Officer, District Education Officer, and the District Public Health Officer. It is also intended that the village level CPCs will bring together the village heads, teachers, health workers, and leaders from other existing mass organisations, including members of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union.
Nepal	Plan Nepal is supporting the formation and strengthening of Village Child Protection and Promotion Sub-Committees (previously known as Village Child Protection Committee (VCPC)), which are established under government guidelines to promote child rights and protect children against harm. Plan Nepal works with the VCPCs (mainly in rural villages), by collaborating with District Child Welfare Boards (DCWBs) in its working districts. In some districts, Plan Nepal has signed a formal MoU with DCWB (i.e. Banke district) for establishing VCPCs in all the VDCs of the district and strengthening their child protection capacity. Representatives of child clubs are usually invited to be members of the VCPCs. Plan Nepal is also supporting the development and strengthening of para-legal committees (in three districts) that in turn backs awareness, reporting and referral for violations of women and children's rights. In addition, Plan helped establish Child Helpline 1098 in the Morang and Makawanpur districts in partnership with Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN) NGO; and it has been supporting the establishment of child-friendly VDCs in 16 places.
Philippines	Plan is strengthening local councils for protection of children, at the <i>barangay</i> level in 387 rural communities as well as the higher level of the municipal and provincial level councils for the Protection of Children in West Mindoro, North Samar, East Samar, West Samar, Southern Leyte, and Masbate. These structures are mandated by law ³³ and are thus part of a formal child protection system. Membership for the <i>Barangay</i> Council for the Protection of Children are taken from responsible members of the community including government, NGOs, private agencies and youth representatives. Most BCPCs have 11-15 members, and the BCPC chair is usually the <i>barangay</i> Captain.

33 In the Philippines the Republic Act 4881 (1967), created the Council for Protection of Children in every city or municipality. Furthermore, article 87 of the Presidential Decree 603 the 'Child and Youth Welfare Code' (1974) encouraged every *Barangay* Council to organise a local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC/BCPC), which should coordinate with the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and youth in drawing and implementing plans for the promotion of child and youth welfare.

Plan country:	Comments on CBCPM model/structures:
<i>Builds upon local government structures and community involvement mobilised by external agency (continued)</i>	
Sri Lanka	Plan Sri Lanka supports CBCPMs in four divisions in Uva and North Central provinces. The main structures are the community-based CPCs. The CPCs involve 10-24 members including: community volunteers, the Grama Niladhari (the lowest administrative officer), representatives from existing CBOs and child/youth groups, the public health midwife, preschool teachers, school principals, police personnel from the children and women's desks, and the chairman of a local level mediation board and other interested representatives from civil society. The Grama Niladhari is considered a coordinator in the CPC. The Department of Probation and Child Care Services under the purview of the Child Development ministry has developed a TOR with guidelines for the CPCs. The CPCs link with, and are able to make referrals to, the Divisional Child Protection Committees, ³⁴ which connect with higher level District Child Protection Committees (mandated structures under the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA)). ³⁵ In addition, Plan is supporting school-based CPCs, which are encouraged by the Ministry of Education. These school-based CPCs include representatives from the school administration, teachers, children, parents and other interested individuals from civil society.
Thailand	Plan is supporting provincial level committees on child protection, mandated under the government's Child Protection Act 2003. Plan is building the capacity of existing village committees to take on child protection roles and responsibilities, in addition to their existing tasks. Plan has strengthened village committees in 54 communities (32 in Chiang Mai province and 22 in Chiang Rai province). The village committees are government supported administrative bodies managing local administrative and development issues. The village committees have 11-15 members and no children's representatives. Members of the provincial level committee on child protection include: the provincial governor; the chief of provincial labour and social affairs office; the provincial prosecutor and other government and NGO partners, selected by the governor.
Vietnam	Plan is supporting the establishment of commune level child protection boards/committees in 27 communes in three provinces: Ha Noi, Phu Tho (in North), and Quang Tri (in Central Vietnam). The commune child protection boards are established through close collaboration with the local authorities (the People's Committees at commune, district and provincial levels), and the Department of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs. The commune child protection board involves the head of the commune People's Committee, local government officials (child protection officer, head of school, judicial officer, police official, and members of mass organisations (women's union, youth union). Members of the network of village collaborators (mostly women) and children's core group representatives also attend commune child protection board meetings. The village collaborators (usually women) form a network at the commune level and they work closely with the commune child protection officer. In some areas, village level child protection boards and village level children's core groups have also been formed. CPCs/boards are recognised under the Government's National Programme on Child Protection. Child protection boards have also been established at some provincial and district levels, and bring together government department leaders. These boards are supported by inter-agency working groups, involving technical advisers and government officers.

Diagrams of different CBCPMs supported by Plan in the region

The following diagrams and figures illustrate the close linkages between Plan supported CBCPMs and existing government systems and networks.³⁶ They also demonstrate the important roles of children in the mechanisms, whether through reporting, awareness raising or membership of the CBCPMs.

34 Which are sometimes also referred to as Divisional Child Development Committee.

35 The NCPA was empowered to appoint sub committees under sec. 15(e) of the Act No.50 of 1998.

36 A visual illustration of Cambodia's FPNs and their links to higher level child protection structures is included in Chapter 7 on Linkages.

Figure 4: CBCPM structure India

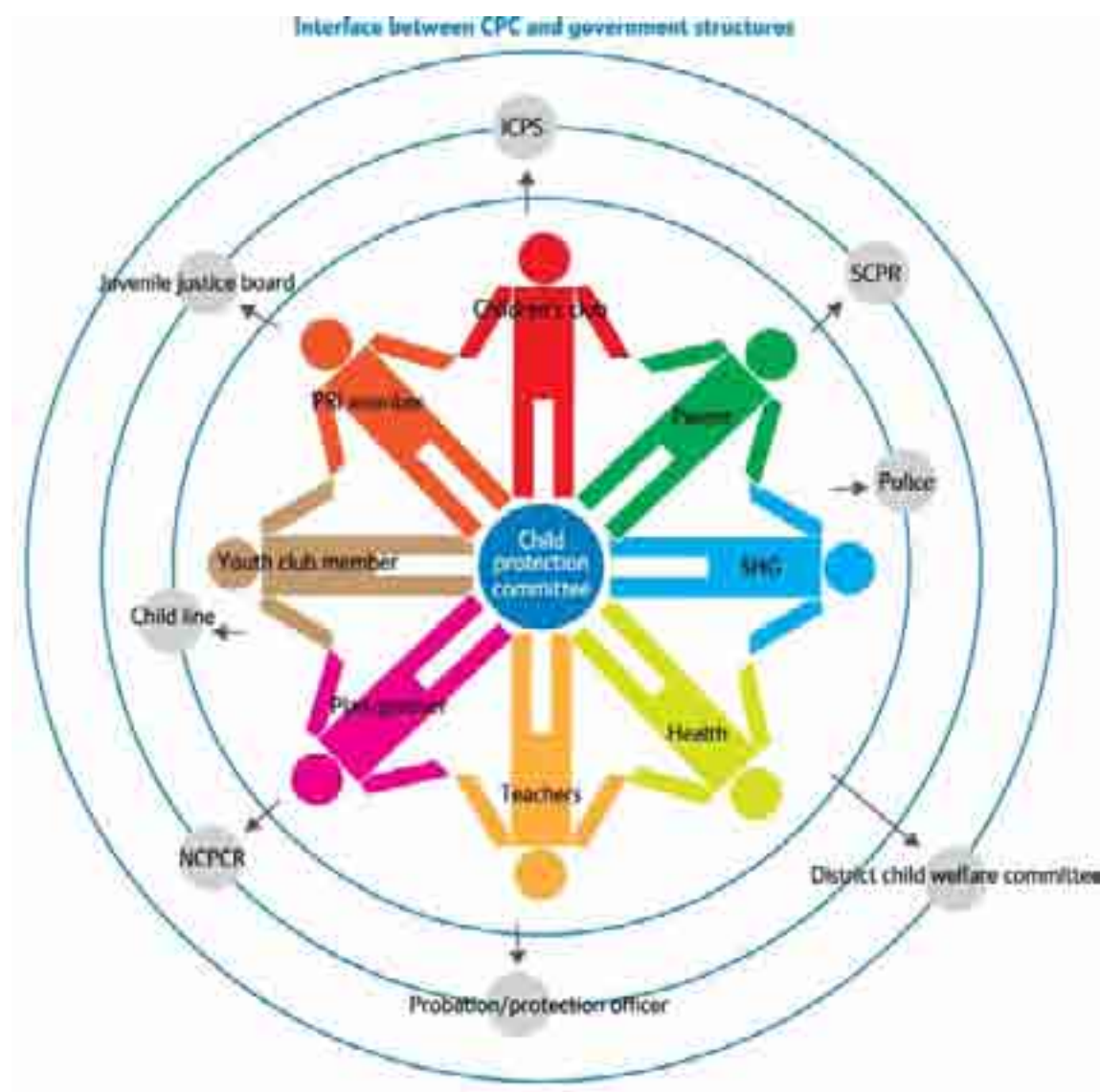


Figure 5: Overview of CBCP mechanism Vietnam



Figure 6: Diagram of the Children Protection Mechanism

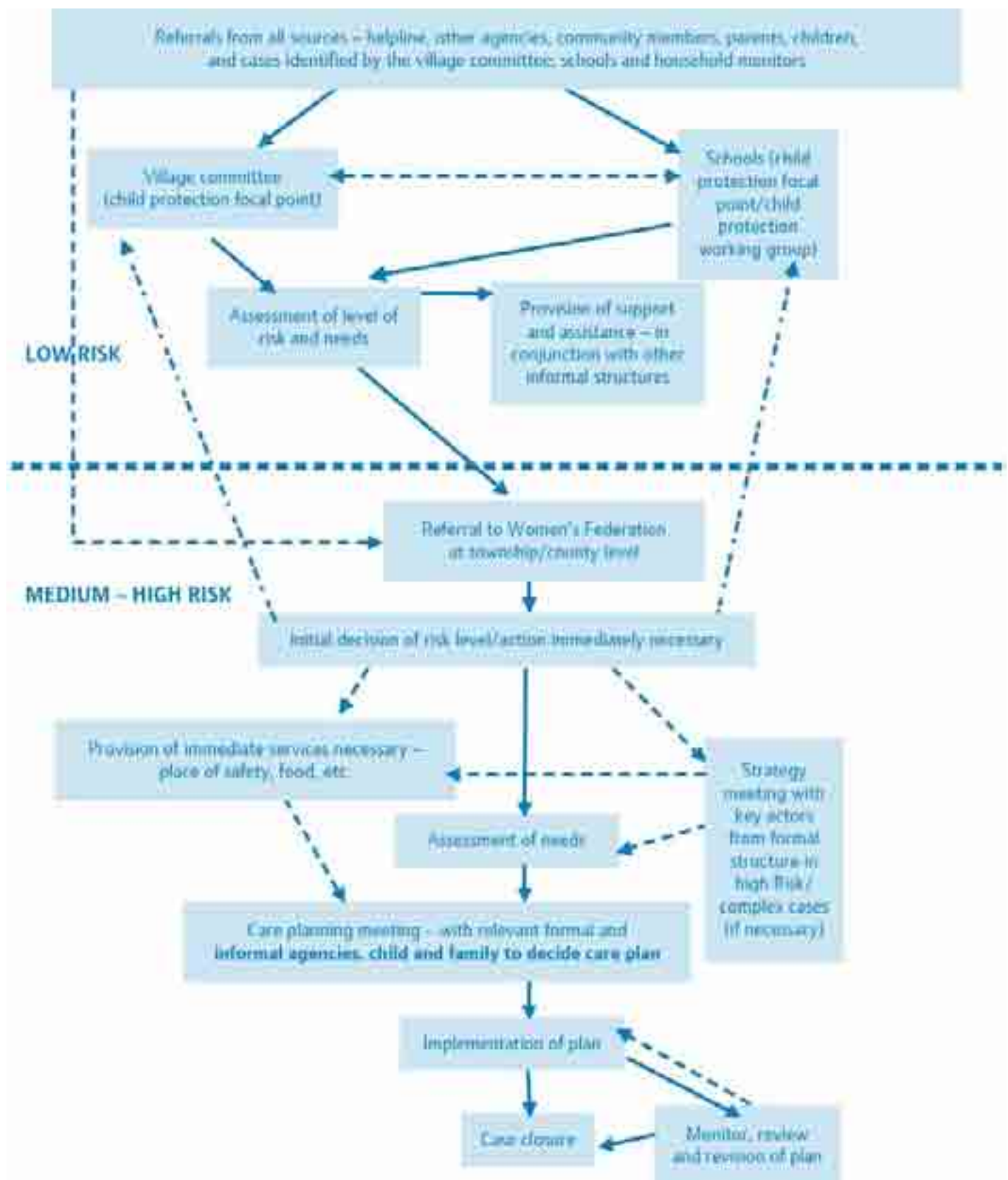


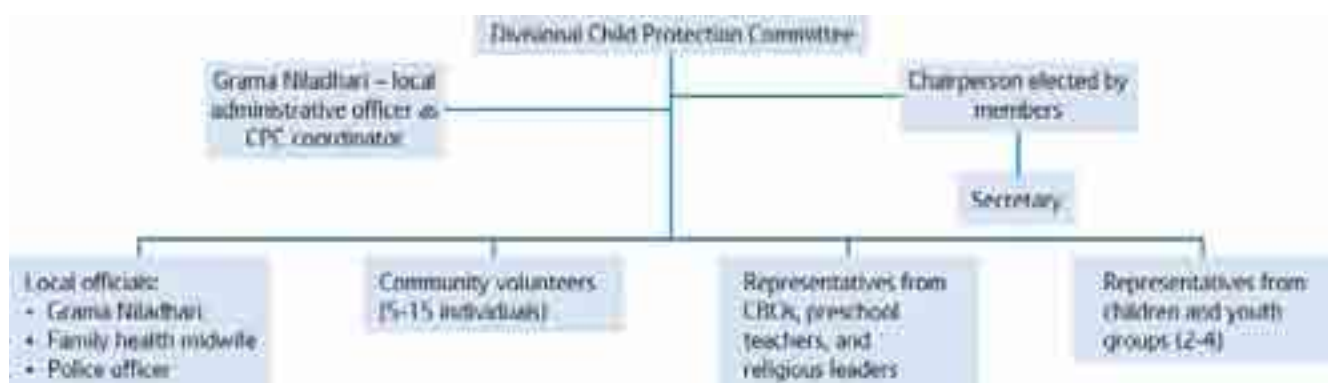
Figure 7: Plan Indonesia



Figure 8: Plan Nepal



Figure 9: CBCPM structure Sri Lanka



Processes for mobilising communities and local authorities, and ensuring sufficient sensitisation on child protection in order to establish child protection structures

Many Plan staff recognise the importance of gaining an understanding of the local perceptions, beliefs and practices relating to childhood, child development and child protection, and to determine how existing good practices can be strengthened prior to building CBCP structures.

“We need to consider how we can best identify, understand and build on existing indigenous practices that protect children. In Vietnam we are planning an ethnographic study to further identify traditional protection mechanisms and practices, and how to build upon them, especially in ethnic minority areas. We need to identify social norms and see how they align or go against CRC principles/social norms.”

(Plan senior manager, Vietnam)³⁷

“There is a lot of respect given to the traditional system by the communities. Mostly the traditional system deals with the minor crime of stealing, however sometimes they even deal with cases of rape and incest. I feel that the traditional system should be formalised so as to reach the community level. There should be a standard code for the traditional system; the serious cases should be reported to the formal system while the minor ones should be dealt with at the community level. The community leaders should be provided with the training on CRC, child protection, case management, existing child protection systems and laws. This way the formal system will be strengthened because only serious cases will be referred to them.”

(Executive Director, Forum Tau Matan, East Timor)³⁸

Using Plan’s CCCD approach has demonstrated its usefulness in establishing CBCPMs as it helps mobilise and sensitise community members to the needs and rights of children, and encourages them to identify and respond to children’s concerns.

Using CCCD as an entry point for CBCP work, Philippines: In accordance with its CCCD approach, Plan’s community organising strategy provides the entry point to working with communities and in establishing partnerships with the local Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC). The process starts with undertaking a situational analysis of children’s issues in partnership with the village officials, and with the involvement of children, volunteers, community members and local officials. Results are then shared and presented. Plan’s role is to facilitate the process of child protection issue identification, consensus building and agreements on action to be taken. Plan’s Community Development Facilitators spearheaded the process, and action is organised based on a consensus of concerns that need to be addressed.

37 Interviewed during field research in Vietnam, May 2012.

38 Interview took place during field research in East Timor, June 2012.

As Plan builds upon partnerships with existing local government structures to establish CBCPMs in many countries in the region, the majority of the CBCP structures involve local government/administrative officials, as well as key local professionals (teachers, health workers, village policeman etc). Their inclusion in the CPC is based on their government role or their profession, rather than their interest in or commitment to children. Thus, Plan and its NGO partners are playing a crucial role in sensitising local government officials and other relevant actors about child protection. Yet, in communities across Asia where child protection was added to existing general development committees with the help of Plan, Plan has found it difficult to be to get child protection on the agenda as a priority for the committees, particularly when it comes to budget allocation and prevention mechanisms. Examples of this include Thailand, China, and to a lesser extent Indonesia, where the KPADs function independently but have to go through the local development committee to access government funding.

In efforts to ensure active child protection structures, Plan is advocating for representational space for community representatives (women, men, girls and boys) who are committed to, and ready to play an active role in, preventing and responding to child protection. For example in Vietnam, while the Commune Child Protection Board involves local officials and members of mass organisations, members of a network of village collaborators and children's core groups also participate in monthly meetings. The village collaborators and child core group members are the main actors for child protection prevention and reporting at the village level.

In the Philippines, while most of the *Barangay* Council on Child Protection members are local government officials, they also include representatives from child/youth organisations, NGOs, and religious groups. These members are usually selected to serve a fixed three year service, after which the composition of the BCPC changes.

Community members can be elected as CPC chairperson, Sri Lanka: In Sri Lanka, the Grama Niladhari (local administration officer) are considered as the coordinator of CPCs, by default of their local administrative role. The chair person of the CPC is elected by its members, as is the secretary. Two to four children/youth representatives are members of the CPC, who are usually part of child/youth groups within the community. Political affiliation and representation from the local political leadership is very minimal. Membership is generally kept unchanged, though key positions (chair, secretary, roles in working groups/sub-committees) are rotated.

In contexts where models of CBCPMs enable community members to identify and elect people to represent them, the election process is often preceded by specific sensitisation and community awareness-raising meetings on the purpose of the CBCPMs, and the roles and responsibilities of its members, to help identify the most interested and appropriate people.

Example of the CPC formation process by Plan and their NGO partners in India:

1. A village meeting stating the objective and suggested profile of CPC members.
2. Small discussions within the village to orient them about the CPC roles and responsibilities.
3. Community meetings to identify members who can contribute their time to the cause of child protection and hold influential positions within their own community. Child club members are also involved in screening and selecting CPC members.
4. Consent for appointing CPC members is generated in the meeting and documented in the meeting minutes.
5. Monthly/quarterly need-based meetings of the members is organised as per the agreed terms.

The number and type of members in CBCP structures

The most common structure for CBCP supported by Plan across the region is the community level CPC. Across the region the structures involve 6-50 members, although CPCs in most countries involve 7-20 members. These members often include: village chiefs/administrative leaders, teachers, health workers, leaders from existing women's groups, CBOs and children or youth groups, and other interested community volunteers. The CBCPMs in all countries except Pakistan include local government/local administration officials. Furthermore, in some communities the community volunteers (e.g. in Sri Lanka and Vietnam) take on increased child protection roles and responsibilities.

The following table shows the numbers of members in the CBCP structures in different countries. Data from India suggests that a community-based CPC can be more effective when it has fewer dedicated members, as this enables more effective coordination and clearer roles.

Table 3: Typical members of CBCPMs³⁹ in different countries

<i>Different CBCPM members:</i>	Bangladesh	Cambodia	China	India	Indonesia	Laos	Nepal ³⁹	Pakistan	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Vietnam
<i>Typical number of members</i>	17-23	7	6	7-10	20-50	Planned	13-15	6-8	11-15	10-24	11-15	20-25
Local chief/administrator	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Other local officials	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Teachers	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Health workers/doctors				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Parents representatives		✓		✓			✓		✓			
Women's representatives	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Children/youth representatives	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ some	✓
Religious elders	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Community volunteers				✓			✓		✓	✓		✓
CBO members	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Local police				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Other	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓

As a result of existing gender discrimination and unequal representation of women in local governance across Asia, many of the local government officials, village elders and CBCP members are males. In contrast, more of the community volunteers are female. In addition, when children's representatives are included in CBCPMs, at least 50 percent of them tend to be female. Thus, most CBCPMs have a reasonable gender balance in terms of CBCPM membership. However, increased efforts to engage fathers and men in parenting and CBCP initiatives (learning from such practice in the Philippines) can be applied in other settings.

Only a few countries (India, Nepal, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka) are actively including representatives from marginalised families as members of the CBCPMs. While impoverished marginalised families may find it difficult to dedicate time as a member of a community-based protection group due to their own livelihood struggles, it is important that increased opportunities for their inclusion are supported. It is disconcerting that very few child groups (across the region) supported by Plan are actively reaching or involving children with disabilities, and few countries monitor and record data regarding the inclusion of these children. Furthermore, the children's groups in many of the countries do not reach out to, or involve, out of school and/or working children.

39 In Nepal's case, VCPC has been taken as a typical structure as it is owned by the government. In terms of parents representation the guidelines demand that there should be '3 Representatives representing as much as possible the Indigenous, Ethnic, Minority, Dalit and Backward Classes and communities'.

Barriers to reaching and involving marginalised adults in CBCPMs, a finding from Pakistan: The CBOs who have been approached to engage in child protection committees are represented by the influential male leaders, teachers, land-owners and other leaders. The ‘literacy’ criterion for eligibility of membership in the CBO/CBCPM for the adult members is problematic if seeking to engage and involve the most marginalised families, as most poor classes and low-caste groups, landless people and workers, ethnic and religious minorities and the females among them in particular, remain illiterate. They are not included in any of the village/community organisations, including the CBCPMs.

The limited process of the rotation of membership or renewal of CBCPM membership may also contribute to less inclusive representation and democratic governance processes. While recognising the dedication, skills and sensitivities needed to be a committed CBCPM, there should be opportunities for other interested community members to join, with special efforts to reach and involve women, men, girls and boys from the most marginalised sectors of the community. In terms of children’s representation in CBCPMs, regular renewal to give younger and other children a chance to be active participants is important.

Whether CBCPM members are volunteers or receive a stipend or wage

The below table illustrates that most CBCP structures supported by Plan rely on volunteers and government members to function. Relatively few members receive a stipend or wage:

Table 4: Stipends for CBCPMs’ members

Stipend	Bangladesh	Cambodia	China	India	Indonesia	Nepal	Pakistan	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Vietnam
All members of CBCP structure are volunteers	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ⁴⁰	✓	✓	
Some CBCP members receive a stipend/wage (usually the local government representatives)								✓ ⁴¹			✓
All members of CBCPMs receive a stipend wage			✓								

Key reflections and lessons learned regarding different structures

Structures for CBCP and membership are influenced by the existing socio-political governance system and the existing child protection system developments within each country. Adopting a rights-based approach, Plan has effectively analysed strategic opportunities to increase local and national government’s responsibility for child protection. Plan has also analysed opportunities to engage and empower civil society, including children, as social actors. In some countries Plan is supporting and strengthening local government structures that are responsible for child protection, while also strengthening civil society initiatives to increase child protection (for example the family watch groups and Men Oppose Violence Everywhere (MOVE)

40 Members of Family Protection Networks, MOVE, ERPAT are community volunteers; while in the Local Council for Protection of Children the local officials have a wage.

41 Ibid

groups in the Philippines). Engagement of local government officials, civil society actors and children in CBCP structures is seen as conducive to developing more active and accountable CBCPMs. However, increased efforts are needed to ensure more inclusive representation of the most marginalised families and to ensure meaningful participation of children.

While it is beneficial to engage local government officials and village leaders/chiefs, it may be that they have limited time and/or interest to dedicate to child protection monitoring, prevention and response. Thus, it is crucial to also engage community actors (women, men, boys and girls) who have the interest and time to contribute to child protection initiatives.

Analysis of the different CBCP models demonstrates that it is less effective to establish different structures linked to specific projects (e.g. in Nepal, on safe migration, child labour and trafficking), than strengthening village child protection committees which build upon government mandates and guidelines.

Summary of key learning on structural aspects of CBCPMs

- A fifth category has been added to Behnam's typology of agency engagement with CBCP groups⁴² which emphasises an agency's engagement with local governments and their responsibilities for child protection, including support for CBCP groups to better reflect Plan's CBCPM work in the Asia region.
- The most common structure for CBCP supported by Plan across the region is the community level CPC.
- It is more strategic to strengthen community-based CPCs which build upon government mandates and guidelines, rather than supporting different structures linked to specific projects (e.g. on safe migration, child labour and trafficking).
- CPCs in most countries involve 7-20 members including: village chiefs/administrative leaders, teachers, health workers, leaders from existing women's groups, CBOs and children or youth groups, and other interested community volunteers.
- While it is strategically important to engage local government officials and village leaders/chiefs in CBCP structures, their multiple responsibilities may mean they have limited time and/or interest to dedicate to child protection monitoring, prevention and response. It is crucial to also engage community actors (women, men, boys and girls) who have the interest and time to contribute to child protection initiatives.
- A lesson learned in India, which should be further explored during future evaluations, is that CPCs can be more effective when they have fewer dedicated members who can effectively coordinate with one another, rather than having too many members who may be less clear on their roles.
- Due to existing gender discrimination many of the local government officials and village elders, who are members of the CBCPMs, are males. In contrast more of the community volunteers are female. In addition, girls' and boys' representatives are often included in CBCPMs. Increased efforts to engage fathers and men in parenting and CBCP initiatives are needed.
- Increased efforts are needed to actively involve representatives from the most marginalised groups in CBCPMs.

42 Behnam, N (2008), pp. 12-19.



The background of the slide features a light blue illustration of several children of diverse ethnicities holding hands in a circle, suggesting a community or group activity. Scattered around them are several five-pointed stars of varying sizes. The illustration is rendered in a simple, sketchy style.

Chapter 4

Functional aspects of CBCPMs



This chapter explores functional aspects of CBCPMs. It includes comparative analysis of:

- The objectives of CBCPMs;
- The main activities of CBCPMs; and whether there is more or less emphasis on prevention, monitoring, response, rehabilitation and reintegration; and
- The roles and responsibilities of different CBCPM members/actors.

Chapter 6, on responding to child protection issues and case management, will further outline and analyse the main processes by which CBCPMs identify and follow up on child protection concerns in different operational contexts. Furthermore, information on the role of Plan in supporting CBCPMs is included in Chapter 8 on capacity and support systems.

Objectives of CBCPMs

Across diverse country contexts, the main purpose of the CBCPMs is to prevent and protect children from all forms of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation. The overall purpose of CBCPMs in each country is in line with Plan's child protection programming guidelines.⁴³ These include a focus on creating safer communities by instituting permanent structures to increase the prospects of a safe childhood. The CBCPMs are established to strengthen local duty bearers' (parents, community leaders, local government officials) knowledge and skills to increase fulfilment of children's protection rights.

While the remit is generally broad focusing on all forms of violence, in some country programmes there is an explicit focus on specific protection issues such as child trafficking (in Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Philippines and Nepal) or migration (Nepal). Furthermore, in most countries there is a focus on strengthening child protection systems, promoting links between the CBCPM and more formal child protection structures at district and provincial/state levels, which tend to have stronger legal mandates to respond with.

43 Plan International, Plan Asia Regional Office. Safe and Sound – Growing up with Protection. Child Protection Programme Framework Programming Guidelines, 2011.

Table 5: Comparative analysis of specific objectives of CBCPMs

<i>Articulated specific objectives:</i>	Bangladesh	Cambodia	China	East Timor ⁴⁴	India	Indonesia	Laos	Nepal	Pakistan	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Vietnam
To monitor and identify child protection concerns	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
To identify vulnerable and/or at risk children and to take action to reduce children's vulnerability and risks	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
To empower children with knowledge and skills that increase their self protection	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
To increase parents/caregivers awareness and skills on child protection and positive parenting skills		✓	✓							✓			✓
To increase duty bearers/CBCPM stakeholders knowledge and skills to prevent and respond to child protection concerns	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
To undertake case management to resolve child protection concerns			✓					✓		✓	✓		✓
To make referrals for legal, psychosocial, health, educational, social protection or other services	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
To link CBCPM with government child protection structures	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Develop local codes (village/commune rules) on child protection									✓	✓			✓
Develop a local development plan for children, and a local investment plan for children										✓			✓

Official duties of local level Councils for the Protection of Children, Philippines:

In the Philippines the duties of the *Barangay* Council for the Protection of Children are outlined in the Child and Youth Welfare Code (1974). They are:

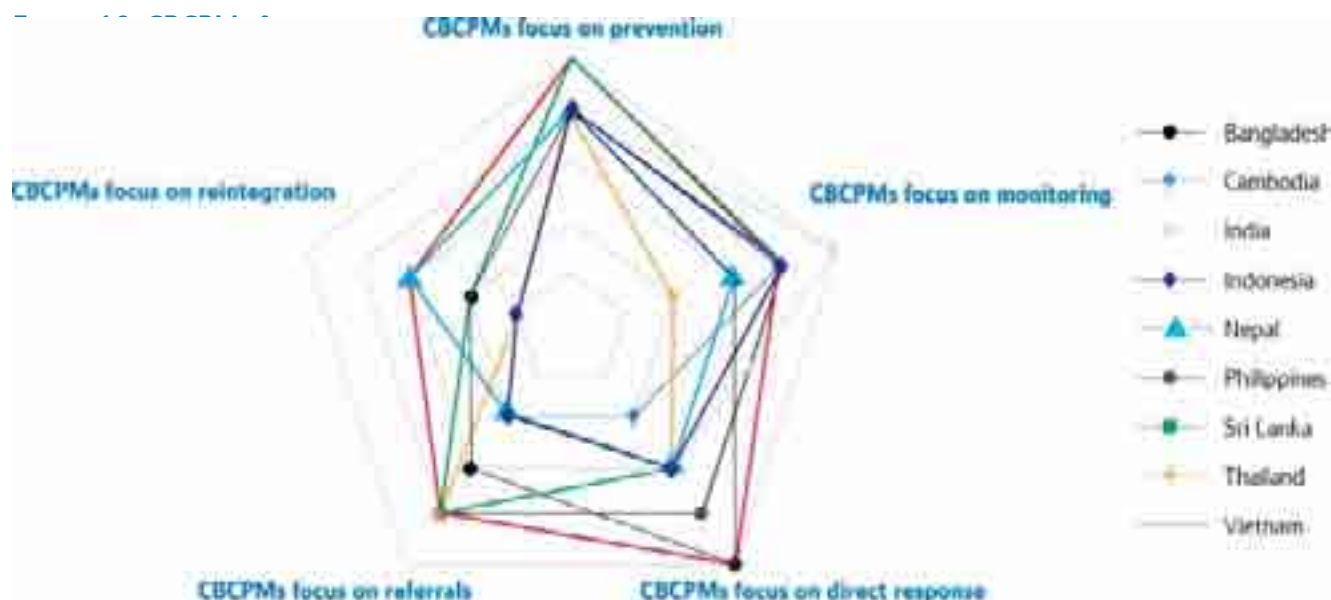
- (1) Foster the education of every child in the *barangay*;
- (2) Encourage the proper performance of the duties of parents, and provide learning opportunities on the adequate rearing of children and on positive parent-child relationships;
- (3) Protect and assist abandoned or maltreated children and dependents;
- (4) Take steps to prevent juvenile delinquency and assist parents of children with behavioural problems so that they can get expert advice;
- (5) Adopt measures for the health of children;
- (6) Promote the opening and maintenance of playgrounds and day-care centres, and other services that are necessary for child and youth welfare;
- (7) Coordinate the activities of organisations devoted to the welfare of children and secure their cooperation;
- (8) Promote wholesome entertainment in the community, especially in movie houses; and
- (9) Assist parents, whenever necessary in securing expert guidance counselling from the proper government or private welfare agency.

44 Planned activities at the community level and/or existing activities of the district level CPN as the CBCPMs have not yet been established.

Main activities of CBCPMs:

As illustrated by the web diagram (see below)⁴⁵ the CBCPMs across diverse country contexts have a very strong focus on prevention. In most countries the strongest focus of the CBCPMs is on prevention through awareness raising with community members (women, men, girls and boys) about child rights and protection issues, parenting education and early interventions.

In Cambodia for example, the FPNs work mostly on prevention, by sharing knowledge and awareness on child rights and protection issues with the community members, including children and youth. Plan's implementing partner has organised evening video shows for its awareness campaigns about sexual abuse, domestic violence and drug abuse in some of the new communities. Youth and children have shared child protection information with their club members and other youth through peer education.



Gathering information on children, and registration of vulnerable and at risk children, Vietnam: In Vietnam there is a strong focus on prevention work through parenting education and awareness raising on child rights and child protection; and on gathering information on children, especially on registering and responding to vulnerable children/children in need of special protection⁴⁶ and children at risk. In accordance with government policies, specific groups of vulnerable children are supported to access social protection schemes. In addition, early interventions (including home visits and parental guidance) are undertaken with children and families at risk (e.g. children living with parents who regularly abuse alcohol) to reduce vulnerabilities and risks of protection violations. Monitoring, identification and response to child protection concerns in families, schools and communities are also supported through the CBCPS.

⁴⁵ These scores are based on assessments by Plan child protection focal points and the study researchers from low to high (0-5), with a focus on: prevention, monitoring, direct response, referrals and support for reintegration by CBCPMs in different countries.

⁴⁶ Under the 2004 law of child protection, care and education the Vietnam government defines 10 categories of disadvantaged children including: orphans having no one to rely on, abandoned children; disabled children; child victims of toxic chemicals; children infected with HIV/AIDS; children doing hard or hazardous jobs or contacting noxious substances; children working far from their families; street children; sexually-abused children; children addicted to narcotics and juvenile offenders.

Some country programmes (including India, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam) have a strong focus on monitoring child protection, whereas it is less of a focus in Thailand, Bangladesh and Nepal.

A focus on direct responses to child protection concerns by CBCPMs is strong in Bangladesh, the Philippines and Vietnam; but it is a medium focus in other countries. The establishment and use of referral mechanisms to ensure further interventions and responses to child protection concerns are variable across country contexts. Referral mechanisms are well established and used in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and in some Nepali communities, while they remain relatively weak and/or under-used in other country contexts. While referral mechanisms are fairly strong at the commune level in Vietnam, they require strengthening at the district and provincial level. Furthermore, across country contexts there is only a limited focus on reintegrating children into their families, though there is more focus on this in the Philippines, Vietnam and Nepal.

Linking vulnerable children to service providers at the community and district level, Nepal: CBCP structures are coordinating with service providers at the community as well as district level, targeting vulnerable children. They make referrals to relevant agencies to provide scholarship support (admission, text books, stationary, and school uniforms) to children at risk, as well as to rescued children. For example, the CBCP structure in Makawanpur, coordinated with other agencies to provide vocational training and income generating support to adolescent girls who had returned to Nepal after working in a circus in India.

The roles and responsibilities of different CBCPM members/actors

In most models, different members of the CBCP structure have different roles and responsibilities, with the chairperson having the most responsibility for coordination and leadership; while other members, especially community volunteers and children's group members may have more responsibilities for awareness-raising, prevention, monitoring and reporting on child protection. For example, in the FPNs in Cambodia, the village leader (who is almost always male) has the most influential role. He is the person to whom all cases are referred and he will arrange referrals where necessary. Parent members should share information with other parents and organise parents' meetings. Youth members should do this for their peers. The village commune safety focal point deals with issues related to his mandate and the teacher deals with educational matters. On a commune level, the commune leader is the focal person for cases and follow-up, as well as coordination with the commune focal point for women and children.

In the KPADs in Indonesia, the village leader (male) is the official leader and the contact person for local and (sub-) district government officials. However, women and mothers are usually trained by Plan's partner to have increased capacity to intervene on child protection cases. The women also linked to the village health

post and with 'Arisan', the revolving loan scheme which can be used to support vulnerable children and families.

In many CBCPMs supported by Plan, members' responsibilities relate to their official function (as a child protection officer, education official, a health official, a judicial official etc).

Roles and responsibilities of Commune Child Protection Board members, Vietnam: Commune Child Protection Boards involve 7-10 members, including the commune People's Committee leader, local officials and members of mass organisations. The role of the *chairperson/vice chair of the child protection board at commune/ward level* (who is also a chair or vice-chair of the Commune People's Committee) is to: provide instructions, coordination and mobilisation of resources for child protection; to instruct and supervise the enforcement of the law and programmes intended for child protection; to coordinate with competent agencies such as the police, justice, and the DOLISA sub-office to provide services for children in need of special protection; and to support investigations into child abuse cases.

In the Philippines, in addition to strengthening the local Councils for the Protection of Children (at *barangay*, municipal and provincial levels), Plan is supporting more informal CPGs involving parents, men, and other community volunteers, to help prevent and address domestic violence and gender-based violence (including sexual abuse). Plan also supports parenting education through the government initiative Parent Effectiveness Service (PES) and Empowerment and Reaffirmation of Paternal Abilities (ERPAT); and Men Opposed to Violence Everywhere (MOVE). Increased efforts to mainstream the engagement of men and boys in preventing and responding to violence are required in other countries across the region.

The role of fathers and men in preventing and responding to violence, Philippines:⁴⁷ In appreciating the significant role of parents to their children, sessions on PES and ERPAT covering topics on child abuse prevention and child protection have been supported by Plan in the *barangays*. Through '*the Proud ERPATs experience*' Plan has supported an organisation among fathers at the municipal level, wherein a core of 26 men were initially trained as trainers and then dispatched to organise training among men in different *barangays* in the locality. Fathers who received the orientation and training sessions have demonstrated behavioural changes towards their children and family members.

Women's groups are also playing an active role in preventing and responding to child protection concerns in Nepal. Furthermore, women's/women's group representatives are actively involved in CBCPMs in at least 75 percent of the countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam).

47 Dela Cruz, L. B. & Escalante, B. A. Empowering communities towards child protection: Final Evaluation 2006-2008. Plan Philippines, 2009.

Women's group intercept child traffickers, Nepal: Five adolescent girls and two men of Rukum district arrived at a home of locals in a village in Kamdi VDC in Banke district. The locals were suspicious about the girls and they suspected that they were at risk of being trafficked. Members of the women's group voiced their suspicions and organised a *Lok-Dohari* (singing songs in a group) in the evening. Through this cultural programme they managed to take photographs of the men with a digital camera and record their voices when they were singing and dancing. During the cultural programme some members had managed to hear the suspects' plan to cross the border to India taking each of the girls with them one by one, by bicycle. Early the next morning members of the women's group shared the information to concerned staff of the Social Awareness Centre (SAC) Nepal, a partner NGO of Plan Nepal, and requested them to help prevent the girls from being trafficked to India. They printed the photos of the men and provided it to the surveillance booth run by Maiti-Nepal (a national NGO fighting against human trafficking) by the border-point. With this collaboration the suspects were caught red-handed. The rescued girls were reunited with their families.

In Sri Lanka, the community CPC functions encompass a strong focus on monitoring and prevention work, response to concerns that they are able to address within the community, and referral to the Divisional CPC or the Divisional Child Right Promotion officer for more complex cases. As part of their prevention efforts the CPC members, child groups and community volunteers have been involved in awareness raising and campaigns on birth registration, domestic violence, positive discipline, the harm caused by alcohol abuse, and the safety and protection of the children in migrant families. The CPCs also support broader social welfare and recreational activities including organising sports and cultural activities for the community members.

Religious elders (Islamic, Buddhist or Christian depending on the context) play important roles in raising awareness, influencing practices on child protection, resolving disputes and/or mobilising local resources to support the most marginalised children and families. For example, in Thailand, religious elders in Christian communities have attended child rights and protection workshops and have integrated child protection into their teaching to children and community members. In Cambodia, Buddhist monks have been involved in awareness raising on child protection through religious ceremonies, and have helped in solving disputes. However, the risks of children being physically and/or sexually abused by religious leaders are also recognised, thus careful sensitisation, preparation and monitoring is required.

Role of the church in CBCPMs in Philippines:⁴⁸ The church has played a notable role in provinces where CBCP and anti-trafficking work is underway. For example, in Masbate and Western Samar the church has been handling the victims' support fund; while the Church Diocese of Ilagan played a prominent role in supporting the set up of the Women and Child Protection Unit partnership in the province of Isabela.

Summary of key learning on functional aspects of CBCPMs

- The main purpose of the CBCPMs is to prevent and protect children in the community from all forms of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation. CBCPMs have a primary focus on prevention work through awareness raising and early interventions.
- Work on positive discipline and parenting education within communities has been effective in creating a more conducive environment within families and communities for child protection and prevention work.
- CBCPMs provide a mechanism through which children, parents/caregivers and other community members can report child protection concerns.
- CBCPMs coordinate a response either through direct action by their members or through referrals to higher level child protection bodies.
- While referral mechanisms are well established and used in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and in some Nepali communities, they remain relatively weak in other country contexts. Child protection structures and functional referral mechanisms need strengthening at the district and provincial level in many countries in the region.
- CBCPMs have a limited focus on reintegrating children into their families (after trafficking or abuse), though there is relatively more focus on this in the Philippines, Vietnam and Nepal.
- In many CBCPMs the chairperson tends to have the most responsibility for coordination and leadership; while other members, especially community volunteers and children's group members have more responsibilities for awareness-raising, prevention, monitoring and reporting on child protection.
- In many CBCPMs supported by Plan, member responsibilities relate to their official function.
- In the Philippines, men's groups are actively involved in prevention of violence against women and children. In other countries there is more engagement of women's groups and the need for increased efforts to engage men.
- Religious elders play important roles in raising awareness, influencing practices on child protection, resolving disputes and/or mobilising local resources to support the most marginalised children and families in a number of countries.

48 Dela Cruz, L. B. & Escalante, B. A., 2009 Empowering communities towards child protection.



The background of the entire page is a light blue color. Overlaid on this is a faint, white line-art illustration of several children of different ethnicities holding hands in a large circle. There are also several five-pointed stars scattered throughout the background. The text is centered on the page.

Chapter 5

Children's participation and involvement in CBCPMs



This chapter focuses on children's participation and involvement in CBCPMs. It includes analysis of:

- Plan's approach to children's participation;
- The nature of children's engagement and their roles in the CBCPMs;
- Training provided to children and how children reach other children;
- Benefits of children's participation in CBCP initiatives;
- Challenges and ethical issues concerning children's participation CBCP initiatives;
- Opportunities for children's participation in higher level meetings/forums; and
- Lessons learned for increasing meaningful children's participation and partnerships between adults and children in CBCPMs.

Plan's approach to children's participation

Recognising children as right holders and active citizens, and supporting children's participation is a key element of Plan's CCCD approach. Children and young people are empowered with knowledge on child rights, and with the skills and confidence to assert their rights.

In most countries across the region girls and boys have been supported to develop their own child groups/clubs to create a space for children's regular discussions, analysis, problem solving and action planning on issues affecting them; and adults (parents, community elders and teachers) have been sensitised to listen to children's voices. In general girls and boys aged 11-18 years old are involved in the community or school-based child groups/clubs. However, in a few countries (including Bangladesh, India and Nepal) children from the age of eight are involved.

The nature of children's engagement and their roles in the CBCPMs

Through Plan's child protection programmes there is a specific focus on empowering children with the skills and knowledge on child rights and child protection, and supporting their active participation to ensure their own self protection, and to contribute to the protection of their peers in their community and/or in schools. Over 4,000 community-based and/or school-based children's groups/clubs are actively supported through the child protection programme by Plan in the Asia region.

In some countries, children's representatives are members of CBCP structures. Such children's representatives are usually members of community or school-based child groups/clubs. In other countries, the children's groups/clubs work collaboratively with adults in community level child protection committees/groups, but the children are not actually members of the child protection structure. An overview of children's participation in CBCPMs per country can be found in section VIII of the Methodology.

Figure 11: Number of child groups per country

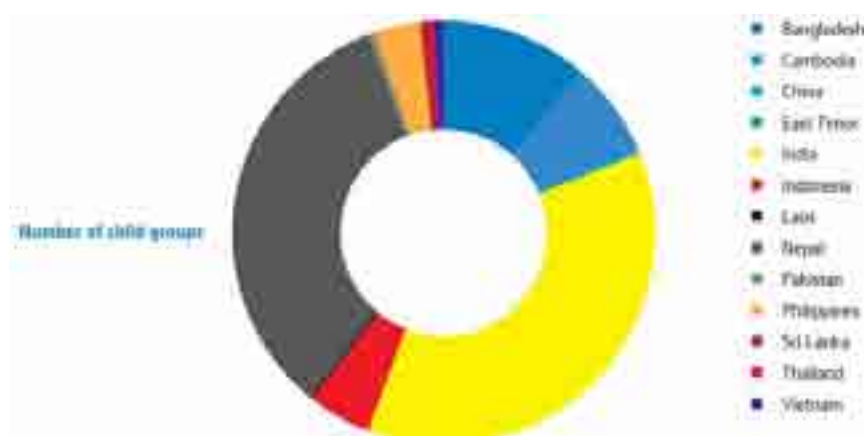


Table 6: Number of child groups involved in child protection

	Bangladesh	Cambodia	China	East Timor	India	Indonesia	Laos	Nepal	Pakistan	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Vietnam
Number of child groups involved in child protection	463	293	8	/	1,500	200	/	1,349	20	149	30	12	27

Support for children's organisations and children's involvement in CPGs, Bangladesh: In Bangladesh Plan is supporting 463 children's organisations involving children aged 8-18 years of age. Girls and boys are given training on child rights, child protection and life skills. In communities where CPGs are being formed, members of the children's organisations are informed about CPGs and are encouraged to be actively involved in the CPG. Plan also sensitises officials in the Union Parishad (local government) about the presence and role of children's organisations and the capacity of children. Child representatives are usually invited by the Union Parishad officials to join the community meetings relating to the formation of the CPGs; and most CPGs have involved five to six children (60 percent girls, 40 percent boys). In urban settings, Plan and its NGO partners work with street children, particularly girls. They increase children's awareness about child rights and child protection issues, including an exploration of the risks and challenges of street life and mechanisms for coping with them.

In many countries (especially in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam) children and young people play very active roles in CBCP work. Their roles include:

- Identifying and reporting child protection concerns;
- Raising awareness of child rights and child protection among their peers, family members and community members (often through creative initiatives including drama, newspapers, magazines, films, wall painting, drawing etc.);
- Mapping risks and vulnerabilities;
- Organising action to prevent or respond to child protection concerns (such as beating, child marriage etc.) through early intervention home visits; discussions and actions with other concerned stakeholders; peer education; and
- Raising their concerns with government officials at different levels (village, commune/*panchayat*/municipality, district, province/state) so that practice and policies can be developed and implemented in their best interests.

“We, members of the children’s club developed a map of our community and identified the children at risk and the dangerous places for children. We organised a joint visit to the homes where children face risks – for example children whose parents are working abroad, or families with parents who are addicted to alcohol or drugs. When we were doing such family visits we involve some of our teachers and volunteer leaders from the village level organisations. The teachers gained more of an understanding of the background of our friends and how to support them in continuing their school activities.” (16 year old boy, children’s group leader, Sri Lanka)⁴⁹

Child club and CPG identifies and responds to child sexual abuse, Delhi, India:⁵⁰ While going to a community shop to buy some toffee, a four year old girl was lured by a 40 year old man and taken to a community park. Other children, including child club members noticed the man touching the little girl inappropriately. They rushed home to their families and narrated the incident to them. The community members approached the CPG members who filed a case with the police. The police intervened and the perpetrator was arrested. The family members of the child were pressurised to surrender the case, but with the support of CPG members and youth club members the family continued the legal case. Following this incident the children club members have been oriented on appropriate and inappropriate touch.

In some countries, such as Nepal, networks of child clubs at village and district level have been formed enhancing opportunities for children’s representation and roles in higher level child protection structures such as the District Child Welfare Boards.

49 Boy interviewed during H-Assessment by Plan field staff, March 2012.

50 Shared by CPG members during CBCPM consultation activities organised as part of the study in May 2012.

The children's organisation, PAYCO, influences *barangay* council practices, Philippines:⁵¹ In most BCPCs where Plan works, children's representatives are occasionally involved. Across programme units (PUs), there are good examples of the *barangay* councils passing resolutions to allocate increased funds to support children's activities, and to recognise and certify children's associations. In Masbate children have been able to influence the *barangay* council to support and adopt their projects through sending letters to the *barangay* council and attending their meetings. Projects initially implemented by the children's group such as tree planting and coastal clean-ups have been sustained by the *barangay* council in Masbate.

Training provided to children and how children reach others

Plan and/or its NGO partners have provided training to children, especially to children involved in child groups/clubs. In almost all countries training is provided to girls and boys (aged 11-18 years) on: child rights; child protection; national child protection laws; children's participation; life skills and peer education. In many countries, children have also received training in theatre and/or media skills (e.g. how to produce a newsletter or a leaflet) to influence action and advocacy initiatives on issues affecting them.

"During trainings we were told some stories which were about coping from the adverse situation. It increased our confidence level. We were also told that we should always motivate others to grow high." (Adolescent girls club leaders, Delhi, India)⁵²

The 'Bamboo Shoots' training manual⁵³ on child-led community action planning is being used with and by children in many countries in the region. In addition, Plan has recently started the "Asia Civil Society Training on Involving Children in their own Protection" programme, with training in Sri Lanka in April 2012. Broadly based on the Keeping Children Safe Coalition's toolkit on how to engage children effectively in the development of organisational child protection tools and mechanisms, Plan's adapted training aimed to build the capacities of a selected group of children and adults on effectively engaging children in their own protection.⁵⁴

In Indonesia and Nepal the child clubs' members have also received training in child club management, leadership and in monitoring of child rights. Furthermore, in Sri Lanka some child leaders have also received training to enhance their skills in befriending children (especially children who are excluded) and in basic counselling skills to support children who are at risk of, or who have experienced, abuse.

51 Shared by PAYCO children's members during 'H' assessment for the CBCPM regional study, April 2012.

52 Shared in Plan Annual Participatory Programme Review Report from Rajdhani Cluster Program Unit, May 2010 – June 2011. NGO partners AV Baliga Trust, NavShrishti, Bal Vikas Dhara and Alamb contributed to this report.

53 Plan International, Plan Asia Regional Office, Bamboo Shoots: A Training Manual on Child Centred Community Development/Child Led Community Actions for Facilitators working with Children and Youth Groups, 2010.

54 Plan International, Plan Asia regional Office, Involving children in their own protection, training for child participants, from 02-06 April 2012, Negombo, Sri Lanka, April 2012.

Children who are actively involved in community-based children's organisations often reach out to other children in their community through child-to-child approaches and peer education. Creative forms of awareness raising including drama, theatre for development, music, art and child-led media initiatives (newsletters, wall magazines, radio or TV programmes) have been effectively used by children to raise awareness and action on child protection. There are also innovative efforts underway in Thailand to provide children with mobile phones to monitor and report on child rights and child protection through online/digital mechanisms to Plan's partners.

Children's training in journalism, Nepal: All the child clubs supported/facilitated by Plan Nepal have received training in journalism and are producing their own wall magazines. Some of the members of media groups and child clubs are running children's programmes on the local FM radio. Plan Nepal is broadcasting Jingle against human trafficking and for safe migration in collaboration with local FMs under each PU (issues might be different as per the priority issues in the district).

In some contexts (e.g. in Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka) child group 'leaders' are trained and expected to share the training with other group members. However, while children and young people are effective in sharing key messages, roll out of skills-based training initiatives does not always occur. Thus, Plan is encouraged to reflect on the model of training leaders to determine if more inclusive training opportunities can be supported.

Children and youth involvement in developing a child protection manual, Thailand: Plan Thailand in collaboration with the International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD) organised a series of consultation workshops with 20 child protection-experienced youths to participate in planning and designing a child protection manual, and become core groups to disseminate the contents to other youths and community members.

The benefits of children's participation in CBCP initiatives

As indicated in Table 7, many benefits of children's participation in CBCP initiatives have been identified by children and adults during the regional CBCPM desk analysis, mapping and/or field work. While many findings may be anecdotal, they gain validity when similar benefits are mentioned by different stakeholders (children, parents, community members, local officials) and repeated in different contexts. However, increased systematic research, monitoring and evaluation on children's participation in CBCPMs would clearly increase the evidence base to support the ongoing practice and policy developments in children's participation and protection.

The table below compares the advantages of children's participation in CBCP initiatives:⁵⁵

Table 7: Advantages of child participation in community-based child protection initiatives

<i>Advantages of children's participation in CBCP initiatives</i>	Bangladesh	Cambodia	China	East Timor	India	Indonesia	Laos	Nepal	Pakistan	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Vietnam
Children are more visible in the community and there is increased value given to listening to children	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Children have increased confidence	✓				✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
Children have increased information	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Children have improved communication, negotiation and problem solving skills	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Children are more able to defend their rights and their own self protection	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Children have contributed to improved protection of other children	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Children have played a role in reducing school dropout rates		✓			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Children are contributing to media and/or theatre initiatives and increase awareness and action on protection issues affecting them	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
There is increased and more authentic information on child protection concerns through children's participation	✓					✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
More attention is given to children's needs and priorities	✓					✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
Children are influencing community/commune development plans and/or budgets		✓				✓		✓			✓		✓

Benefits of children's participation, Indonesia: Plan Indonesia has found that a key strength of children's participation is their active role in efforts to prevent violence against children and to respond to child protection concerns. For example, children and young people are involved in resolving low risk cases of violence against their peers, preventing further escalation.⁵⁶ Children and young people have increased capacity and confidence to address child protection concerns as a result of their participation in trainings and meetings. Furthermore, the village government supports children and young people to actively participate in village planning and development, including drawing up regulations in the best interest of children and child protection.

In some countries (including Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam) Plan, often in collaboration with other child-focused agencies, has supported children's participation in higher level (district, state or national) children's forums, parliaments or networks.

Challenges concerning children's participation in CBCP initiatives

Across the Asia region sociocultural attitudes towards children are that children should listen to and obey their elders. Traditionally, girls and boys are not expected to raise their voice, to ask questions or to express their views or suggestions.

55 Identified during the regional CBCPM desk analysis, mapping and/or field work.

56 Farid, M., CBCP Project Final Evaluation, December 2011, page 22.

Hierarchies based on age, gender and other factors may contribute further to the exclusion or oppression of girls, children with disabilities and other groups of children from marginalised backgrounds. Traditional sociocultural barriers towards children continue to be a challenge in every country, and ongoing efforts are required to sensitise concerned stakeholders about the value of children's participation.

"One of my friends got married recently. He is my age. When we talked to the family, they did not listen to us and scolded my friend for disclosing the matter with us. Later my friend approached me and requested me to stay away from the matter as otherwise his family will become more aggressive. We did not go again to the family." (Boy, child club member, Delhi, India)⁵⁷

In each sociocultural political context it is crucial that potential ethical issues and risks that may be faced by participating children are analysed (by adults and children) and efforts are taken to address and minimise such concerns.

Challenges concerning children's participation in community protection work in Sri Lanka:⁵⁸ Adults continue to underestimate and under utilise children's potential. Due to children's relative lack of power compared with adults, dangers remain that adults are able to manipulate children to get them to do what they want, rather than supporting children's genuine participation in decision making processes and acting upon children's suggestions. Furthermore, if children participate in children's groups when their parents do not agree, they may risk punishment. In addition, some adolescent girls face risks when they are moving around their community for children's group activities. Thus, increased efforts are needed to ensure that girls and boys are safe while participating in activities that are of interest to them.

Across every country programme increased efforts are needed by Plan and their partners to reach and engage the most marginalised children (children with disabilities, indigenous children, out-of-school working children, child domestic workers etc) in child groups/clubs and in CBCPMs. While the specific objectives of CBCPMs often include a specific focus on increasing the protection of the most vulnerable and marginalised children, many of these children continue to be beneficiaries rather than social actors in the community-based programmes. Plan's focus on establishing school-based children's groups, or nominating school going children to represent their peers in the CBCPMs means that the most marginalised children may be excluded. Furthermore, while some teachers, parents, community members and local officials are increasingly aware of children's capacities and potential, there is a still a tendency in many local communities to 'showcase' the communities 'best children' through the CBCPMs.

57 Shared by a boy during Plan India Annual Participatory Programme Review, 2011.

58 Shared by Child Protection Focal Point during ICPREC mapping, April 2012.

Gender and generation power prevents participation of children and women, Pakistan: None of the children and women present during a meeting with the CBO and forum members in a village in Chakwal, participated in discussions in the presence of the CBO members (all males). Although most of them belonged to the same families, children and women generally remained silent in the presence of male members. In other locations visited, group meetings took place with children alone and they participated without inhibition in the absence of adult males.

While children's representatives are included in village CPCs in a number of countries, in contexts where only two children's representatives are included there are questions around the power of two children to influence adult dominated decision making processes. Thus, there is a need to advocate and support increased collaborative efforts between child groups/clubs and CBCPMs and opportunities for at least four or five children's representatives in CBCPM structures. Furthermore, increased efforts are needed to ensure that marginalised children are actively included in child clubs/groups and that they have opportunities to represent their peers. Field staff need effective facilitation skills to strengthen inclusive child groups and to ensure inclusive, meaningful and safe participation of children in child protection mechanisms and initiatives.

Across Asia, children are generally busy in their daily lives with study, tuition, household and other work responsibilities, play and leisure activities. Girls and boys, especially from the most marginalised families often have limited free time. Thus, time constraints will continue to be a challenge when supporting children's meaningful participation in child protection initiatives, especially for children living in remote and mountainous areas, where the houses are scattered, separated by rivers or inaccessible pathways. Ongoing efforts are needed to consult and work with girls and boys at times that suit them. Child-focused organisations need to be ready to adapt their working times to work with children in the evenings or on weekends, and to orient their work plans around school holidays or seasonal calendars. Advocacy with the local authorities is also required to organise child protection meetings and trainings for children at times that suit them, and at times that do not clash with their studies.

Summary of key learning on children's participation in CBCPMs

- By empowering children as active citizens, girls and boys are more able to assert their rights to protection and are more able to protect themselves.
- Many CBCPMs include child representatives; and many CBCPMs work collaboratively with child groups.
- Children and young people are playing important roles in awareness raising, identification and reporting of child protection concerns, mapping of risks, and organising action to prevent or respond to child protection concerns through early intervention home visits; discussions and actions with other concerned stakeholders.
- Creative forms of awareness raising including drama, theatre for development, music, art and child-led media initiatives have been effectively used by children to raise awareness and action on child protection.
- Support for meaningful participation is an ongoing process involving profound changes in cultural attitudes and beliefs that take time. As a result of sociocultural traditions towards children some parents/caregivers, community elders and local officials still do not understand the importance of children's participation, and many adults continue to underestimate girls' and boys' capacities.
- Increased efforts are needed by Plan and their partners to reach and engage the most marginalised children in child groups/clubs and in CBCPMs.
- Time constraints hinder children's participation, as they are busy with education/tuition, household or other work, and leisure activities. Some child protection meetings are organised during study time. Increased efforts are needed to support children's participation in protection activities at times that suit them.
- To strengthen their groups, members would like increased opportunities to network with and learn from children's groups to enhance their action and advocacy initiatives on child protection.



The background of the entire page is a blue-toned illustration. It depicts a group of diverse children of various ages and ethnicities holding hands in a large circle, suggesting a community or a protective ring. Scattered throughout the scene are several five-pointed stars of varying sizes. The style is a soft, sketchy line art.

Chapter 6

Responding to child protection concerns and case management

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This chapter on responding to child protection and case management shares details about:

- Processes by which child protection concerns are identified and followed up by CBCPMs in different operational contexts;
- The types of child protection concerns that are and are not being addressed through a case management approach;
- How cases are managed by the CBCPMs, to better understand who (if anyone) takes on a case management role in different operational contexts; and
- The strengths, weaknesses and challenges of undertaking case management in different contexts.

Processes by which child protection concerns are identified and followed up by CBCPMs in different operational contexts

The main processes by which child protection issues are identified include:

- Observation of child protection concerns by neighbours that are shared with members of the CBCPM and/or with the village chief (who is generally a member of the CBCPM);
- Observation of child protection concerns by a child in school or in the community which are shared with child group members and/or with adult members of CBCPMs or teachers;
- Children sharing their own concerns within their child group;
- Victims/survivors reporting their concerns directly to members of the CBCPMs or to their parents/caregivers who report to the CBCPM;
- Teachers identifying child protection concerns;
- CBCPM members identifying child protection risks/concerns through home visits; and
- Identifying child protection concerns through mapping and/or CRSA activities.

In some country and community contexts (for example in Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal and Vietnam) the most active ‘reporters’ of child protection concerns are children. Once child protection concerns have been identified and shared within a child group and/or with members of CBCPMs, such concerns are usually discussed and analysed, with ideas on how to solve the concerns being shared. Within child groups girls and boys sometimes decide on actions that they can take to prevent or resolve the concerns themselves as children; while more often they may share the concerns with, and seek support from, adult members of the CBCPMs. Within CBCPMs, members usually discuss and decide on what action to take and who will be involved.

Across Asia, cases are also reported through school-based CPCs, formed under the ‘Learn Without Fear’ campaign. For instance in Nepal, many cases come forward through the complaint boxes that are present on school premises (or in each class) enabling students to voice their concerns. Child protection cases are also reported through various child helplines.

In the more established CPCs/Gs,⁵⁹ decision making is informed by the principle of the best interests of the child, and is usually informed by further consultations and/or assessments involving the child, family members and/or other concerned stakeholders. If required, a few of the CPC members may meet with and influence a positive response from the concerned perpetrator (the parent/caregiver, employer, teacher or other person who is placing the child at risk and/or causing harm to the child).

“When we face troubles we will share them with our parents, teacher, the village collaborators, or a member of the child protection board. For example if a child has dropped out of school we report our concern to the village collaborator. The village collaborator will visit the child’s home to listen to the views of the child and their parents (or other family members) to analyse and better understand their situation and to encourage them to keep the child in school. They will explain the importance of education and will provide practical advice to overcome the challenges faced.”(Children’s core group representatives, Vietnam)⁶⁰

If CPC members do not have sufficient power to influence an appropriate response, they may involve local officials to find a more effective one. If either of these community-based approaches are not effective, and when the child protection concerns are grave (e.g. child sexual abuse or child trafficking cases), the CPC members usually report to the police and/or to higher level formal child protection structures to resolve it through the legal system.

Procedures for responding to cases by FPN, Cambodia: The customary procedures of the FPN in Cambodia are for a committee member to speak to the victim to establish the situation and to know what follow-up the victim would need. When follow-up is needed, the FPN member will report the case to the village leader. The village leader will then follow up with the victim and establish the next steps. These can range from customary local settlement of cases, signing up violent couples for ‘closed groups’ sessions through Plan’s partners, arranging referral of the victim to available services, again through Plan’s implementing partner or referral to the police. Plan or its partners will then contact relevant agencies – on a provincial level – including women’s shelters, legal NGOs and/or counselling services where available through the Women Crisis Centre and medical services.

In some countries such as the Philippines, once a child protection concern has been reported, teachers and BCPC members have a legal duty to respond and, if needed, may make referrals to the Municipal Council for Protection of Children or the Women and Child Protection Unit for any relevant medical, psychosocial and/or legal interventions.⁶¹

59 Within some communities in some country programmes in the Philippines, India, Nepal and Vietnam.

60 Shared in ICPREC field visit to Vietnam, May 2012.

61 See the illustration of the CBCP reporting and referral flow diagram in the Philippines (*in Chapter 8*) showing the linkages between different child protection structures in terms of reporting, referral and/or response to concerns of child abuse, neglect, violence or exploitation.

Identifying and responding to cases by CPGs, Bangladesh: The main protection issues that the CPGs are identifying and responding to include: physical abuse, child sexual abuse, child marriage, and child trafficking. When a child protection concern is observed (by an adult or child) or shared within a children's organisation meeting, it will be reported to the CPG. Depending on the severity of the case, the CPG will either arrange a special emergency meeting to take steps to respond to the child protection violation, or they discuss the child protection concern in their regular monthly meeting. In cases of domestic violence and family conflict, CPG members may intervene to counsel, raise awareness and to negotiate with concerned family members to change their behaviour to mitigate family violence and conflict. In cases of child sexual abuse or severe physical abuse they refer the victim to a health centre; and to the police station and lawyer for legal support to take action against the perpetrator.

CPC addresses harmful child labour, Rudaupur, India:⁶² In one village due to the poor economic situation of families and traditional beliefs regarding the acceptance of child work rather than education, six boys aged 14-15 years were working in a brick kiln to break the coal or to transport bricks. The CPC, with support from the NGO partner, intervened to generate awareness on the dangers of harmful work with the children's families, and to inform families about legal provisions concerning child labour. As a result, in December 2012, these children were freed from child labour and enrolled in schools. With the help of the CPC, the boys are now regularly attending school. Furthermore, to support the family's income they were informed of, and referred to relevant government livelihood programmes/financial support schemes.

In Nepal, Cambodia and Indonesia, household services, community mapping and child rights' situational analyses are tools through which cases of child protection have been identified. The advantage of these mechanisms is that they also identify cases that the communities themselves would not necessarily consider child protection concerns, including child labour and migration, early marriage and denial of educational rights.

Through the establishment and strengthening of CBCPMs there is an increased awareness and understanding on child protection. Practices which may have been considered normal, such as beating children, arranging their marriages at a young age, or expecting children to do regular and/or heavy work are increasingly identified as protection concerns.

In communities in East Timor where the CBCPMs have not yet been established there is a general acceptance of physical abuse towards children in homes, schools and communities as a form of discipline. Most cases related to violence against children are either not reported or they are handled at the community level through traditional mechanisms.

62 Shared by an NGO partner during CBCPM consultation activities organised as part of the study in May 2012.

Community members in East Timor described how child sexual abuse cases, particularly incest cases, were often not reported due to the stigma and shame associated with such abuse and/or due to threats from the perpetrator. Furthermore, children described how they did not report cases of physical abuse because they feel they deserved it and had done something wrong. They also explained how abuse cases were rarely reported to the police, as children and adults in the community were scared of them.

“Very few cases of abuse (especially sexual abuse and incest) are not reported because it causes shame for the family, stigma and sometimes they are threatened by the perpetrator. Reporting will also impact on their future.” (Adult, Pairara community, East Timor)⁶³

In Pakistan where the CPCs and watch groups had only recently been formed, there was a similar lack of awareness among parents, caregivers and adult community members about concerns relating to children’s protection from abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation, especially in rural communities. Though parents/caregivers were more aware of safety issues and the need to protect children from diseases, fire and traffic accidents; there was a general lack of acceptance about abuse, violence or exploitation issues. However, some of the children consulted during the field work in Pakistan raised concerns regarding hard child labour, and some forms of violence against children.

“There are no child protection issues in our villages here! All our children need is that their rights to education, health, clean environment are protected. We need good community infra-structure: schools, health facilities, water and sanitations etc. for our children and Plan should continue supporting us for these interventions.” (President, CBO/CPC village, Chakwal, Pakistan)

One of the positive outcomes of establishing CBCPMs in other countries in the Asia region is that there is an increased awareness among adults and children in the community about child protection issues, and an increased understanding about where and how they can report and share their concerns. In more established CBCPMs a wide range of child protection issues are being identified and responded to at the community level.

“Within the community people are more open in reporting child protection concerns. In the past they may have known about issues, but they did not report them. Especially through some from the children’s core groups we get regular updates on children’s situation.” (Commune child protection officer, Vietnam)

63 Ibid

Examples of increased reporting and response through CBCPM work⁶⁴ and school-based protection work, Philippines: Through awareness raising on the cycle, causes, and impact of violence among family watch group members in Visayas, 106 cases of violence against women and children were reported. Plan also supports training on Personal Safety Lessons (PSL) in 63 schools in Southern Leyte, Camotes, East and West Samar and Masbate PUs. These schools are now actively promoting PSL. Eighteen teachers were trained as PSL trainers, with the School's Division Superintendent of Masbate appointing a PSL coordinator. These efforts resulted in 23 child abuse disclosures (17 cases of sexual abuse, six cases physical abuse) in Visayas, which were referred to the proper authorities.

An initial analysis of which types of concerns are easier and harder to prevent or resolve by CBCPM members

Table 8: Analysis of the difficulty to solve cases through CBCPMs

Overview of which key protection issues are the most easy/hard to solve. Key: ✓ Relatively easier to solve by CBCPMs; * Sometimes easy/sometimes difficult to solve; X Difficult to solve by CBCPMs	Bangladesh	Cambodia	China	East Timor	India	Indonesia	Laos	Nepal	Pakistan	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Vietnam
Verbal abuse and/or corporal punishment of children by parents/caregivers	✓	✓	*	CBCPMs not yet established at community level	✓	*	*	✓	CBCPMs in very early stages of development. Child protection issues not yet addressed	✓	✓	✓	✓
Child neglect	*	*	*		*	*		*		*	*	*	*
Corporal punishment of children by teachers	*	*	*		✓		*			*	✓		✓
Other forms of domestic abuse	*	✓			*	*				✓	*	*	*
Child marriage	X				*			*			✓		X
Harmful or exploitative child work	*	*			*			*		*	*		*
Child sexual abuse	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Child trafficking		*			*								
Petty crime						✓				✓			
Children in conflict with the law (more serious cases)						*				*			

The emerging pattern of CBCP cases across the region demonstrate that while many CBCPMs are increasingly being effective in preventing and changing parents', caregivers' and teachers' behaviour to reduce physical punishment and abuse of children, CBCPMs find it difficult to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse cases. Cases with legal implications are often harder for CBCPMs to resolve themselves as they require technical inputs and response from concerned duty bearers at higher levels.

“Protection concerns which are criminal (under the India Penal Code) including child sexual abuse or child trafficking are more difficult for CPCs to resolve as they need to engage in legal procedures and CPC members are sometimes fearful of the negative repercussions of taking a legal case against a perpetrator. In addition, the state institutions are often reluctant to take up such cases despite their legal obligations.” (Plan staff member, India)⁶⁵

64 Plan International, Philippines, Country Programme Progress Report, August 2011.

65 Shared with ICPREC during mapping of CBCPMs in India, April 2012.

Furthermore, child protection concerns such as neglect or children's engagement in work, which may be rooted in poverty, are often harder for CBCPMs to solve unless there are relevant social protection or livelihood schemes that they can refer vulnerable families to. In Vietnam for example, children's core group members did not feel that it was their role to report on child labour when they know that a child is compelled to earn a living to support their families' livelihood. Increased social protection schemes are needed to support these vulnerable families. For example, the current FPN programme in Cambodia has an economic skills training programme for poor households who wish to withdraw their children from labour to send them back to school. The integration of the economic skills training programme with the FPN programme should be closely monitored to measure the impact of an improved economic situation on child rights. In addition, Plan India is giving families access to livelihood programmes to prevent early marriage.

While CBCPMs are undertaking effective work to prevent and respond to child marriage in some communities and countries; in other communities and countries the CBCPM members still find it difficult to change traditional beliefs and practices to end child marriage. However, both Plan's Universal Birth Registration campaign and their 'Because I am a Girl' campaign are contributing to efforts to prevent and respond to child marriage.

In many areas under-reporting on child sexual abuse, early marriage, harmful child work, discrimination in schools and emotional abuse within families continues due to existing sociocultural traditions. Furthermore, in the case of child sexual abuse, secrecy is often maintained due to shame.

Child sexual abuse cases are particularly difficult for CBCPMs, especially due to the social stigma associated with sexual abuse, power structures within families and society; as well as legal barriers and delays. Furthermore, as a result of reporting or responding to child sexual abuse cases, concerned family members and/or CBCPMs members have received threats from perpetrators, especially when they are from more powerful and/or rich sectors of the community. As mentioned in the previous chapter, traditional practices to make out-of-court settlements, often with some kind of financial settlement to the victim of the family, remain common across Asia. Such practices are often not made in the best interests of the child, though they are informed by significant cultural traditions relating to family honour and exacerbated by corrupt legal systems that push families to rely on traditional settlement mechanisms. However, some country offices are working hard on strategies to counter this trend.

Supporting communities on legal follow up to child sexual abuse cases, Bangladesh: One of Plan's partners, Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers' Association (BNWLA), is able to support the community in legal follow-up for child protection cases, particularly in Dhaka. Plan staff also organise awareness-raising sessions on legal procedure with CPGs and seek expertise support from lawyers in other programme areas to aid the victim in filing a case and handling it in court.

WCPC efforts to overcome the practice of out of court settlements, Philippines:⁶⁶ The Women and Children Protection Unit (WCPU) has been operational for two years in Pintuyan, Southern Leyte. The team underwent a specialised training in the management of child abuse to equip them with the proper skills and attitudes in handling cases of abuse. The most significant challenge for the team is sustaining the interest of the victim and their families during case litigation. Though most victims want to pursue legal action against the perpetrator, most of them eventually withdraw the case and agree with the perpetrator's financial offer to settle the case out of court. Some of the factors that influence the parents' decision are when the perpetrator is a family member, or a prominent/influential person in the community. Others are afraid of retaliation/threats from the perpetrator and family members. Another contributing factor is poverty, thus the victim and family agree to receive the financial offer. Families also remain ignorant about the justice system, and are misguided on what to do. With this reality, members of the WCPU are now coordinating with Plan Philippines and the Crusade against Violence, a victim-run private organisation to provide legal assistance and counselling support to victims and their families.

Identifying and responding to domestic violence is also variable between CBCPMs as community members are sometimes considered to be 'meddling' in private family matters. Furthermore, in some cases concerning domestic violence against women, the wives are reluctant to report their own husbands due to the concern that their husbands may be taken away from the home.

Confidentiality in general is an issue many CPGs are struggling with. In some countries this is because of the sheer size of the committees (for example, in Indonesian KPADs have approximately 50 members); whereas in others it is a result of a lack of space to meet and keep their minutes that allows for confidentiality to be upheld.

Increased efforts are needed in countries across the region to support a sensitive and systematic response to child sexual abuse cases, to ensure that decisions are made in the best interests of the child, and that the child receives necessary psychosocial, medical and legal support to recover from such violations. Increased efforts are needed to maintain the confidentiality of child sexual abuse cases within the community, and to support the child's recovery and integration within the community.

66 Shared by members of a WCPU in April 2012 as part of the participatory data collection process for the CBCPM regional study.

In Nepal one weakness identified by CBCPM members in three districts, was the absence of facilities to provide longer-term care support to the children without parental care. A focus on children without parental care appears to be weak among many CBCPMs across the Asia region. CBCPMs can play an important role in identifying and supporting children without parental care, including children in kinship care (living with grandparents, aunts, uncles etc), as well as other forms of family-based care. The proactive role of CBCPMs in supporting family-based care options, can help prevent institutionalisation of children, and can provide help towards the de-institutionalisation of care processes.

How cases are managed by the CBCPMs, to better understand who (if anyone) takes on a case management role in different operational contexts

Case management has been defined⁶⁷ as: ‘The process of assisting an individual child (and their family) through direct support and referral to other needed services, and the activities that case workers, social workers and other project staff carry out in working with children and families in addressing their protection concerns.’

Table 9: Case management and referrals

<i>Who is in charge of case management and referrals</i>	Bangladesh	Cambodia	China	East Timor ⁶⁸	India	Indonesia	Laos	Nepal	Pakistan	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Vietnam
Village CPC	✓				✓			✓					
Child protection focal point in committee						✓							✓
Committee leader		✓											
Commune/sub district gov. official/gov. focal point at district level for social work			✓	✓			✓		✓				✓
Joint multi-sectoral centre/teams at district level										✓	✓	✓	

Case management approaches vary between different countries. Only a few countries have fully formalised their case management approach, most notably the Philippines, Thailand and Sri Lanka, where multi-disciplinary government teams at district level assess the cases and the types of referrals that are needed to assist the victim. However, legal follow-up across the region is usually instigated by the local CPC that directly refers cases to the police (either at community level or through commune level child protection persons to district police or above), to a ‘child protection unit’ or to another formal child protection structure. In the Sri Lankan context, child protection case management is primarily used by multi-sectoral teams within government hospitals. For example, in responding to severe abuse and child sexual abuse cases, the process is led by a team of medical professionals: a paediatrician, a judiciary medical officer, and a psychiatrist.

67 Save the Children, Case management practice within Save the Children Protection Programme, 2011.

68 Planned activities at the community level and/or existing activities of the district level CPN as the CBCPMs have not yet been established.

In more than 50 percent of the countries, community-based CPCs refer (or will in the future) their cases to government focal points for case assessment, management and follow-up, whether these are multi-disciplinary teams (Thailand, Sri Lanka and the Philippines) or individual persons trained by Plan (China) or individuals appointed by the government (Vietnam).

Data concerning child protection cases, One Stop Crisis Centre, Thailand: In Thailand, community members (children/youths/adults) report cases to village headmen who refer cases to the One Stop Crisis Centres (OSCCs) at district/sub-district level, with the OSCC staff reporting to provincial level. OSCCs register cases and decide on follow-up: Between October 2011 and March 2012, 175 cases were reported to OSCCs across Plan's target areas. Out of these 175, 87 were sexual abuse cases and 88 were physical abuse cases. The OSCCs decide whether to report a case to the police or not. OSCCs only reported 46 cases to the police. Out of the 88 physical abuse cases, only one victim was male; the rest were female. Only 32 of these cases were reported to the police.

In CBCPMs in other countries (including India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, and in many communities in Vietnam) the CPCs decide as a group, or depend on the child protection focal point or village leader, to decide the best course of action for the victims. There is a tendency in these places to solve the cases within the community, either by financial settlement or by discussing the child's situation with the parents and if relevant, the local school or nurse/health post. The reasons for this include a preference to solve cases within the community without upsetting local relations or families' reputations (whether the victim or the perpetrator's), insufficient social work cadre, absence of government services, associated costs or inferior quality of available services. In such circumstances, a systematic case management approach is not often used, and few records regarding the cases are kept.

Insufficient social work force, an example from Cambodia: In Cambodia, there is one district social worker per 25,000 people, and most lack the resources and skills to prevent, assist and refer cases of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, significantly compromising the quality of case management and support.⁶⁹

69 See UNICEF Cambodia's website, accessed 24-06-2012: http://www.unicef.org/cambodia/12961_13750.html

Community-based committees and/or focal points have a wide discretion in what action is taken for individual cases as so few countries have formalised their case management approach. Even without a systematic case management approach, many CBCPMs are taking into account local and individual circumstances, and the best interests of the child to determine and implement action based on the situation. However, without skilled people to undertake case management, many individual cases are not assessed, followed up or monitored in a systematic manner. In particular, there is a danger that committees are making decisions that seem to be more lenient towards local culture and the interests of the perpetrator, than towards the best interest of the child.

Availability of emergency funds: A problem consistently reported by committees across Asia, is the fact that few CBCPMs have access to emergency funds to directly assist victims when necessary. CBCPM members described how this undermined their effectiveness as they depend on NGOs or government services to access small funds to pay for transport to the nearest hospital/police station. Only in China does the Women Federation have access to emergency funds on local levels. Plan Philippines' Community Empowerment towards the Prevention and Reintegration of Trafficked Persons programme also has a trust fund for treatment and after care services for trafficked victims and for their reintegration. Some committees in Vietnam have raised their own Child Protection Funds with donations (each family gives approximately USD0.5) which may be used to support the most vulnerable children and/or for children's events/festivals. These funds are not necessarily earmarked for emergencies but could be utilised.

Summary of key learning on responding to child protection issues and case management

- CBCPMs have resulted in increased understanding at family/community levels about child protection. Practices which may have been considered normal such as beating children, early marriage or heavy child work are increasingly identified as protection concerns.
- The majority of CBCPMs are dealing with child protection cases, which are either solved within the community or referred to available services or to statutory child protection services.
- While many CBCPMs are increasingly effective in preventing and changing parents', caregivers' and teachers' behaviour to reduce physical punishment and abuse of children, CBCPMs often find it difficult to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse cases.
- Child protection concerns such as neglect or children's engagement in work, which may be rooted in poverty, are often harder for CBCPMs to solve unless there are relevant social protection or livelihood schemes that they can refer vulnerable families to.
- In many areas under-reporting on child sexual abuse, early marriage, harmful child work, and emotional abuse within families remains due to sociocultural traditions. Furthermore, in the case of child sexual abuse, secrecy is often maintained due to shame.
- Local settlement of rape/sexual abuse cases occurs in many communities. The perpetrator pays a financial compensation to the family, rather than taking the case to court.
- Increased efforts are needed in countries across the region to support a sensitive and systematic response to child sexual abuse cases, to ensure that decisions are made in the best interests of the child.
- Governments are in different stages of developing national child protection systems. Child protection case management is under-developed in the region, and there are insufficient government social workers and functioning referral mechanisms to support CBCPMs.
- While Plan countries spend a significant time supporting community-based work, it is also crucial that Plan staff increase their engagement in national level advocacy and inter-agency efforts to strengthen the child protection system at national and district levels.
- Plan should try and find local solutions to ensure committees can provide emergency follow-up for cases that require this, without the committees depending on outside resources, especially Plan and partners. This could involve the mobilisation of local community resources (human, financial or material) and/or through local government funding.



The background of the entire page is a blue-toned illustration of several children of diverse ethnicities holding hands in a large circle. There are also several five-pointed stars scattered throughout the scene. The illustration is done in a sketchy, hand-drawn style.

Chapter 7

**Linkages with stakeholders,
structures and sectors**



This chapter explores CBCPM's links with other stakeholders, structures and sectors. It includes the analysis of:

- Community-based linkages – community-based actors, civil society groups and/or local governance mechanisms that the CBCPMs engage with;
- Linkages between CBCPMs and child protection structures and systems at different levels and the extent to which referral mechanisms have been established and implemented;
- Networking among CBCPMs for mutual learning, exchange and/or joint advocacy on child protection issues;
- Regional cooperation to end violence against children; and
- CBCPMs and inter-sector work among Plan sectors – exploring the extent and the nature of collaborations between Plan's child protection programmes and other sector programmes including education, children as citizens, disaster risk reduction, health etc.

Community-based linkages

Across Asia, linkages between the CBCPMs and other community-based actors, civil society groups and/or local governance mechanisms are established within the community (rural and/or urban) to ensure a more integrated and effective community mobilisation to identify, prevent and respond to child protection issues. As described earlier, village elders/village administration leaders are often included as members (often as the chair) of the community CPG/C to increase the group's power, legitimacy and ability to coordinate with other relevant community actors. Furthermore, in many countries, CBCPMs directly include representatives of women's groups, CBOs, local schools and other important stakeholders. Through such representation they are able to reach out and engage others to increase partnerships and action for child protection (e.g. through support of other women's group members, CBO members, teachers etc).

A community-based systems approach enhances coordination, Vietnam: Focusing on a systems approach helps to establish and strengthen horizontal and vertical linkages among different actors and agencies that have responsibilities to prevent and respond to child protection issues in Vietnam. At the commune level the child protection board brings together government officials from concerned agencies and mass organisations; and they work closely with the village collaborators and the children's core groups in each village.

"Since establishing the child protection board there is more cooperation among agencies (government departments and mass organisations) from the commune to the village level to address children's concerns. Through the child protection board and the collaborators network we are clearer on our roles and responsibilities and have more cooperation to resolve cases. Before it was very hard as we did not have meetings together that allowed this kind of collaboration." (Commune child protection officer)

Linkages between CBCPMs and child protection structures and system developments at different levels

Clear linkages are being established between the CBCPMs and more formal child protection structures at higher levels, especially at the district level, across Asia. It is only in Pakistan where the CBCPMs are in their initial stages of development, and the socio-political system has restricted local government functioning that there is minimum linkages.

“At present there are no ‘formal’ child protection mechanisms at district, provincial and national levels. Even where they exist (such as the Children Ombudsman Office in Punjab and Child Protection and Welfare Bureau in Punjab), communities are unaware of these mechanisms.” (Child Protection Adviser, NCPC, Pakistan)⁷⁰

As indicated in Table 10, Plan is making significant efforts to activate and strengthen district level child protection structures in countries across the region to ensure referrals to child protection structures at higher levels for effective follow up, referrals and support for cases that cannot be solved at community levels. However, while district level child protection structures are mandated through government policies in a number of countries (including Bangladesh, Cambodia, East Timor, India, Laos, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam) – the majority of these structures are not functioning effectively. Therefore, Plan needs to carefully analyse – ideally together with other child protection actors at the national level – how it can optimise its efforts in linking the CBCPMs it supports to *effective* government child protection services.

Piloting and scale up of CBCPMs by the government, Vietnam: The Vietnamese national child protection system is progressive, and has strong government ownership and leadership at national and provincial levels. On a national level, the Department of Protection and Care for Children strongly supports the development of the national child protection system, which includes significant efforts to pilot and scale up the CBCPS.⁷¹ While the CBCPS was initially piloted in 15 provinces across Vietnam, government plans and budgets are now in place to scale up the CBCPS to 30 provinces and cities, reaching at least 50 percent of the communes in each of these provinces. Furthermore, as part of the national programme, the provincial People’s Committees are requested to develop a provincial programme on child protection, with planned interventions and allocated budget.

“We want to promote child protection systems in the whole country. We will not stop at the piloting phase. We have approval from the Prime Minister for the national child protection system and we also have a National Plan of Action for Children for 2020. In this we have more involvement of different ministries (education, health, justice, culture etc). Thus, we can confirm that Vietnam is committed to implement the CRC and to promote the child protection system.” (Director General, Department of Protection and Care for Children, May 2012)⁷²

70 Interview during ICPREC field study in Pakistan, May 2012.

71 A USD84 million government budget has been approved by the Prime Minister to support the Child Protection Programme in Vietnam in the next four years.

72 Ibid

Table 10: Key linkages with formal child protection systems/governance mechanisms⁷³⁷⁴⁷⁵²⁷⁶⁷⁷⁷⁸

Key linkages with formal child protection systems/governance mechanisms	
Bangladesh	The CPCs link with and are able to make referrals to the Divisional Child Protection Committees, ⁷¹ which link with higher level District Child Protection Committees which are mandated structures under the National Child Protection Authority. ⁷²
Cambodia	FPNs form (not officially recognised yet) the local level of the National Children and Women's Protection Network that is implementing the 2010 Ministry of Interior's "Safety village commune/Sangkat Policy Guideline" ⁷³ and has councils at all levels (commune, district, provincial and national); see Figure 14 for further information.
China	China does not have a comprehensive, multi-level, cross-sector national child protection system that safe-guards the rights of all children. Two committees including the Working Committee for Women and Children and the Committee for Protection of Minors are set up respectively at the provincial, municipal and county level. The administrative offices of these two committees are set up within the offices of the Women's Federation.
East Timor	Timor-Leste is in the nascent stages of developing a child protection system. At present the child protection mechanisms in place are formal mechanisms that function at the national, district and sub district level that have been designed and supported by Plan with the government, UNICEF and other international agencies. At the community level there are traditional structures called ' <i>adat</i> ' that are presently being used to deal with child protection issues. In addition to the formal structures there are also coordinating bodies on child protection which have been functional at both the national and district level. A CPN was established through the signing of an Inter-Agency Memorandum of Understanding in 2007 between all stakeholders (Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Secretary of State for Security, Secretary of State for Labour, UNICEF, NGOs, and church organisations).
India	CPCs to be recognised as the lowest level structure with formal links to the <i>Panchayat</i> (local governance) and to strengthen links with protection structures and welfare mechanisms at the block, district and state levels as envisaged in India's Integrated Child Protection Scheme.
Indonesia	KPADs are formally recognised by district level government. The local government representative is a member of the KPADs. KPADs can access government funds in theory. The National Child Protection Law was enacted in 2003, it holds the government responsible and accountable for providing special protection to certain categories of children, but also states that everyone is responsible and accountable for protecting children, including the State, government, community, the family and parents. No general child protection services/network are established/mandated by law/policies.
Laos	Based on a UNICEF-developed model, Plan Laos is collaborating with government authorities to form provincial level CPN committees in Bokeo province.
Nepal	Plan Nepal is supporting Village Child Protection and Promotion Sub-Committees (previously known as Village Child Protection Committee-VCPC), which are established under the government guideline with the responsibility of promoting child rights and protecting children against harm.
Pakistan	National Commission for Child Welfare and Development established in 1980 which had provincial and district-level chapters, was recently abolished and replaced by the National Child Protection Centre in Islamabad, which has a different mandate from the Commission. At the district-level only two District Commissions on Child Welfare and Development are still physically present, (both districts in the Punjab province). Plan's committees were recently established and are not yet linked to available services (government or civil society).
Philippines	Municipal and provincial level Councils for the Protection of Children in West Mindoro, North Samar, East Samar, West Samar, Southern Leyte, and Masbate. These structures are mandated by law ⁷⁴ and are part of a formal child protection system.
Sri Lanka	The Grama Niladhari (lowest government officer) is considered as a coordinator in the CPC by default of their local administrative role. The Department of Probation and Child Care Services under the purview of the Child Development Ministry has developed a TOR with the guidelines for the CPCs that can be adapted. The CPCs link with, and are able to make referrals to, the divisional CPCs, ⁷⁵ which link to higher level district CPCs which are mandated structures under the National Child Protection Authority. ⁷⁶

71 Which are sometimes referred to as Divisional Child Development Committees.

72 The NCPA was empowered to appoint sub committees under sec. 15(e) of the Act No.50 of 1998.

73 Safety Village Commune/Sangkat Policy Guideline, May 2010; as well as the related earlier laws on domestic violence, drugs and prostitutions offences.

74 In the Philippines, the Republic Act 4881 (1967) created the Council for Protection of Children in every city or municipality. Furthermore, article 87 of the Presidential Decree 603 the 'Child and Youth Welfare Code' (1974) encouraged every *barangay* council to organise a local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC/BCPC), which should coordinate with the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and youth in drawing and implementing plans for the promotion of child and youth welfare.

75 Which are sometimes referred to as Divisional Child Development Committees.

76 The NCPA was empowered to appoint sub committees under sec. 15(e) of the Act No.50 of 1998.

Key linkages with formal child protection systems/governance mechanisms	
Thailand	In Thailand, Plan is supporting provincial level committees on child protection that are mandated under the government's Child Protection Act 2003. They also support capacity building for child protection in existing village committees to take on child protection roles and responsibilities, in addition to their existing tasks.
Vietnam	Child protection boards/committees are recognised under the Government's National Programme on Child Protection. Child protection boards have also been established in some provinces and districts, and bring together government department leaders. These boards are supported by inter-agency working groups which involve technical advisers and government officers who have more time to support the implementation of action plans on child protection.

Figure 12: Vietnam CBCPMs



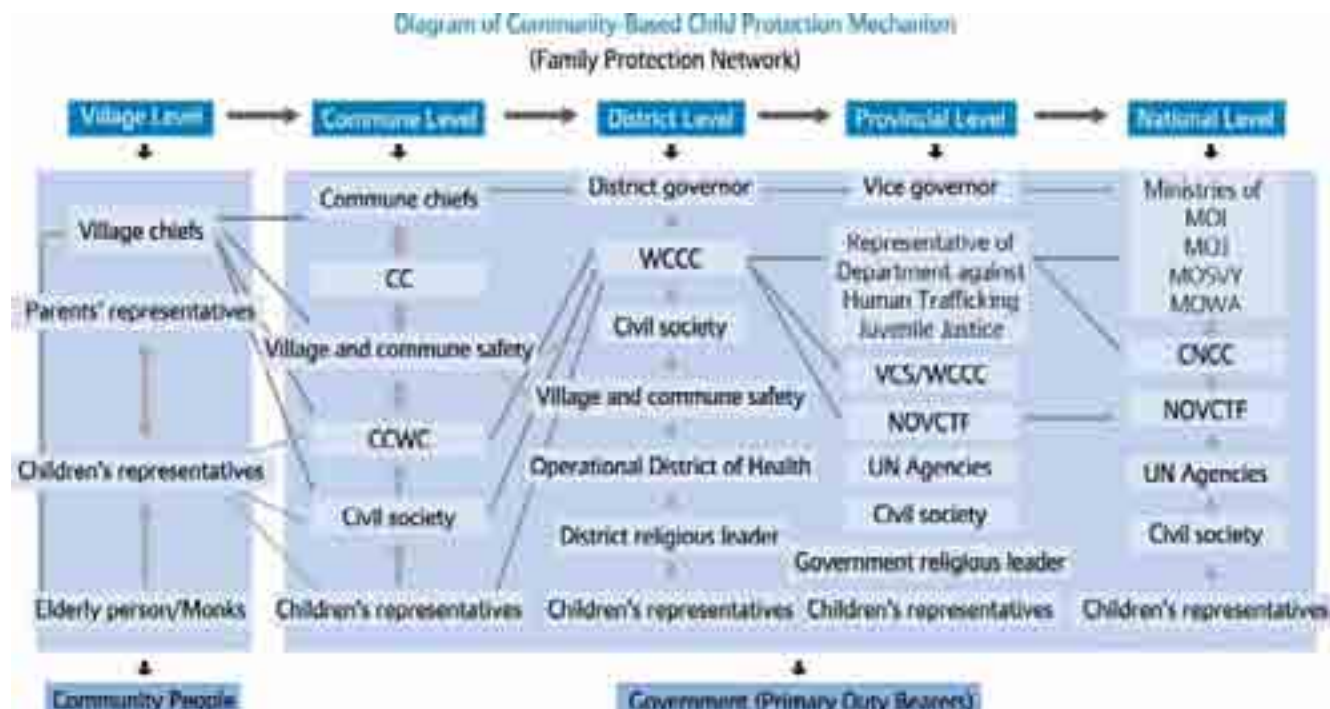
Government partners across most countries in Asia are extremely positive about Plan's work on CBCP and show great support for it, whether it concerns Plan's direct work with the committees, Plan's training of government partners or Plan's coordinating role. For instance in Cambodia, all government officials interviewed during the field work stated without exception that the FPN should be replicated across all Cambodian villages and communes. Equally, in the Philippines, the LCPC is crucial in sustaining the national efforts in the localisation of the Philippine National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children or Child 21, which is a roadmap for planning programmes and interventions meant to promote and safeguard the rights of Filipino children.⁷⁹ Plan Sri-Lanka has established a clear partnership with the probation department (mandated to implement child protection services from district level down) to support the efficient implementation of community and divisional CPCs in the selected divisions and communities. The probation department has recognised Plan's contribution and have put in measures to avoid the duplications by other agencies to ensure that the project concept is not disturbed and the allocated resources are utilised efficiently.

79 PIDS The Filipino Child, Policy Brief No. 7 'Localising Child Protection: Does the Local Council for the Protection of Children matter?', 2010.

Figure 13: Community-based child protection reporting and referral flow, Philippines⁸⁰



Figure 14: FPN linkages at different levels, Cambodia



Notice:

- CCWC: Commune Chief, Vice Commune Chief, Commune Clerk, Health Centre Chief, cluster principal school, commune women focal point, police post chief, and all village chiefs. Their work focuses on women's and children's issues.
- WCCC: Under direction of the counsellors chief at district and provincial level women counsellors are chiefs.
- OVC Task Force: In both provincial and national network work on children's issues.
- CCASVA works at all levels (from village to national level) which will be supported by Plan International on technical support.
- Village and commune safety VCS: News mechanisms for social protection issues such as; non-stolen and robberies; non-drug addiction use; non-prostitution; trafficking of women and children, and domestic violence; non-gangsters; legal gambling; illegal weapon use and crimes committed.

Inter-agency work is highly developed in both the Philippines and Thailand where multi-disciplinary government run teams in provincial and district level centres form a one stop service point for child victims of violence and in some cases for women. Both countries report these centres to be working well (although in various stages of development) and Plan could benefit by researching the replicability of these centres in other Asian countries.

Need for increased civil society partnerships to strengthen child protection services in Vietnam: While mass organisations are actively involved at the village level and in many ways reflect an active civil society, such mass organisations are closely aligned with the government party and thus do not have the independence that is characteristic of NGOs. Increased efforts are needed to engage with civil society organisations, especially at the district and provincial levels to increase access to child-friendly protection services. One advantage of piloting the CBCPS in urban settings is that there are more child protection services run by NGOs which referrals can be made to. Plan Vietnam has started to map out and establish partnerships to support civil society organisations to develop child-friendly protection services.

Networking among CBCPMs

Efforts to support networking among CBCPMs can support mutual learning, capacity building, and/or joint advocacy on child protection issues. Some countries (including Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka) currently support networking among CBCPMs. In Bangladesh, study visits among CPGs are organised once a year to support mutual learning. In Cambodia, joint training events as well as quarterly meetings between FPN chairmen/village leaders and focal points are organised at the beginning and the end of the first programme period. This gave FPNs the opportunity to exchange experiences, best practises and lessons learnt. Through the district level federation or network, in Nepal, representatives of the CBCPMs meet with other CBCPM members.

Federations of CPCs, India: In locations where the village CPCs are empowered to effectively address child protection issues, village CPCs have formed federations. This has enabled them to foster cross-learning, mutual collaboration and joint advocacy, especially when trying to secure services and support from higher levels.

Anti-Trafficking Network of NGOs, Nepal: Anti-Trafficking Networks of NGOs have been established in the Makawanpur, Morang, Sunsari and Banke districts of Nepal as an informal network. The network enables the NGOs to consolidate their efforts, and to support each other by sharing costs and expertise in case management. In Makawanpur district, for example, Himalayan Human Rights Monitors is leading the Anti-Trafficking Network, consisting of more than 12 NGOs. They run an information desk at the District Administration Office providing information to women and adolescent girls who wish to leave the country for foreign employment, when they pick up their passports.

Regional cooperation

Regional level cooperation, in particular Plan ARO's active engagement with initiatives such as SAIEVAC (the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children) and the East Asia and Pacific Inter-agency Working Group on Child Protection, support national child protection system developments. SAIEVAC was established by the governments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in 2005, to reiterate their commitment to addressing violence against children in all forms across the region. The 5-year work plan (2010-2015) aims at developing and strengthening national child protection systems, including related CBCPMs, to effectively protect girls and boys from all forms of violence. In addition, Plan was also actively involved in the 2011 Beijing Declaration on South-South cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia Pacific.⁸¹

CBCPMs and inter-sector work among Plan sectors

Plan's CCCD approach provides important opportunities for inter-sector work and collaboration among sectors, particularly in their community-based work. Furthermore, work on Plan's Child Protection Policy for all Plan staff and partners has supported understanding and efforts to mainstream child protection and to recognise that child protection is everyone's responsibility.

Plan works in eight impact areas. As illustrated by Table 11 below, inter-sector collaborations are generally more established between child protection and programmes on children's rights to participate as citizens, and education. Inter-sector collaborations with other areas are only supported in a small number of countries, and are often in their initial stages of collaboration.

Table 11: Cross-sectoral collaboration between child protection and other programmes

<i>Collaboration between child protection and other sector/impact area programmes through CBCPM work</i>	Bangladesh	Cambodia	China	East Timor ⁸²	India	Indonesia	Laos	Nepal	Pakistan	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Vietnam
The right to a healthy start in life	*					✓							
The right to sexual and reproduction health, including HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment	*	*						*				*	
The right to education		✓	✓	*	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	✓	✓	✓
The right to water and improved sanitation						✓							
The right to economic security		✓						✓					*
The right to participate as citizens	*	✓		*	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	✓	✓	✓
The right to protection and assistance in emergencies and improved resilience to natural and man-made hazards	*	*	*	*	✓	✓		*	*	✓	*	*	*

Key: ✓ collaboration, * very initial collaboration

81 The Beijing Declaration on South-South cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia Pacific http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/sites/default/files/political_declarations/Beijing_Declaration.pdf

82 Planned activities at the community level and/or existing activities of the district level CPN as the CBCPMs have not yet been established.

In Cambodia, India, the Philippines and Vietnam, linkages exist between the CBCPMs and parenting courses provided under the ECCD programme. Through the child protection programme, parenting on child rights, child protection and positive discipline is strengthened. Strong links with school-based initiatives exist in many country programmes including: training of teachers on child rights, child protection and positive discipline; empowering children with knowledge on child rights, child protection and life skills through school-based sessions; establishing child protection reporting and response mechanisms in schools; and efforts to create child-friendly schools. These initiatives contribute to Plan's global campaign 'Learn Without Fear'.

Inter PU encouraging integrated programming, Bangladesh: In 2011 Plan established an Inter PU, encouraging mutual learning on child protection among different sectors. Initial meetings enabled increased identification and planning for integrated programming, including integration of DRR and ensuring that protection planning is integral to emergency preparedness and response. It was recognised that integrated programming (education, health, protection and DRR) leads to a more holistic and effective response to children's rights. There has also been an initial integration of child protection in the education programme. Teachers and school management committees (SMCs) are sensitised on child protection issues and efforts to establish reporting mechanisms from the Union to the *Upazila* education offices are underway to promote violence free primary schools.

Links between education and child protection programme, Philippines: A baseline study by Plan Philippines revealed protection-related concerns on why children are out of school: children needed to work to earn money, look after their siblings, help with farming and fishing, were afraid to go to school, had disabilities, or were displaced due to disasters. Baseline information prompted partner communities and Plan to support interventions addressing child labour, child abuse, child disability, and other protection issues. Furthermore, a new project on anti-corporal punishment further complements Plan's 'Learn Without Fear' campaign. Eight community-based advocacy and monitoring groups have been organised, 50 national advocates and champions have been identified and research on the long-term psychosocial effects of corporal punishment is currently underway. Awareness raising on birth registration was also organised with community members and local government officials to support the birth registration campaign.⁸³

Considering the care and protection needs of children affected or infected by HIV/AIDS, there were surprisingly few descriptions by Plan staff of programme linkages between child protection and programmes addressing children's rights to sexual and reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment. Links with health programmes are only made explicit in a few country programmes.

83 Which resulted in the registration of 3,541 children in four PUs during 2011.

CBCPMs supporting education and health response and referrals, Indonesia: The KPADs work on education by encouraging children to attend school, responding to school dropouts and supporting efforts to create child-friendly schools to prevent and address violence in schools. KPADs have also arranged vocational training for marginalised young people. KPADs also make referrals to health actors, and/or to staff and partners running water and sanitation programmes to respond to reports concerning malnourished children, incidences of diarrhoea and other diseases. KPADs usually refer these cases to health posts (or ensure the health posts follow up with the respective families).

In Cambodia there are links to programmes concerning children's rights to economic security. The FPN programme refers the most deprived and at-risk families to the 'empowering communities' programme for economic assistance and training opportunities. Similarly in Vietnam, village collaborators identify vulnerable children and families and ensure that they access the social protection schemes/cash transfers that they are entitled to.

Linkages with disaster risk reduction and emergency programmes are being established in some countries, including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam. Considering the significant risks of natural disasters in many countries in the region increased efforts to strengthen inter-sector collaborations are needed in all countries.

An example of linkages between emergency response and child protection from India: Plan India has responded to seven disasters (three small-scale and four medium-scale, including cyclones, flash floods, extreme cold waves and fire) in the last 18 months. Plan India's specific focus was on addressing the needs of children during the emergencies, covering service provisions such as the delivery of potable water, addressing hygiene and sanitation issues to improve health, and training children, adolescents and youth in child protection.

Plan India's child protection approach in emergencies included identifying, monitoring and protecting children at risk, setting up referral systems, training communities in child rights and child protection strategies and mechanisms, and 'seconding' child protection focal persons, to train aid-workers, humanitarian workers, and representatives of government to strengthen and ensure child protection systems. In addition, some members of CPCs and child groups in India have been trained in DRR, including disaster search and rescue.

Enhancing children's preparedness for disasters, Philippines: In the Philippines, programme links have been established between child protection, education and disaster risk reduction to enhance children and adults' preparedness for disasters in communities and schools. Disaster risk reduction and climate change reduction is being mainstreamed across Plan programmes, including the child protection programme by Plan Philippines. Twelve Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) offices were established in Rizal, Camotes, and Eastern Samar in 2011, complying with national law. Moreover, DRRM-related activities have been integrated into the local development plans of six municipalities.⁸⁴

Summary of key learning on linkages

- CBCPMs across the region are closely coordinating and collaborating with both local government and local civil society actors within their communities.
- Where national child protection systems exist and extend to district levels, CBCPMs are connected to these systems, refer cases to them and regularly coordinate with them. Given the low capacity levels of national child protection systems across the region, especially at lower levels, more focus on building the capacity of government and civil society partners to strengthen the child protection systems and availability of protection services is needed.
- Close linkages with government are essential to enable sustainability and scale up of CBCPMs/Ss. Plan needs to focus on demonstrating how existing programmes can be replicated in a way that is cost effective and feasible within the cost structure that the government (or possibly the community itself) can maintain, potentially with the support of a national/local NGO partner.
- Increased efforts to develop and strengthen networks among CBCPMs would enhance learning, quality developments and sustainability.
- Within Plan country offices, the strongest linkages exist between the CBCP programmes and Plan's education programmes across the region. This is mostly through Plan's universal 'Learn Without Fear' and 'Because I am a Girl' campaigns. In addition, strong linkages exist with the ECCD programmes on local levels.
- There are increasing efforts by Plan to integrate disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness into all programme areas, including child protection. There is relatively little evidence of cross-sectoral cooperation on HIV/AIDS or on livelihoods, with the exception of India and Cambodia.

84 Plan International, Philippines, Country Programme Progress Report – promoting child rights to end child poverty, August 2011.

The background of the entire page is a blue-toned illustration of several children of diverse ethnicities holding hands in a large circle. Scattered around them are numerous small, five-pointed stars. The illustration has a hand-drawn, sketchy quality.

Chapter 8

Capacity and support systems for CBCPMs



This chapter reflects on the existing financial and capacity building support to CBCPMs. This includes:

- Plan's strategies and principles on capacity and support systems;
- Plan's financial resources for CBCPMs across Asia; and
- Efforts to strengthen CBCPMs through capacity building support to: 1) CBCPMs, 2) government partners, and 3) Plan staff and partners.

Throughout this chapter, different ways to further strengthen the capacity of key actors to strengthen CBCPMs are discussed.

Plan's strategies and principles on capacity and support systems

Plan International's Programme Guide *"End child poverty by promoting child rights and achieving lasting change"* provides guidance that is grounded in its CCCD approach. Capacity and support systems are important aspects of Plan's global approach: Firstly, building the capacity of civil society and government partners is one of Plan's CCCD's strategies. Secondly, empowering children through capacity building initiatives is a guiding principle of the CCCD approach.⁸⁵

Plan staff's capacity in the field of child protection is further enhanced by 'Say, Yes! to keeping children safe', Plan's child protection policy, which includes mandatory training for all its staff and implementing partners.⁸⁶ Specific to the Asia region, child protection programmes are guided by the Asia Regional Office Child Protection Programme Guidelines Safe and Sound 2011. Its fifth guideline focuses on capacity building: *"Based on analysis of existing skills and capacities, projects should include capacity development as part of their activities, and this should be considered from the outset of any activities. This can be targeted at children, families, community members, civil society organisations, professional practitioners or agencies (such as police, government etc)."*⁸⁷

Plan's Bamboo Shoots (2010), A Training Manual on Child-Centred Community Development/Child-Led Community Actions for Facilitators Working with Children and Youth Groups is also being used by Plan offices across the region to involve children in their own development. It trains children in human and child rights, facilitates mapping, analysing and responding to child rights violations, and it enables child-led community action. In addition, Plan has recently started the "Asia Civil Society Training on Involving Children in their own Protection" programme, which started in Sri Lanka in April with a training for 18 children and adults that will be implemented across the region.⁸⁸

85 Plan International, Promoting Child Rights to End Child Poverty, 2011, page 20/32.

86 Plan International, Plan Policy, child protection, 2009.

87 Plan International, Asia Regional Office, safe and sound – growing up with protection; Child protection programme guidelines, 2011, page 3.

88 Plan International, Asia regional Office, Involving children in their own protection, training for child participants, from 02-06 April 2012, Negombo, Sri Lanka, April 2012.

Plan's financial resources for CBCPMs across Asia

The table below provides an overview of the sources from which the different CBCP structures receive support and the type of support they receive.

Table 12: Support for CBCPMs⁸⁹

Support for CBCPMs	Bangladesh	Cambodia	China	East Timor ⁸⁹	India	Indonesia	Laos	Nepal	Pakistan	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Vietnam
Supported by Plan through trainings, awareness raising events and materials, but not for running costs	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Running costs financially supported by Plan					✓								✓
Community volunteers receive stipends from Plan											✓		✓
The community contributes to running costs of CBCPMs, either financially, in materials or space	✓					✓							✓
Receives government funding								✓			✓	✓	✓
Can in theory access government funding for child protection work, but difficult in reality		✓	✓			✓				✓		✓	
Work underway to access government funds	✓												
Plan funding comes from grants only		✓	✓*										
Plan funding comes from sponsorship only						✓							
Plan funding comes through sponsorship and grants	✓			✓	✓	✓**		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Receives trainings from organisations other than Plan													

* In the future, Plan China hopes to use sponsorship funding for CBCP work.

** Earlier funding for CBCP came through DfID but now all structures are funded through sponsorship.

Across Asia, Plan offices have planned financial support for CBCP work for the next three to five years as part of their CSP process, and have been able to realise their planning with grants and sponsorship funding. The majority of countries are planning to expand the number of CBCPMs both within target areas and new areas, and has funds for this planned expansion. The amounts that Plan offices in the region spend on CBCP structures reportedly varies widely. All countries are trying to minimise their support to running costs of the CBCPMs. Where they do contribute, it is usually through pens, booklets and other help in kind. In Vietnam the main child protection focal point receives USD 2.5 a month from Plan for his work. These costs will be taken over by the government. In Sri Lanka, volunteers receive a small sum from Plan each year to thank them for their work. Community members contribute in cash only in Indonesia and in some areas of Vietnam. In kind contributions are the most common, generally through their time and by making space available for meetings. In only half the countries does the government provide local meeting spaces.

89 Planned activities at the community level and/or existing activities of the district level CPN as the CBCPMs have not yet been established.

In Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Thailand, the CPCs/focal points can in theory request funds for child protection activities on a local level through the village development council's local development funds. These funds are not earmarked for child protection activities and as such, it has proven difficult in different countries to access these funds. In the Philippines, the government has 1 percent appropriation for activities related to child protection based on the income revenue of the municipality. In Nepal, committees can access government funding for child protection with less difficulty as illustrated by below:

Village CPCs access government funding for child protection work, Nepal: The government of Nepal is promoting V/MCPC as the focal child protection structure in the community. The government has developed guidelines to define various aspects of V/MCPC – process of formation, roles and responsibilities, access to funds through VDC and Municipalities, mandate to establish 'child protection funds' under V/MCPC, and linkages and functional collaboration with concerned government offices. Accordingly, the V/MCPCs have been able to access funds from VDCs and Municipalities.

In Vietnam, the government is contributing towards an effective child protection network on all levels: At the commune level the child protection boards are encouraged to request budget allocations from the People's Committee who decide how to use income received from local tax revenues. In some communes where the CBCPS has been piloted, budget allocations and expenditure on child protection services have increased. As part of the advocacy and budgeting process, the People's Committee (at provincial, district and commune levels) has been encouraged to budget for stipends for the village collaborators who play a crucial role in monitoring, prevention and response to child protection concerns; as well as for wages of at least one commune child protection officer.

In conclusion, government resources for CBCP work vary across the region, as government child protection systems are in various stages of development. Plan needs to budget its support to CBCP work accordingly and needs to continue its advocacy with the governments for increased support to CBCP work on all levels.

Current capacity building and support efforts to strengthening the CBCPS

Plan and its partners work with a wide range of actors in their CBCP programmes. Strengthening these actors' roles and capacities is a major part of Plan's contribution towards an improved child protection environment. These actors include front line/ community outreach workers, implementing partners' staff, CBOs including the CBCPMs that Plan supports, children, and government officials etc. Plan and its partners take on various functions in supporting CBCPMs as promoters, catalysts, capacity builders, resource mobilisers/funder, and advocates. Table 13 provides an overview of the different roles Plan and its partners play.

Table 13: Articulated main role of Plan and/or Plan's partner

<i>Articulated main role of Plan and/or Plan's partner</i>	Bangladesh	Cambodia	China	East Timor	India	Indonesia	Laos	Nepal	Pakistan	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Vietnam
Capacity building on child rights and child protection of Plan's NGO/CBO partners, local authority and/or school authorities members, and members of CBCPMs	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Strengthening district (or other level) child protection structures	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Capacity building on child rights, child protection and children's participation of children and young people	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Support for children's media and other creative children's action and advocacy initiatives	✓				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Technical support on child protection case management					✓								
Participate in monthly CBCPM meetings	✓												
Capacity building of police on child rights and child protection	✓								✓	✓	✓		✓
Advocacy to strengthen national child protection systems	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Capacity building support to CBCPMs

Capacity building support to the CBCP structures by Plan or their NGO partners is provided in various ways, but commonalities include:

1. Training on the role of CPCs;
2. Training on child protection and child rights;
3. Training in/assisting with the electing of volunteers to represent the village in the CPCs;
4. Training in case management and referral, and in some social skills to assist the committee with first assistance to victims and referral; and
5. Training in national laws and policies that are relevant to child protection or the specific focus of the committees (e.g. violence against women and children, trafficking, child labour, CSEC).

In some countries (Nepal, India and the Philippines), Plan implements programmes that focus on different thematic areas, such as human trafficking, migration, child labour, or domestic violence. All of the local committees are trained on child rights, referrals and psychosocial assistance. However, different trainings are provided to different projects depending on their focus on child labour, gender-based violence, child trafficking, safe migration and/or psychosocial/counselling skills. An integrated training package for CBCPMs that combine the different focuses of the different types of committees would be worthwhile investing in, to foster learning and to broaden the scope of the different committees to include all child protection work. In other countries, efforts could also be made to broaden the focus/scope of the child protection work, including a stronger focus on family-based care and support for children living in alternative family-based care.

Strengthening capacity in early intervention for children's care and protection, Vietnam: In Vietnam, as part of strengthening the CBCPS there is an emphasis on building the capacity of village collaborators (one or two from each village) to identify, prevent, intervene early and respond to child care and protection concerns. The capacity of village collaborators (mostly female) and children's core group members is strengthened on child rights, child protection and early intervention. The village collaborators work closely with the commune child protection officers.

"I have been part of awareness raising and discussions with other parents. We shared our experiences and responded to questions raised among us, so that each of us could help to find the solutions. Before the older people used to say 'spare the rod, spoil the child', but now 'we should respect the child as they know their rights and we should respect and guide them'." (Mother of two children, CBCPS commune)⁹⁰

In some countries, only the leaders/representatives are directly trained by Plan/partner agencies. They are then expected to subsequently train the other members of the committees.

The benefits and risks of 'echo training' to CBCPMs, Cambodia: In Cambodia, the FPN programme heavily depends on 'echo trainings' to be organised by the commune and district level representatives for the FPN level directly below them, as follows: Plan's implementing partners organise trainings for commune chiefs and district officials. Following this training, the commune chiefs organise trainings for the village chiefs within their communes. Then the village chiefs will organise trainings for the FPNs in their village and the FPNs are then to spread the knowledge with their neighbours and other community members. This system allows for knowledge to be shared widely across multiple communities without overburdening staff and the training budget. However, it runs the risk of information not reaching all volunteers, because some commune and/or village leader might not organise follow up trainings. In addition, quality control of messages becomes a problem, especially in absence of a training manual for FPNs.

Networking and exchange visits among members of CBCPMs are another way in which committees can share and learn about best practices. In Indonesia, China, Cambodia, Nepal and Bangladesh, exposure visits are supported to strengthen CBCPMs capacity. In Cambodia, because trainings often take place at commune level, the FPN leaders of the different villages get together and exchange lessons learnt/difficulties. Bangladesh organises study/exposure visits among CPGs/SPGs to support mutual learning and capacity building once a year.

90 Shared during ICPREC field study to Vietnam, May 2012.

Ongoing mentoring to CBCPMs

CBCPMs are in various stages of development and maturity, depending on their starting date and on the intensity of support they receive from both Plan/partners and/or governments. In general, the CBCP committees receive training at the beginning of the project, when they set up their committees. This often involves training on child protection, child rights, the role of the committee and to a lesser extent, best interests of the child, case management and referral. However, the type and timing of ongoing support and training is variable across country programmes. Increased investments in human and financial resources are needed by Plan and their partners in the initial years to provide mentoring to support capacity building of CBCPMs to ensure effective prevention work, response and referrals to sensitive child care and protection issues. Furthermore, increased advocacy and capacity building efforts are needed with government authorities and local civil society partners to embed capacity building strategies to strengthen CBCPMs as part of ongoing national child protection system developments.

While there is an increasing consensus on strengthening government mandated child protection systems, there is also a recognition of the crucial role that civil society agencies can play in strengthening child-friendly monitoring, prevention and protection services in communities and at higher levels.

Monitoring and re-orientation for the barangay Council for Protection of Children members, Philippines

: Plan's child protection team in the Philippines is monitoring the CBCP committees closely; this includes re-orienting BCPC members on their roles and responsibilities, child rights, child protection, national laws and policies, child protection reporting, referrals and response. Plan mentors these committees and offers practical support to strengthen linkages and partnerships between the local Councils for the Protection of Children and other relevant civil society groups and structures at different levels to increase the effectiveness of child protection prevention and response. As a result of one such training, BCPC and MCPC members in Western Samar in 2011 were re-oriented on their roles as council members. Some child protection councils were assessed and subsequently reviewed the Local Code for Children, and allocated 1 percent of their funds (Internal Revenue Allotment) to support their council's activities.

Working with volunteers

Time constraints faced by volunteers and the loss of earning if they attend are significant obstacles when organising training of volunteers on child protection. Timing for trainings should be set up with villages to ensure they do not interfere with harvesting seasons, school and other economic activities that volunteer members have to attend to. Sri Lanka reports that relying on volunteers has its limitations and thus it is crucial that the community CPC members have clarity on their roles and responsibilities, and that the community CPC has proper recognition and a clear mandate to undertake prevention and protection

activities. There was also an interesting suggestion from members of the Divisional CRC in Sri Lanka to link the child-youth leaders to the academic and diploma courses on child protection and social work so that they may (if they wish to) develop their career path and ensure better service for the communities.

Capacity building support to government partners

There are increasing efforts by Plan's regional office and by country offices to work more closely with governments to contribute to national child protection system strengthening. Such efforts need to be further reinforced, and inter-agency collaboration with governments can further enhance effective and efficient use of resources towards child protection system strengthening.

"We need to assess what are our organisational capacities to contribute towards the national child protection system establishment or strengthening. The word 'contribute' is the key, since we're neither responsible for the overall system nor capable to uphold all its numerous aspects and ingredients. Plan is most commonly focusing on CBCPMs aiming at creating good practice while advocating with statutory bodies/national authorities for replication of those models." (Plan regional child rights and protection adviser)⁹¹

While many governments in the region focus on establishing child protection mechanisms at the national and provincial levels, Plan's efforts tend to be more focused on strengthening commune or community level child protection mechanisms, and their linkages to formal child protection systems at the sub-district, district and provincial levels. Plan's training of government partners is more often provided at the district and sub-district levels, and to some extent at the provincial levels. Interaction at provincial level is often more focused on coordination. On a national level, Plan's role in strengthening national child protection systems is predominantly as an advocate for appropriate laws, policies and budgets to support child protection mechanisms, and as a coordinator. However, in some countries, like Vietnam, Plan is a planning partner for the government and other concerned agencies on strategic child protection system policy and practice developments.

The different types of training Plan (or its partner organisations) coordinates for government partners include, but are not limited to:

- Training of Ministry of Social Affairs/Labour officials at (sub) district and provincial levels in child rights and child protection (almost all countries); child rights situational analyses (East Timor, Nepal, Indonesia); and in specific child protection subjects, including violence against children, children in conflict with the law, CSEC, universal birth registration, and referral;
- Training of social workers in psychosocial care, child rights (the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand);

91 Interview with ICPREC researchers, August 2012.

- Training of police officers in child rights/child protection (Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam); and
- Training of government school teachers in child rights, child protection, positive discipline, psychosocial support and child protection referrals (across the region as part of the 'Learn Without Fear' campaign/programmes).

Strengthening the capacity of multi-disciplinary teams, Philippines: In the Philippines, Plan has contributed towards the professionalisation of the Women and Children Protection Unit (WCPU) multi-disciplinary staff teams. These teams are made up of social workers, police officers and medical officers. These WCPUs serve as a one stop referral to which victims of violence against children can be sent for further help. Plan has trained these WCPUs on child rights, child protection, national laws, child-friendly procedures and the proper handling of child abuse cases, counselling and group work for sexually abused children. From 2004, in partnership with the Local Government Units and an NGO partner, the CPU-Network Foundation, community-based quick response and referral mechanisms managed by Women and Child Protection Units (WCPUs) were implemented in four provinces, with 14 WCPUs being established. These teams are made up of social workers, police officers and medical officers. The WCPUs serve as a one stop referral to which victims of violence against children can be sent for further help. Plan has trained these WCPUs on child rights, child protection, national laws, child-friendly procedures and the proper handling of child abuse cases, counselling and group work for sexually abused children.

Ensuring a more effective response to rape cases through provincial level trainings/advocacy work, Cambodia: In Cambodia, provincial level training and advocacy has enabled a more effective response to rape cases. Plan's NGO partner CCASVA provided training on child protection to members of the Provincial Council on Women and Children. Following the training, 'rape cases' which had previously been 'closed' at the local level (without an effective response), have been followed up at the provincial level, and PCWC members have agreed to become FPN members to ensure a more systematic follow-up to the rape cases. CCASVA staff are supporting case management and coordination to ensure sensitive follow up to such cases; and more general coordination meetings are organised every three months involving the Social Welfare Department Task Force, government and NGO actors.

In some countries including Sri Lanka, Pakistan and the Philippines, Plan has also been engaged in training the police on child rights, child protection and child-friendly justice.

Capacity building of police desks, Sri Lanka: In Sri Lanka, Plan has supported the capacity building of police desks to increase reporting and more sensitive and systematic responses by the police to children's and women's protection cases. Officers from the police desks are often some of the most proactive members of the CPCs at divisional and district levels. They also provide important backing for the community level CPCs to conduct the community outreach events on prevention, and support responses to cases.

The training of government teachers in child protection and non-violent correction techniques takes place across Asia as part of Plan's global 'Learn Without Fear' campaign. This has led to reported improvements in child protection in schools, and has indirectly contributed to the CBCPMs across the region by creating awareness about violence against children, and by creating focal points where children can report violence against children in schools. However, changing teachers' attitudes towards corporal punishment is difficult, as noted in China: *"While teachers know that sexual abuse is wrong, they have a really hard time understanding why they might not want to hit a child or curse them. They feel that they have no other option, because they are under a lot of pressure from the national education system. It takes a lot of work to convince adults involved in the CBCPM that it is important to protect children from physical violence from adults."*⁹²

Capacity building provided to Plan staff and partners

Training on the CCCD principles and on Plan's Child Protection Policy are standard for Plan staff and Plan implementing partners, as part of Plan's CCCD's rights-based approach. Specific training guides for staff and implementing partners on establishing CBCP programmes have been developed in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Vietnam and in some Indian States in local languages. These guides assist staff in the process of forming, developing and supporting CBCPMs. Plan Cambodia is planning to develop a similar tool to assist implementing partners with their CBCP work and to ensure that a consistent methodology is applied across the country. In China, where CBCP work is still in its early stages, Plan has organised trainings for Plan and partner staff about CBCPMs, what they involve and how to overcome cultural barriers which impede effective child protection provision.

In terms of support to child protection focal points in the different Plan offices across the region, there is an annual child protection/child rights focal point workshop in the Asia region. Some countries' programmes are transitioning from needs-based/service delivery programmes to CCCD/rights-based programming and realise that different skills are needed for both staff and partners. Pakistan's current CSP mentions that staff will need to be better trained in communicating and advocating for the rights of children and women, as well as the need for staff to develop better conflict management and sensitivity, and generally more facilitation skills to engage the community, children and youth groups.

92 ICPREC Mapping China's CBCPM, April 2012.

In terms of on-going support to partner NGOs, most of Plan's staff meet regularly with their partners to discuss progress in light of agreed upon annual plans and issues/challenges in implementation. For instance, Plan India and Plan Cambodia reportedly meet monthly or quarterly with their implementing partners to discuss issues as they come up. Plan Bangladesh, Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam have Area Coordinators participate in monthly or quarterly child protection inter-agency meetings at the provincial level, with the aim of enhancing the capacity/effectiveness of these meetings. However, it appears there is no systematic approach to ensuring that the partners' capacity develops throughout their partnership with Plan, other than through meetings and trainings organised at the beginning of the partnership.

Summary of key learning on capacity and support to CBCBMs

- Plan's CCCD approach, tools, and the 'Say Yes! to keeping children safe' child protection policy have significantly improved the understanding of child protection across the region. There is emerging evidence of child protection principles being integrated into other sectors.
- There is a need for appropriate contextualised training materials for CBCPMs that are accessible in local languages and not reliant on literacy.
- Committee members are volunteers who need to split their time between earning a living and attending trainings; thus, creative ways are needed to support training and mentoring at times that most suit the them.
- Few CBCP groups manage their own (emergency) funds, which increases their dependency on the NGOs that have assisted in their establishment; hampering their independence.
- Referral networks are limited and where they do exist, their capacity is often weak.
- There is a need to invest more time and resources in capacity building efforts for Plan staff to ensure their child protection knowledge and practices are up to date so they can effectively monitor the CBCP work that Plan supports.
- There is a need to invest more time and resources in capacity building efforts of partners, including mentoring support to CBCPMs in the initial years that is crucial to ensure quality developments.

The background of the slide features a light blue illustration of several children of diverse ethnicities holding hands in a circle, suggesting a global or inclusive theme. Scattered around them are several white, five-pointed stars of varying sizes. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, with a focus on community and education.

Chapter 9

Monitoring and evaluation system and process



This chapter is divided into two key sections:

- Plan's global M&E Framework as it relates to child protection/CBCPS; and
- Current M&E of Plan's work in CBCPMs: descriptions of different systems, strengths and limitations, and suggestions on how to improve them.

Plan's Global M&E Framework (PALS)

Under Plan's programme guidelines of CCCD, planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning are designed and guided by the PALS system: the Programme Accountability and Learning System.⁹³

*"In line with CCCD, PALS facilitates the development and implementation of programmes by linking initiatives from the household level through to the national level. It enables programme countries to adapt their programmes to the local context, while strengthening Plan's accountability. Continuous learning is firmly embedded in the cycle, in order to continuously improve programme quality and effectiveness."*⁹⁴

Figure 15: The PALS cycle



The PALS cycle distinguishes four stages:

Stage 1: Participatory situation analysis from a child rights perspective to inform the CSP.

Stage 2: Strategic and programme planning under the CSP process.

Stage 3: Programme implementation through projects.

Stage 4: Programme monitoring, evaluation and research.

93 Plan International, Programme Guidelines, page 53-57.

94 Idem, page 53.

The Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Framework includes three types of initiatives:

- a) **Annual Participatory Programme Reviews** that provide an opportunity for Plan and its stakeholders to reflect on short-term programme progress and make ongoing programme adjustments.
- b) **Additional monitoring, evaluation and research initiatives** that respond to specific country or local issues. These include research, grant evaluations and management-initiated evaluations on specific areas of work.
- c) **Country Strategy Evaluations** that are undertaken in the final year of the programme cycle, led by an external evaluator. They provide an opportunity to report on the effectiveness of Plan's programmes and identify key lessons. Lessons from these evaluations inform future planning in preparation for the next PALS cycle.

Current M&E of Plan's work in CBCPMs: A description of different systems, strengths and limitations and suggestions on how to improve them

All country offices in Asia have well-established monitoring, evaluation and research (MER) managers, some of whom are also responsible for dissemination. These managers and their teams independently monitor programmes and conduct research and evaluations. These departments contribute to programme quality and efficiency, and enrich organisational learning. Furthermore, as part of CRSA processes, consultations with children and adults have enabled data collection on child protection in Plan's project areas. In addition, across Asia, children and adult community members are involved in the annual participatory programme reviews (APPRs).

An independent global thematic review of Plan's child protection work undertaken in 2011 found that the application of technical approaches and frameworks for child protection is largely missing from the programme development, generally anchored in CCCD principles and strategies. Most countries have not yet progressed to the stage of developing frameworks and indicators for M&E of their child protection programmes, and recognise the need for support in doing this. Plan International (on a global level like many other international child protection agencies) has not yet been able to develop an agreed set of indicators for child protection, although work is on-going to remedy this.⁹⁵

Global Child Protection Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group: In response to weaknesses in child protection MER by child protection agencies, an inter-agency Child Protection Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group (CP MERG) was established in July 2010 by UNICEF and Save the Children. Plan International is part of MERG which was created to ensure child protection receives sufficient recognition and support as an integral component of child well-being, based on high quality evidence that complies with ethical standards. In particular, the CP MERG work aims at strengthening the quality of MER and data collection, through the development of standards, tools and recommendations that are relevant for the sector. It will also help to facilitate coordination and communication across organisations on M&E of child protection. See www.cpmerg.org

95 Global Child Protection Services, Plan's Child Protection Programme, Thematic Review, 2012, page 14.

As part of ARO's child protection strategy and accompanying framework, the ARO child protection unit has created a tool to be used with PALS for country offices to facilitate a self-assessment of child protection programmes. It is designed to help county programmes think more systematically about their child protection programme, and is flexible to country specific situations and further development of performance indicators.⁹⁶

M&E of CBCP work: All current CBCP programmes use an M&E framework (or plan to use this) to track progress against indicators and measure outcomes, results and impacts. For new CBCP programmes, like those in Pakistan and East-Timor, M&E frameworks will be developed with support from the M&E focal point or by the PU (in Pakistan). The M&E frameworks co-function as reporting frameworks for the implementing partners.

Involving children and communities in the designing of M&E plans, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka: There are some very positive signs of M&E plans being designed in consultation with the communities and children. For instance, in Bangladesh, in coordination with the committees themselves a simple format was developed to track child protection indicators in the CBCP programme areas. Indicators include: quarterly meetings; number of cases reported; number of case dealings; initiatives of the group members; community awareness level regarding specific issues; mobilisation initiatives; integration with other programmes; and information (data bank).

In Sri Lanka participatory tools and indicators are also being developed with children/youth and communities. In project areas where community CPCs are being established, assessments are undertaken by Plan PU staff to assess understanding, knowledge and practice on child protection and safety. This will be done with a selected sample of children, parents and care givers, teachers and child protection duty bearers. During the analysis gender segregated information will be generated.

Other positive examples include M&E committees made up of different partners who oversee the CBCP programme. In China, the monitoring and evaluation of the CBCP programme is overseen by an M&E subcommittee, consisting of partners, Plan China staff and other key stakeholders. Individual community child protection baseline data, mostly using a CRSA model, is collected in various countries, against which progress can be monitored. Countries include the Philippines, Indonesia, Pakistan (planned), Thailand, Sri Lanka and Cambodia. In the Philippines, each village where Plan works has a set of baseline data for key child well-being and practice indicators, Plan staff and partners can use these to influence decision-makers to support projects for children at community, municipal, and provincial levels.

96 Plan International, Asia Regional Office, Programme Guidelines Safe and Sound 2011, page 5.

The indicators used to track progress across most CBCP programmes in the region are generally quantitative and focus on input and output rather than results and impacts. Behaviour change is measured in the number of cases CBCPMs deal with; other means of verification are often planned for in proposals but are not implemented. Proposals contain results level indicators, which if properly measured, would generate compelling data. With the current use of KAP studies, pre- and post-intervention comparative data is very limited. In Vietnam, collecting more qualitative data is planned as part of new child protection proposals focussing on CBCPMs. These include CBCPM outcome indicators, and the use of KAP surveys to help establish baselines and improvements in child protection knowledge, attitudes and practices by parents/caregivers, teachers, police etc.

Evaluations of CBCP programmes: CBCP programmes are evaluated by external evaluators across Asia. The CBCP programmes in India and Indonesia have been evaluated as part of internal Plan learning studies. In addition, the CBCP programme in Indonesia has been evaluated as part of the DfID programme and as such, Indonesia has generated rich learning on CBCPSs. Evaluations of Plan's CBCP programmes are planned in China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam and have taken place in Indonesia, India, Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand. An evaluation of inter-agency efforts on CBCPMs has also been undertaken in Vietnam. In the Philippines, evaluations focussed on specific child protection issues including anti-trafficking,⁹⁷ and children at risk or children in conflict with the law.⁹⁸ In many of these evaluations children were directly involved.

Evaluation findings can be used by Plan in and outside of the region, to inform the development of new programmes, guidelines, training tools and an overview of best practices in the different political and socio-economic environments in which Plan operates.

Involvement of children in M&E activities: Across the region, children are involved in monitoring child rights through their membership of child or youth groups. They report abuses to the CBCP structure or to the representative of their children/youth group, who then take further action. For instance, Plan Indonesia has given children a booklet which helps them monitor child rights abuses, which are then linked to the KPAD's work on child rights. However, only a few countries have formalised children's involvement in ongoing regular M&E processes.

97 Macapagal, M. J. Community Empowerment towards the Prevention and Reintegration of Trafficked Persons (CEP RTP) March 2008 – December 2013, October 2011, Mid Evaluation Report, October 2011. Plan International, Philippines.

98 Dela Cruz, L. B. & Escalante, B. A. (2009) Empowering communities towards child protection : Final Evaluation 2006-2008. Plan International, Philippines.

Children are involved in APPR meetings within their communities across Asia. Furthermore, children participate in the collection of baseline data and are trained in data collection in Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand. In Thailand, Plan involves children at the onset of the programme with baseline data gathering; Plan partners train the children to conduct this research and in analysing the data. Furthermore, children are key informants or data sources for M&E, but are not involved in the ongoing M&E processes themselves.

Plan's contributions to national/provincial/district government child protection data collection and management systems: Relatively few Plan offices in the region currently work closely with, or assist, the government in developing and implementing a national child protection M&E system including databases. There is little mention of national databases of child protection to which filed cases are uploaded to. However, where they do exist, they are often only tracking data related to specific child protection cases, for instance child trafficking (Thailand, Cambodia, Nepal), CSEC (Thailand) or extra vulnerable children/families (Cambodia). The databases are either government or NGO run and it is questionable to which extent data is collated and whether existing databases reflect reality accurately.

Plan Vietnam's support to government-run child protection database and M&E system: Plan Vietnam supports the Department of Protection and Care for Children to strengthen their 'Child Protection Monitoring and Evaluation System Development Process'. The purpose of this activity is to progressively establish a M&E system which allows the government of Vietnam to collect, manage and analyse information on children in need of special protection, as well as assess the related governmental child protection in a systematic way, according to a set of specific, disaggregated and commonly agreed indicators. The proposed indicators will cover three major interventions: *primary child protection interventions*: which are often preventative in nature to reduce risks of abuse and harm; *secondary interventions*: activities directed at children and families who have been identified as vulnerable or at a higher risk of falling into special circumstances (due to the presence of identified risk factors); and *tertiary interventions*: support and services provided to children who are experiencing maltreatment, exploitation, abandonment, drug use, and criminal activity.

Plan offices have contributed to child protection data management on provincial and district levels, in Nepal, Thailand and the Philippines. In Thailand, the government-run child protection programme, including the village committees and provincial committees, are monitored by an inter-agency working group at district level; they monitor activities and visit the programme areas. Plan is part of these inter-agency groups/committees.

Developing a Child Rights Management information System in Nepal: In Nepal, Plan has been part of the team to develop Child Rights Management information System (CR-MiS) for the use of the District Child Welfare Board (DCWB). The CR-MiS was developed by CCWB for the purpose of collecting information and analysing the situations of children in the districts. Based on the data compiled through this process, status reports are prepared at district and national level (by DCWB and CCWB) annually. Software has been developed based on the CR-MiS with financial and technical support from Plan Nepal.

Data segregation (by gender/age/ethnicity etc): In countries where caseloads are monitored as part of the M&E system, data segregated by province, and occasionally by district is available. Less so is data on general beneficiaries segregated by age and gender, other than in the Philippines and Thailand. None of the countries could produce any data on children with disabilities within the communities they work. Cambodia – as part of their village mapping exercises, has gathered information on children with disabilities, but such data has not been analysed or used for follow-up or referrals. In addition, caseload data shared with the consultants was only segregated by gender in the Philippines and Thailand, and very little information was given on the ages of the caseload. This is confirmed by a Plan staff member in Vietnam who said:

“CBCPS is a bit gender blind; we need increased gender focus and gender disaggregation. Also we have very little focus on children with disabilities.”⁹⁹

More needs to be done to establish systematic data collection segregated by gender, age, ethnicity, disability and other factors, as this can inform the development of more effective child protection planning for appropriate child protection services, laws and policies.

As part of this comparative analysis, ICPREC has developed a set of **Key Quality Elements on CBCPMs**¹⁰⁰ to inform the second phase field-based evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of these mechanisms for the unhindered development of children and realisation of their full potential. These can also be used by country offices as a self-assessment tool.

⁹⁹ Shared during ICPREC field visit to Vietnam, May 2012.

¹⁰⁰ See Annex B – Key quality elements of CBCPMs.

Summary of key learning on M&E

- All Plan Asia countries have well developed general M&E frameworks.
- Specific child protection M&E frameworks that collect systematic data on child protection and the impact of child protection programmes are under-developed.
- Monitoring child protection across Plan Asia offices primarily focuses on processes rather than outcomes and impacts; although efforts are underway to change this.
- Increased efforts are needed by Plan to disaggregate data according to gender, age, disability, ethnicity and other factors.
- The systematic monitoring of child protection caseloads is in its early stages across the region and Plan's contributions to government/INGO managed data collection and databases are limited.

As per above, more can be done to systematically monitor and evaluate CBCPMs effectiveness in creating safer environments for children to grow up in. In the concluding chapter, some main indicators that could be tracked across Asia are suggested for the region.



"Polluted environment is a threat to the protection of children."

"Clean environment to better protect children."

A drawing by a boy living in slum G7, Islamabad

The background of the entire page is a blue-toned illustration of several children of diverse ethnicities holding hands in a large circle. Scattered around them are numerous five-pointed stars of varying sizes. The illustration has a hand-drawn, sketchy quality.

Chapter 10

Key achievements and challenges



This chapter shares the key achievements of Plan's efforts in CBCP work in Asia, whilst also briefly discussing common challenges that prevent the CBCPMs from becoming optimally functioning, sustainable mechanisms.

Key achievements

This section presents some of the most significant achievements that the CBCP work has achieved, drawing upon examples from different countries across the Asia region. These achievements have been shared by concerned stakeholders (CBCPM members, parents/caregivers, children and young people, government officials, and Plan staff) during field research or identified in existing desk reports. However, [increased systematic M&E is required in each country across the region to develop a stronger evidence base to identify the scale and sustainability of such achievements](#). Plan countries could obtain tools/ideas from Plan's ARO office's role in SAIEVAC in South Asia and from the various tools developed to measure VAC, including the globally utilised ISCPAN tool.¹⁰¹

As Plan China, East Timor, Laos and Pakistan are still in the early stages of establishing their CBCPMs they feature less in Table 14 (below). However, efforts to understand and establish CBCPMs that are relevant to the child protection system in their specific socio-political contexts are underway.

Table 14: Key achievements per country

Key achievements	Bangladesh	Cambodia	China	East Timor ¹⁰²	India	Indonesia	Laos	Nepal	Pakistan	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Vietnam
Reported decrease in violence against children	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Increased awareness on child protection and child rights in communities	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Increased recognition, respect for, and participation of children	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Increased birth registration	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Overall reported improved child protection environment in communities	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Increase in cases coming forward through committees, demonstrating increased confidence in mechanisms	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
CBCP groups link (or will link) with government child protection network and services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Increased government capacity and involvement in child protection	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Increased police responsiveness to victims' needs	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Community or district child protection policy or ordinances developed, approved and in place						✓		✓		✓		✓	✓
More data available on child rights' breaches through CBCP work	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Inter-agency work on different levels and advocacy contributing to improved child protection policies and practices	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Some examples of close collaboration across Plan programme areas	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

101 <http://www.ispcan.org/>

102 Planned activities at the community level and/or existing activities of the district level CPN as the CBCPMs have not yet been established.

Reported decrease in violence against children in schools and at home

Decreased levels of violence against children have been reported across Asia in communities where CBCPMs have been established. CBCPM members and child clubs are actively discouraging parents and teachers' on the use of violence, including the physical and humiliating punishment of children. The decrease in violence has taken place in schools and within families. Furthermore, practices that are considered to lead to violence against children, including early marriage, have reportedly decreased in various countries, including Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Indonesia.

Reduced domestic violence, Cambodia: In Cambodia, as reported in the final report on the FPN programme, December 2010, "the FPN grassroots approach to countering violence has resulted in a 70 percent decline in reports of domestic abuse in the village, according to the Svay Chek commune police chief, as well as the commune's women's affairs official. This steep decline is not isolated to this village, but has been observed in almost all of the communities where CPNs have been established".

In India, the issue of early marriage has been taken up very seriously by the CPCs, and most are effective in preventing child marriages. Key strategies to prevent early marriage include: education, empowerment, alternative engagement through media, associating with livelihood options, peer group dialogues, community empowerment, and local resolution.

In Indonesia, villages have reported decreased levels of violence at homes and in schools; decreased incidences of child marriage and school dropout; increased participation of, and listening to, children. In Sri Lanka, CBCP work has prevented child neglect and child abuse incidents and subsequent risks, including reduction in child beating by parents and teachers, reduction in family disputes, and reduced bullying among children.

Increased awareness on child protection and child rights in communities

Across Asia, increased awareness on child protection, child rights and children's needs is a common outcome of the CBCP work, as has been discussed in previous chapters. Parents, caregivers, community leaders, elders, youth and children alike are target audiences for awareness raising activities on child related issues. In some countries, the awareness focuses on specific child protection breaches, whereas in others it encompasses a full overview of children's protection rights.

Examples of increased awareness on child rights and protection:

Sri Lanka – There is increased awareness, discussions and knowledge among children, parents, community members and teachers on a range of child protection and safety concerns and positive discipline. Attitudes have changed and now demonstrate an understanding for the prioritisation of children's needs even when parents/caregivers are busy.

Thailand – Children learned to produce short films to reflect situations in their communities and these short films are well-received by their communities, schools and other non-target districts. Additionally, these materials are helping in creating awareness about the project the reporting mechanisms to relevant government agencies, especially the hotlines for the Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

Increased participation of, recognition and respect for children

Children are increasingly being recognised as agents of change, their opinions are more respected and their right to be heard is increasingly realised. All countries report enhanced levels of children's participation in the CBCPMs either through direct representation or through collaboration with child clubs/groups.

Examples illustrating increased respect for children and their participation:

In *India*, child groups are linked to the child protection committees. Children are more aware of their rights and have been empowered to participate in community discussions where they can raise child protection concerns affecting them, which was previously not possible. Children have been effective in advocacy through their media initiatives, and through some of their action initiatives, for example preventing the beating of children by teachers and parents.

In *Indonesia*, children's increased capacity and knowledge on child rights, has resulted in children speaking out in public, with officials, and actively reporting when children's rights are breached.

Increased birth registration

Through Plan's 'Count Every Child' birth registration campaign, many of Plan's CBCPMs have been working on this campaign by creating awareness about birth registration and citizen rights, and by assisting with registering births. As reported in Plan's Count Every Child Report, in Cambodia, "After 10 months of Plan's mobile birth registration programme, more than 7,000,000 Cambodians, close to 50 per cent of the population, had received their birth certificates."¹⁰³ Some Plan offices in the

103 Plan International, Count Every Child Report, 2009, page 45.

region have also advocated for changes in the law to remove or decrease the costs of birth registration, and in some cases to change entitlements to citizenship, improving access to citizenship for vulnerable people, including minorities and refugees.

Increase in cases coming forward through committees, demonstrating increased confidence in mechanisms

In the initial years of CBCP work an increase in cases being reported through the CBCP system demonstrates a greater awareness about children's rights to protection, and a willingness to report, as examined in Chapter 6. At this stage of CBCPM development it is encouraging to find an increased number of child protection concerns being reported to CBCP committees across Asia, demonstrating community members' confidence in such mechanisms to respond.

CBCP groups' link with government child protection systems and services

Across Asia, CBCP groups have formed structural links with government child protection systems and mechanisms at the different levels where these exist, as discussed in Chapter 7. This has led to more effective case management and referrals to respond to child protection cases in children's best interests – especially in countries like Thailand and the Philippines where multi-disciplinary teams have been established.

Increased government capacity and involvement in child protection

Most Plan Asia country offices are training government partners (especially from commune and district levels) in child rights, child protection, CBCPMs, case management and referral of cases, as reported on in Chapter 8. This has contributed to increased capacity of, and increased partnership with, these government actors and has improved linkages between the CBCPMs and government child protection systems.

Examples of improved government capacity and involvement: *Plan Cambodia's* current efforts on building the capacity of relevant government ministries on district and provincial levels will further strengthen a supportive environment for the FPNs to function in. *Plan* staff in the Philippines has increased capacity to support community-based prevention and protection work providing technical guidance and support to government duty bearers and civil society actors to support decision-making in the best interests of the child. Furthermore, *Plan's* own child protection policy helps inform and guide community-based work. In Sri Lanka, there is more downward accountability to children, families and communities by the bureaucrats and there are more efficient responses to address child protection concerns. *Plan Thailand* has successfully handed over the Srisaket CBCP network to concerned government agencies at the end of the project, which is now fully resourced through the Thai government and part of a well run provincial CBCP network in Srisaket province, also managed by the Thai government.

Increased police responsiveness to victims' needs

In many countries, Plan works closely with police officers to enhance their responsiveness to child protection cases. In some countries (Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, the Philippines) Plan has trained the police to become more aware of child rights and child protection, as well as their legal role in providing this protection for children (see Chapters 6 and 8 for more details). This has reportedly led to more child-friendly services for child victims/survivors of abuse. However, increased efforts to train police are needed due to their direct interaction with child victims on a regular basis.

Community or district child protection policy or ordinance developed

An emerging good practice in many Plan areas of operation is the development of village codes/policies on child protection. These are usually developed by the community at large and approved by the local government. In Thailand, communities set their own rules/acceptable and unacceptable behaviours and have their own ways of justice. There are local rules set further from the national laws to prevent the violation of rights in terms of abuse. In Indonesia, some have adopted village child protection regulations, including regulations to reduce the sexual exploitation of children.

Achievements of community campaigns on child rights and child trafficking¹⁰⁴ in the Philippines:

Community campaigns on child rights and specific campaigns against human trafficking have been conducted in the PUs. As an outcome of these campaigns, a total of 127 village ordinances related to child protection (curfew, prohibitions on the establishment of billiard halls and video/karaoke bars near schools, prohibitions on the purchase of liquor and cigarettes) were issued in West Samar and Camotes. In West Samar, a resolution creating the village council for the protection of children and allocating 1 percent of their internal revenue budget was passed. A total of 42 village resolutions and six municipal ordinances were issued in support of our campaign against trafficking. These issuances have helped rescue 148 trafficked victims this fiscal year (2011).¹⁰⁵

The development of village codes, Quang Tri, Vietnam: In Quang Tri province, 21 village codes have been developed in the Vinh Long and Darkrong communes. The village codes emphasise the importance of parental care and support. If villagers violate the commitments shared in the village code the village chief and/or village collaborator will talk to them and try to get them to change their behaviour. Parents/caregivers will be encouraged to share their commitment for changing their behaviour to protect children. If they do not change, they are reported to the commune child protection board. Members of the board will visit and guide them. They will explain that the commune will not be able to support them if they do not follow the village code.

104 Plan International, Philippines, Country Programme Progress Report – promoting child rights to end child poverty, August 2011.

105 Ibid

More data available on child rights' breaches

Increased understanding at the community level about common child protection issues and child rights' breaches has resulted in increasing data collection as reported in Chapter 9. The amount of data that flows from the community to the national level is still limited, but is growing through more accurate case management and linking with government networks, through which data can reach national levels.

Inter-agency work on different levels and advocacy contributing to improved child protection policies and practices

Plan is collaborating with a host of other agencies across Asia in establishing referral networks for the CBCPMs on district and provincial levels, and in setting up coordination mechanisms for government and civil society involved in CBCP and/or the national child protection system. Through these meetings Plan and partners increase pressure on duty bearers to be accountable towards children. In addition, there is a growing awareness that Plan and partners can work together to standardise reporting and case management, as this will benefit the emerging national child protection systems. For example, in Vietnam, Plan is working collaboratively with the government, UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision and Child Fund International to strengthen the child protection system. In Delhi (India), strong networking has been developed with Bal Adhikar Abhiyan (a group of voluntary organisations, NGOs, child right activists, government representatives and civil society organisations). In many countries Plan has contributed to the development of a national child helpline, including Cambodia, Nepal, Thailand and the Philippines.

Close collaboration across Plan programme areas

As described in Chapter 6, evidence from across the region demonstrates that ECCD, 'Learn Without Fear', and CBCP programmes not only complement, but also strengthen each other's programme results, especially in relation to decreasing violence against children at home and in schools. As described earlier, active child clubs and youths in the communities contribute significantly towards the effectiveness of the CBCP work. There is also growing evidence of CBCP committees taking on issues such as access to education, clean water, and health care, notably in countries where CBCP work is not focussed on specific issues. The Indonesian KPADs discuss a variety of issues affecting children, including water, education and health, and make referrals to both Plan funded programmes as well as government health points and schools. However, increased collaboration is needed between Plan child protection sectors and DRM, which is starting to take place in India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

Significant challenges

This section presents significant challenges or weaknesses faced at the community level, and within Plan in relation to implementing CBCPMs. Not all Plan CBCP operations face all of these challenges. Moreover, many country offices are actively working to overcome some of the shortcomings. Challenges relating to limitations in the government child protection system are encompassed in the final lessons learned chapter. *This section of the report is kept relatively short as challenges have been discussed in great detail throughout the report, and some are reiterated in the final chapter.*

Challenges at community level

1. Violence against children continues to take place

Social norms, including the physical discipline of children can take a long time to change. This underlines the need for more guidance given to committees (including front field staff) to learn about behaviour change processes and what they can do to help them progress. In addition, alternatives to corporal punishment need to be discussed with parents and teachers, who sometimes stated that even if they wanted to stop using violence, they did not know how else to manage their children or classrooms.

2. Low levels of awareness of child rights/child protection and how to report cases

CBCPMs have – together with Plan and partners – organised awareness raising events in their communities about child rights, child protection or the more specific child protection issues that programmes focus on. However, there is little follow-up to refresh people's awareness. Committees are often requesting funds to organise more awareness raising events as they also note that villagers still lack the knowledge or understanding on child protection, child rights and the national related law. This was reported in almost all countries. In India, for instance it was found that it can be difficult to ensure clarity among the community, block and district level officials regarding their relative roles and responsibilities in child protection; as different people have different understandings. Research in Thai communities, where Plan had conducted awareness raising on child rights found that only 9 percent of the target population knew how to report child abuse cases. It does not help that authorities themselves are sometimes not aware about newer laws and how to implement them. Child protection is not yet seen as a communal responsibility, resulting in children continuing to face abuse in and outside their homes.

3. Children's participation is not yet fully optimised or supported

Children participate in most of the CBCP committees across Asia, either as representatives of child clubs or as a direct member. There are a few countries where this is either not possible, because the structures are elected government structures, like in China. However, some country offices reported that involvement of children's representatives remained artificial in nature in many locations. The cultural notion that children should only listen and not be heard remains strong across the region. There is also some resistance among parents and groups within

society to understand the concept of children as change agents. Some adults do not recognise children's capabilities; and there is insufficient support for children's roles in child protection from some teachers and school administrations.

4. Marginalised groups are not participating equally in CBCP activities

Across Asia, participation of marginalised and out-of-school children and adults is limited, although steps are being taken to change this. Plan conducts community mapping in many of its target areas, and as such, information on marginalised groups is often available, but this has not systematically led to their participation.

5. CBCP committees are not very active/have no regular meetings

For different reasons, some CBCP committees do not meet regularly and members sometimes do not attend. This is related to the limited time people have, but is also caused by a lack of understanding of their roles and responsibilities. In addition, the needs of volunteering committee members to feed their families and run their households means that volunteers cannot always make it to meetings and do not always have time to follow up on cases. In addition, their volunteerism also results in not being recognised by government authorities. In many countries, volunteers would like identity cards, which would also assist them when they are dealing with families who are not necessarily supportive of the committees' actions.

6. Confidentiality of cases often not guaranteed

Insufficient safeguards are in place to guarantee confidentiality and the principles of 'do no harm' and 'best interest of the child', across Asia. When child protection concerns are discussed within the community it can affect the dignity, privacy and security of the parties involved. The principle of best interests needs to be more realistically practiced, and impartial processes need to be ensured while responding to the victim and the perpetrator.

7. Committees receive insufficient capacity support and financial support to function independently

Across Asia, CPCs struggle to deal with more complex cases. They have received little guidance on their roles and responsibilities in these cases and often lack police and Ministry of Justice backing. There is insufficient guidance available to support CPCs sensitive response to child sexual abuse, bullying, and child migration. In addition, the child protection focal points often have limited counselling and social work skills and would benefit from increased training. Many committee members have requested a booklet/tool that guides committees through their responsibilities and demonstrates the steps involved in case management and referral of cases. Many CBCP groups complained that they needed an emergency fund that they could use to transport victims of violence/abuse to the hospital and to pay for referral services, where necessary. Many committees currently depend on Plan/partners in emergencies, which contribute to committees' difficulty to deal with sensitive cases.

8. Preference to solve cases through local settlement and compensation, contrary to best interests of the child principle

The majority of Plan supported CBCPMs resort to the traditional practices of seeking justice through the local informal justice system, which includes settling compensation payments to the victim from the perpetrators who are not held accountable and who do not face charges, contrary to the best interests of the victim/survivor. One reason for this, particularly in rape cases, is that shame and fear stop people from reporting cases and families prefer a private settlement of the case. High levels of corruption amongst police and Ministry of Justice officials exacerbates this problem. In some cases, the police and local authorities are actively involved in these settlements and want their financial share. CBCP committees sometimes distrust government services and are not aware of civil society service providers.

9. Committee members are sometimes exposed to dangers, especially when dealing with certain cases involving powerful people

Particularly in countries where the child protection law is not clear in relation to a number of child protection concerns, including violence against children, early marriage, child labour, and child trafficking, committee members face risks when intervening, as their mandate to intervene is questioned. In the cases where the perpetrators of child rape and murder are powerful, the committee members may be threatened and endangered when following up on these cases. Communities may also be afraid to support the committees. This is an ethical concern for Plan as both CBCP committee and child club members put themselves at risk when they monitor child abuse. Some committees in Thailand have stopped raising awareness on the commercial and sexual exploitation of children, as well as rescue campaigns due to the threats they received from human traffickers. This underlines the need for more support from police and judicial authorities for CBCP work.

10. Weak referral mechanisms and statutory support for case management

With the exception of a few countries, most notably Thailand and the Philippines, referral mechanisms are weak and government partners rarely take a proactive approach in creating the necessary services for child victims/survivors. Where referral services are managed by civil society, the government relies on these and does not take a leading role in coordinating them. Many committees in Asia rely on Plan/partners to connect victims to referral services. Plan needs to push for the government to take on a leading coordination role in ensuring case management and referral mechanisms are properly connected to community committees and are available for children. Where reporting and documentation systems have been established, government officials are not always compliant in using them. Furthermore, there are very few social workers to support systematic child protection case management in the best interest of the child.

11. Government committees with multiple responsibilities of where child protection is one, often give child protection the last priority, resulting in limited action

In some countries, notably China, Thailand, and the Philippines, child protection responsibilities have been added to local government committees that are often elected by, and are representatives of, the community. This often results in child protection not receiving adequate attention, follow-up or the necessary financial resources as the local administrators have competing priorities with more powerful backers.

Challenges within Plan

1. Plan Asia country offices have insufficient human resources in child protection

There are not enough Plan staff in child protection and some staff do not have relevant professional qualifications. There is a need for more child protection staff and more capacity building of current staff. Frontline workers need to be given more skills to advocate with and influence concerned authorities to take on child protection issues and concerns, and to be able to strengthen competencies at the community level.

2. Plan/partners' front staff are responsible for large areas and lack sufficient time to carry out all of their responsibilities

Across Asia, frontline staff have multiple responsibilities that they need to manage. They are often responsible for large areas. Due to this heavy workload, they do not have sufficient time to always follow up on cases, make linkages with other Plan programmes, or provide backstopping to the committees where needed.

3. Plan staff are still learning about CBCPMs and are transitioning from a service delivery-based approach to a rights-based approach

Most Plan staff are implementing the CBCP programmes for the first time; they would benefit from increased guidance on the processes and their roles in terms of ensuring effective CBCPMs and linkages with the national child protection systems. There is still a tendency to focus on delivering services, rather than on a rights-based approach which places more emphasis on government duties and accountability to deliver services to rights holders, and empowering rights holders to claim their rights. This results in Plan being seen as a donor and a provider of services in some contexts, rather than as a partner that is strengthening government authorities and local agencies to fulfil their duties to protect children.

4. Insufficient support for CBCP structures and for partnering agencies planned for in budgets and CSPs

With Country Strategic Plans there is a focus on CBCP programmes in the years to come. However, there is insufficient funding for training and mentoring of both partnering agencies and the committees to ensure concepts of child protection, child rights and the responsibilities of committees are embedded. Partnering agencies need to be sufficiently trained to support the committees throughout the process of establishing, developing and running CBCPMs. They need to fully understand 'best interests' and 'do no harm' principles so that CBCPMs apply these principles in practice.

5. Limited coordination with other child protection NGOs on a national level to advocate for more accountable government-run child protection services

There is growing evidence of Plan's involvement on national levels in joint advocacy and policy development work in relation to the national child protection systems. But more can be done to increase Plan's voice at this level, given the direct link Plan has with CBCP in its target areas, which should inform Plan on what is needed.

6. Need for improved monitoring and measuring of CBCP's outcomes

There is limited systematic monitoring of outcomes and results of CBCP work. A few studies have been conducted to measure changes in knowledge, attitudes and practises, but far more needs to be done in order to back up reports that CBCP work has led to a decrease in violence, higher levels of child participation, an increased number of cases coming forward to the system, changed attitudes towards children, and increased knowledge on child rights etc.

Summary of key achievements and challenges

- *Key achievements:* CBCPMs efforts are resulting in an increased awareness and reporting on child protection; decreased violence against children in schools and homes; and increased recognition and respect for children and their participation. CBCPMs are also contributing to increased birth registration.
- Some CBCPMs have mobilised communities and the local authorities to develop village codes or ordinances to increase local child protection practices.
- Inter-sector collaborations between child protection, education, ECCD and DRM are also strengthening child protection outcomes at the local level.
- Where they exist, CBCPMs are linking with and making referrals to government child protection statutory bodies at higher levels. Plan is also strengthening the capacity of government officials in district and higher level child protection structures.
- In some countries Plan staff have also undertaken capacity building with the police, who are more responsive and sensitive in responding to child protection concerns.
- Inter-agency and advocacy work on different levels is contributing to improved child protection policies and practices.
- *Key challenges faced at the community level* include: Preference to solve cases through local settlements and compensation, contrary to best interests of the child principle; and a lack of sufficient guidance or capacity among some CBCPMs to sensitively respond to child sexual abuse cases.
- Time constraints faced by CBCPM volunteers, low levels of awareness on child protection among the community, sociocultural traditions towards children and the most marginalised sector of the community which inhibit their meaningful participation in CBCPMs.
- CBCP committees lack resources to follow up on emergency cases directly; and local governments rarely prioritise child protection when allocating local budgets.
- *Key challenges faced by Plan* include: Limited human resources and capacity building in child protection, and weaknesses in the monitoring and measuring of CBCP outcomes.

The background of the entire page is a blue-toned illustration of several children of diverse ethnicities holding hands in a large circle. Scattered around them are numerous five-pointed stars of varying sizes. The illustration has a hand-drawn, sketchy quality.

Chapter 11

Lessons learned and conclusions



This final chapter provides a broad overview of lessons learned on components and processes contributing towards effective child protection and sustainable community-based mechanisms. The lessons learned reinforce the recommendations from the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children.¹⁰⁶

Lessons learned on components and processes contributing towards effective child protection and sustainable community-based mechanisms

Different understandings of the term and the scope of CBCPMs exist among Plan staff and partners in different country programmes. This study has provided opportunities for dialogue and reflection among children and adult members of CBCPMs, Plan child protection staff and their civil society and/or government partners¹⁰⁷ on key components of a functional CBCPM.

The main lessons learned regarding processes and components contributing to effective CBCPMs are shared under the following sub-headings:

- 1. Collaboration with the government and advocacy at different levels to contribute to a stronger national child protection system*
- 2. Community ownership – building upon traditional practices, while ensuring the 'best interests' principle*
- 3. Inclusive, gender sensitive and active participation of stakeholders in the CBCP structure with a clear mandate to protect children*
- 4. Inclusive and meaningful children's participation*
- 5. Aware communities, prevention and early intervention*
- 6. Coordination and referral mechanisms involving government and civil society agencies for relevant referrals for psychosocial, legal, medical, social protection, and other relevant services*
- 7. Strengthening child protection case management, social workers, and child-friendly protection services*
- 8. Strengthening M&E; including government databases on child protection*
- 9. Capacity building for staff, partners and CBCPS stakeholders*
- 10. Stimulating research and programming on urban-based CBCPMs*
- 11. Integrating emergency preparedness and DRR with CBCP work*

While there are some good practice examples to learn from in various contexts (as described in the achievements section), overall recommendations for Plan across the region have been identified. These are underlined within the 11 'lessons learned' sections, and are summarised at the end of this sub-section.

¹⁰⁶ <http://www.unicef.org/violencestudy/>, accessed 24th September 2012.

¹⁰⁷ In particular the e-discussion in August 2012 involving over 20 Plan staff and civil society partners contributed to rich a debate and dialogue on key components of CBCPMs.

1. *Collaboration with the government and advocacy at different levels to contribute to a stronger child protection system*

Plan and its partners need to collaborate with governments in efforts to develop effective and sustainable CBCPMs to create safer communities and prospects of a safe childhood.¹⁰⁸ Efforts to strengthen CBCPMs as part of broader efforts to strengthen the national child protection systems are more effective and sustainable. Furthermore, in some political contexts (for example in China, Laos and Vietnam) collaboration with the State is the only way an international organisation can gain permission to work on CBCP. *As an overall strategy and way forward, Plan is encouraged to avoid the establishment of parallel structures, and rather to increase support to programming and advocacy to strengthen CBCPMs which are recognised and directly linked to the formal child protection system at district, provincial and national levels.*

The status of child protection systems is variable across countries in the region. While most State Governments in the region have legislation and policies in place to support child protection system developments, the concerned Ministries of Social Welfare (or their equivalent) tend to be under-resourced; with only weak legal enforcement mechanisms existing in most countries. As a result, perpetrators of crimes against children are often not held accountable, and child survivors of abuse and exploitation do not receive sufficient care and protection.

Fragile and/or non-functioning child protection systems, especially at the district levels, significantly affect the functioning and effectiveness of CBCPMs, which require functioning statutory child protection bodies to refer serious child abuse cases to for an effective and child sensitive response. Thus, the importance of *ongoing advocacy by Plan and other child-focused agencies with the government authorities at national, provincial and district levels* is required to support the development and implementation of relevant laws, policies, standards and budget allocations for child protection at every level – including at the district, municipality and community level.

Increased advocacy and engagement by Plan to work in partnership with the Ministry of Social Welfare (or its equivalent) is required at the national level. A partnership approach, particularly *in collaboration with other relevant child focused agencies* (including UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision, Child Fund International etc.) can enhance efforts to: strengthen the Ministries' advocacy and negotiation skills for increased budget allocations from the central government for child protection and social welfare work; to enhance multi-sectoral coordination with other line Ministries to ensure the development and implementation of holistic child protection strategies, laws and policies. Furthermore, advocacy with the Ministry of Social Welfare (or its equivalent) is needed to ensure formal recognition of CBCP committees/groups as part of the formal child protection system; and to increase budget allocations for work at the community, municipality, district and provincial levels.

¹⁰⁸ Plan International, Asia Regional Office, Safe and Sound – Growing up with Protection. Child Protection Programme Framework Programming Guidelines, 2011.

At provincial, district and municipality levels of governance, advocacy and lobbying are crucial to: increasing awareness, understanding and prioritisation on child protection; to increase planning and budget allocations for child protection; to ensure effective coordination and referrals; and to support the development and enactment of ordinances that promote child protection. At the local governance level lobbying and support for child-friendly budgeting and participatory budget monitoring can help increase budget allocations for child rights, protection and participation.

2. Community ownership – building upon traditional practices whilst ensuring the best interests principle

Community ownership is a key component of effective and sustainable efforts towards CBCP. As previously discussed, *increased early investments in time and effort by Plan and their civil society partners are needed to research, analyse and build upon traditional practices, which support children's protection and participation, especially in indigenous communities.* Local understandings of childhood, child development, well-being, care and protection need to be better understood in order to build upon positive traditional practices, while change processes to transform traditional practices and beliefs which are not in the best interests of the child need to be supported. It is necessary to ensure that traditional justice systems are further informed by the best interest of the child and that perpetrators are held accountable.

It has also proven essential to inform and seek active involvement of and support from traditional chiefs/village leaders/local village administrators. Moreover, a community mobilisation and awareness raising approach is required, engaging diverse sectors of the community, stimulating genuine dialogue, information sharing, and reflection on child protection. The purpose of establishing CBCPMs, and the roles and responsibilities of community members to protect all children in their community, especially the most vulnerable, should be explored and clarified. Plan's CCCD approach is conducive to such efforts.

Efforts to engage village leaders, women, men, girls and boys in initial child rights situational analysis, in other participatory research on child protection, can enhance community interest and involvement in CBCPMs.

3. Inclusive, gender sensitive and active participation of stakeholders in the CBCP structure with a clear mandate to protect children

Most CBCP structures involve the village elder/administrator/chief to increase the legitimacy of the structure; while also including key local professionals (teachers, doctors, village policeman etc.). In many countries, parents, members of relevant CBOs (women's groups, youth groups and child clubs) are also involved. Identifying and involving community members who are committed to children and can dedicate time to be active in the CBCP work will significantly contribute to functioning CBCP structures.

The CBCP structure needs to have a clear mandate for its child protection work within the community. Each member needs to be aware of their roles and responsibilities, to work proactively to prevent and respond to different forms of child abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation. Provision of letters of support or volunteer ID cards provided to the CPC members from a relevant authority can help enhance their legitimacy when engaging in awareness-raising, prevention or early intervention initiatives with children and families in their homes, school or community.

Efforts to mobilise, reach, and involve community representatives from different backgrounds (gender, ethnicity, caste, religion, age, disability etc.) can further enhance the effectiveness of the CBCPM and its ability to work in non-discriminatory ways. Overall, Plan has been less effective in mobilising and engaging membership from the most marginalised families.

While the CBCPMs leaders are almost always male in the Asia region, much of the child protection field work is undertaken by women volunteers. More gender balance is found in children's groups, and both girls and boys are often represented in the community child protection structure. However, Plan needs to pay [increased attention to applying gender analysis and gender sensitivity in all stages of its contributions to CBCPMs](#). Furthermore, learning from existing good practice in the Philippines and Bangladesh, [increased efforts are needed to mainstream the engagement and role of men and fathers](#) to prevent and address violence against women and children, and to encourage their role as active fathers.

4. *Inclusive and meaningful children's participation*

Support for meaningful and inclusive children's participation is another essential component of CBCPMs. In particular child clubs/groups are a driving force for awareness raising, prevention, monitoring and reporting on child protection across many countries in the Asia region. Plan and its civil society partners are supporting both community-based and school-based child clubs/groups and empowering girls and boys with knowledge, life skills and values to enhance their own protection and the protection of their peers.

However, considering traditional attitudes towards children, adults continue to underestimate children's capabilities and limit opportunities for children's expression and participation (especially the participation of girls, children with disabilities and children from other marginalised groups) in governance processes. Ongoing efforts are needed by Plan and their partners to sensitise adults (parents/caregivers, teachers, religious and village elders, and government officials) about the value of listening to girls and boys (especially the most marginalised) and to meaningfully involving them in decision-making processes so that children can better assert and defend their rights.

While including children's representatives in the CBCP structures, it is also important to support children (of different ages and backgrounds) to come together in their own child groups. Training children in child rights and responsibilities, child protection and life skills, and support for child-led media and advocacy initiatives can significantly contribute to a strengthened child protection system. Networking among children's groups can be supported at community, district, provincial and national levels to enhance information and experience sharing, collective advocacy and children's involvement in policy and practice developments affecting them.

While Plan and its partners are supporting an impressive number of more than 4,000 child clubs/groups and innovations in children's participation in protection across the region, [internationally agreed basic requirements on children's participation](#)¹⁰⁹ [need to be more systematically applied by Plan staff and partners](#) when planning, implementing and monitoring participation processes with and by children and young people. In particular, [increased efforts are needed by Plan to reach and empower the most marginalised children in CBCP work](#), including efforts to reach out-of-school working children, domestic child workers, children with disabilities, children without parental care, and children affected by HIV/AIDs.

5. *Aware communities, prevention and early intervention*

Awareness raising on child rights and child protection is essential to prepare the groundwork for effective CBCPSs. Plan's CBCPM work has been enhanced and strengthened by inter-sector collaborations with the ECCD work on positive parenting, as well as by the 'Learn Without Fear' school-based campaign in many countries in the region. Each of these programmes share strong messages of non-violent communication, problem solving, and reinforce communication and positive guidance with children in homes, preschools, schools and communities.

Members of CBCPMs (adults and children) and child groups have been actively involved in raising awareness on child protection to increase understanding of what girls and boys need to be protected from; and to whom community members can report concerns about children's protection or care. In addition to community meetings, parenting groups and house visits, creative methods including the use of drama, songs, wall newspapers, and information, education and communication (IEC) materials have been used to raise awareness among adults and children on child abuse, early marriage, harmful child work, migration and trafficking. [However, improved IEC materials and awareness-raising strategies are needed to increase prevention, reporting and response to child sexual abuse](#); many family and community members are reluctant to report child sexual abuse cases to the proper authorities due to stigma, shame or fear, especially if the perpetrator is a relative.

109 CRC/C/GC/12 (July 2009) Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No.12, The Right of the Child to be Heard.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that the awareness-raising undertaken by CBCPM members contributes towards efforts to prevent abuse, exploitation, neglect, violence, and traditional harmful practices to children. However, increased efforts are needed to measure the effectiveness of awareness raising and CBCPM interventions.

In addition to their prevention role, members of CBCPMs are actively involved in early interventions. Members of CBCPMs and child groups often intervene with families, teachers and other stakeholders to respond to concerns or risks concerning a child (e.g. beating, early marriage, lack of care and attention to children). As described in earlier chapters, members of CBCPMs are often effective in negotiating and guiding parents or caregivers to improve their care and protection practices. Furthermore, community involvement in developing and agreeing village codes or local ordinances on child protection can contribute to behaviour change and the creation of safer communities for children.

As part of prevention and early intervention efforts, CBCPMs in a number of countries are undertaking mapping exercises to identify particular groups of children who are at risk or vulnerable, so that support and interventions can be targeted to reduce their vulnerability. Furthermore, in some countries CBCPMs are undertaking more systematic efforts to map local resources (human, material, and financial) that are available in their communities that could be mobilised to contribute to prevention or child protection response efforts.

While many CBCPMs are increasingly effective in preventing and changing parents', caregivers' and teachers' behaviour to reduce physical punishment and abuse of children, addressing child protection concerns involving criminal acts such as child sexual abuse, and in some situations early child marriage and harmful child work, are more difficult for CBCPMs to respond to. These cases require technical inputs and response from concerned duty bearers at higher levels. In addition, where child protection concerns are rooted in the financial concerns of families (e.g. sending a child to earn a living rather than to school) interventions and/or referrals to relevant social protection schemes, livelihood or income generation opportunities for family members may be needed. Thus, in dealing with more serious or complex cases the role of the CBCPMs is to make referrals to statutory child protection bodies at higher levels. However, in some countries and provinces a key challenge for CBCPMs is that such statutory child protection bodies either do not exist, or they are non-functional. [Plan needs to consider increased investments to strengthen these statutory child protection bodies at higher levels, in order for the CBCPMs to be able to carry out their mandates effectively.](#)

6. Coordination and referral mechanisms involving government and civil society agencies for relevant referrals for psychosocial, legal, medical, social protection and other relevant services

Ongoing advocacy and programming efforts are needed by Plan and other concerned child protection agencies to strengthen the linkages between the CBCPMs and the formal child protection structures from the district level upwards, and the referral mechanisms. In highly centralised states, increased innovative efforts are needed by Plan to engage civil society organisations in the child protection system as potential providers of child-friendly protection services; and in most countries across the region increased advocacy and partnership efforts are needed to strengthen services that support children's recovery and reintegration if they have faced abuse, violence, neglect or exploitation.

7. Strengthening child protection case management, social workers, and child-friendly protection services

Child protection case management is in its early stages of development in most countries across the region. As part of a national child protection system, social workers need to be accessible to CBCPMs so that referrals can be made for professional support, and a case management approach used to ensure assessment and response in the best interests of the child. Government mandated community social workers with a child protection skill set will be better able to support CBCPMs in their efforts to strengthen families and family-based care and protection; to support community-based diversion of children in conflict with the law from formal justice systems; and to respond to serious child abuse and exploitation cases.

Considering the existing weaknesses in child protection case management and/or the insufficient number of government mandated social workers who are accessible to CBCPMs across the region, *Plan needs to consider its potential advocacy and/or capacity building roles in strengthening the government and civil society agencies to further develop their capacity for child protection case management.* For example, Plan and other child-focused agencies should consider more systemic efforts to create a critical mass of community social workers as part of efforts to strengthen national systems. Community social workers are needed to respond to children's care and protection in a more comprehensive manner.

In addition there is a need to strengthen the availability and provision of child-friendly protection services. In particular there is a need for increased accessibility to psychosocial and counselling support for child survivors of violence, sexual abuse, trafficking, and other forms of exploitation.

Efforts by Plan in collaboration with the concerned government authorities to strengthen ‘multidisciplinary teams’ in child protection units in the Philippines; and ‘One Stop Crisis Centres’ in Thailand have proven effective when they are guided by the CRC principles (best interests, children’s participation, non-discrimination and right to life). Such promising practices [should be replicated](#) and supported in other countries as they increase child/user-friendly access to services and referrals, including justice services. Existing efforts to strengthen child-friendly justice systems, including police training and access to legal support are also contributing to child protection system improvements.

8. Strengthening M&E, and government databases on child protection

National governments’ child protection databases and M&E systems are in their early stages of development in countries across the region. Plan, in collaboration with other child protection agencies, can [support government efforts to strengthen child protection data collection](#) (disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, age and other factors). Such monitoring data can inform more effective child protection planning for appropriate child protection services, laws and policies. It is crucial that protocols for confidential storage and management of child protection data are developed and implemented.

In addition, [Plan needs to improve its own M&E systems and processes for measuring child protection outcomes](#) to inform evidence-based advocacy for formal recognition and scale up of CBCPMs as part of the national child protection system. Baseline studies on child protection, KAP surveys and regular data collection on relevant child protection indicators need to be more systematically used in communities where Plan works. Improved M&E can help distinguish which CBCPM interventions most, and least, contribute to prevention and protection of children’s rights to protection from all forms of abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation.

9. Capacity building for staff, partners and CBCPS stakeholders

At country, regional and global levels, [Plan needs to consolidate and strengthen capacity building for Plan staff, partners and CBCP system stakeholders](#). Building upon the findings from this comparative study, Plan International Head Office and Plan ARO could develop clearer programming guidance on the concepts, components and processes contributing towards effective child protection and sustainable community-based mechanisms. Cross-country sharing and adaptations of existing training and guidance materials to support CBCPMs are encouraged – for example building upon the training for multi-disciplinary teams in the Philippines and Thailand, and adapting and replicating the training of the ‘group work for families affected by domestic violence’ in Cambodia. Furthermore, [new or improved training modules, to build upon Plan’s rights-based approach to child protection are needed on: sensitive reporting and response to child sexual abuse; child protection case management and referrals; and advocacy to strengthen child protection systems](#). Plan’s staff require the skills to

advocate with, and influence, concerned authorities to prioritise child protection and to undertake concrete actions to strengthen the system.

Core training on child rights principles and child protection must be provided to all the CBCP committee members. Furthermore, in the early stages of CBCPM developments, mentoring of CBCPMs by more experienced child protection practitioners is required to ensure capacity developments and interventions are guided by the child's best interests. Increased efforts are needed by Plan, governments and other concerned agencies to monitor and support the quality of training.

Recognising the importance of functioning child protection systems at district levels in order to respond to referrals from CBCPMs, ongoing and/or improved efforts are needed by Plan to strengthen the capacity and accountability of concerned government duty bearers at the district and/or provincial levels to be able to better fulfil their roles and responsibilities towards children's care, protection and justice. Furthermore, Plan can support government procedures to ensure child protection training of newly appointed officials and members of child protection units (e.g. newly appointed doctors, police, and social workers), or other statutory child protection bodies.

10. Stimulating research and learning on urban-based CBCPMs

Eighty-nine percent of the CBCPMs supported by Plan in the Asia region are in rural communities. Considering the trends towards urbanisation and increased risks of exploitation and abuse to children in urban poor areas, there is a recognised [need for Plan to learn from existing CBCPM work in urban settings, and to increase research, piloting and scale up of CBCPMs in every country](#). Plan's increasing engagement in youth empowerment and youth engagement in governance can also be supported by stronger CBCPM work in urban settings, especially in the most marginalised communities. Additional efforts are needed to ensure that the CBCPMs work in urban contexts reach and engage the most marginalised children including working children, domestic child workers, children living or working on the street, and children engaged in commercial sexual exploitation etc.

11. Integrating emergency preparedness and DRR in CBCPMs

At the time the comparative analysis was undertaken, no CBCPMs were functional in communities that were affected by natural disasters or armed conflicts. All the CBCPMs were being supported as part of longer-term development programming. Linkages between child protection and DRR and emergency programmes are being established in many countries across Asia. In recognition of the scale of risks to natural disasters faced by countries across the region, there needs to be [increased planning, training and support to Plan staff, partners and to members of CBCPMs and child groups to integrate emergency preparedness as one of the CBCPM tasks](#). This would result in community members, including children, having increased knowledge and skills to prevent risks and to develop family-based care and protection of children in the event of an emergency.

Lastly, in the event of an emergency, CBCPMs should be strengthened or established to contribute to community-based care and protection of children, psychosocial support, prevention and response to children's care and protection needs. In both emergency and development contexts, CBCPMs can play an increased role in preventing children's separation from their families, supporting the care and protection of children in their own families, and monitoring and supporting non-discriminatory care and protection of children living in alternative family-based care (for example in kinship care with grandparents, relatives or other foster families).

Summary of key recommendations for strengthening CBCPMs by Plan in the Asia region

1. Increase support to strengthen CBCPMs which are recognised and directly linked to the formal child protection system; and avoid the establishment of parallel structures.
2. Increase advocacy and engagement with the Ministry of Social Welfare (or its equivalent) at the national level; and inter-agency efforts to strengthen the child protection system.
3. Increase research and analysis to build upon traditional practices which support children's protection and participation, especially in indigenous communities; and to transform harmful traditional practices.
4. Increase attention to gender analysis and gender sensitivity in all stages of child protection system development; including greater efforts to mainstream the engagement and role of men and fathers.
5. Apply systematically internationally agreed basic requirements on children's participation¹¹⁰ by Plan staff and partners; including increased efforts to reach and empower the most marginalised children in CBCP work.
6. Increase advocacy and partnerships to strengthen child-friendly child protection services that support children's recovery and reintegration if they have faced abuse, violence, neglect or exploitation.
7. Increase advocacy and/or capacity building roles to support the government and civil society agencies to further develop social work capacity for child protection case management.
8. Learn from, replicate and scale up efforts to strengthen 'multidisciplinary teams' (like the Child Protection Units in the Philippines or the 'One Stop Crisis Centres' in Thailand).
9. Support government efforts to strengthen child protection data collection (disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, age and other factors).
10. Improve Plan's own M&E systems and processes for measuring child protection outcomes.
11. Strengthen capacity building for Plan staff, partners and CBCPS stakeholders that contribute to integrated efforts to strengthen the child protection systems at community level and higher.
12. Develop new or improved training modules on: sensitive reporting and response to child sexual abuse; child protection case management and referrals; and advocacy to strengthen child protection systems.
13. Learn from existing CBCPM work in urban settings, and to increase research, piloting and scale up CBCPMs in urban settings in every country.
14. Increase planning, training and support to CBCPMs to integrate emergency preparedness as one of the CBCPM tasks.

¹¹⁰ CRC/C/GC/12 (July 2009) Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No.12, The Right of the Child to be Heard.

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Annex A

An overview of children's participation in CBCPMs per country

Plan country:	Overview of children's participation in CBCPMs:
<i>No involvement of children in CBCPMs. In each country Plan is making efforts to involve children in CBCPMs. However, the scope and quality of the work varies among children and among communities.</i>	
Initial efforts to involve children in CBCPMs	
China	Only recently Children and Young People's Advisory Boards have been established in eight schools. Children will be responsible for educating and mobilising their peers on peer-to-peer child protection education. Child groups have participated in training events in schools, covering child protection and child rights. The children have also been trained in peer-to-peer awareness raising and educational campaigns; children are becoming involved in designing public activities concerning personal safety and non-violence addressing their peers.
East Timor	CBCP structures have not yet been established, and currently children are not involved in child protection work. Plan has recognised that there are many small informal village youth groups that are actively bringing together children and youth for sports, music and other cultural activities. They plan to see how they can engage with these village child/youth groups to engage children and young people in child rights and child protection networks in the future. Plan in 2007/8 supported the establishment of children's councils, trained children/youth in child rights, and supported youth to run children's animation and protection activities in their communities.
Laos	Consultation with, and participation of, children and young people is a central element in all programmes and there are plans to support children's participation in the community CPN committees when they are established. Through the basic education programme children have also been encouraged to form, and be part of child clubs. The child clubs (129 members – 55 percent female, 45 percent male) run awareness raising activities at schools and in the community through peer education training and through presenting dramas on child rights and protection.
Pakistan	Community-based CPCs or watch groups supported by Plan Pakistan are in their early stages of development. Two children (one male and one female) who are part of existing children's forums will represent children in the CPCs in Chakwal district (rural locations). However, children are not part of the watch groups in urban locations in Islamabad. Monitors of children's forums have received Bamboo Shoot training (a two-day session) as part of the first step in the formation of CBCPM process.
Children's representatives are included in some CBCP structures (e.g. CPCs) supported by Plan in the country	
Bangladesh	Plan is supporting 463 children's organisations involving children aged 8-18. In communities where CPGs are being formed, members of the children's organisations are encouraged to be actively involved in the CPG. Plan also sensitises officials in the Union Parishad (local government) about the presence and role of children's organisations and the capacity of children. Children representatives are usually invited by the Union Parishad officials to join the community meetings relating to the formation of the CPGs; and approximately 30 percent of CPGs/SPGs include children's representatives as members of the CPGs/SPGs, usually about five to six children's representatives (60 percent girls, 40 percent boys).
India	More than 1,500 children's groups have been supported involving girls and boys (at least 50 percent girls). ¹¹¹ In many project areas child club/group members are included in the CPCs. In other areas the children are not included in the CPCs, but the CPCs and child groups/clubs work together. Child group members have been supported with training on: child rights, child protection, the roles and responsibilities of CPCs, government laws and life skills.
Indonesia	Children's groups/clubs exist in almost all of Plan's supported communities in Indonesia. Many had become inactive over time and have been re-activated prior to the establishment of the KPADs and others will be further strengthened through planned child protection activities. About 85 percent of the KPADs have child members, and more than half of the child members are girls. However, substantial participation of children in the KPADs has yet to be developed. Children are engaged through their peer education activities on child protection, the importance of education, and informing children about reporting cases. In addition, children are actively involved in the child rights situational analysis that precedes the establishment of the KPADs, and children continue to monitor the child rights situation in some areas, and report using their monitoring sheets.

¹¹¹ However, increased efforts are still need to reach and engage the most marginalised children, including children with disabilities in these child groups.

Children's representatives are included in some CBCP structures (e.g. CPCs) supported by Plan in the country (continued)	
Philippines	Children's village level associations are supported at community level to educate children on protection risks, self-protection, and advocacy. Over 150 <i>barangay</i> children's associations are supported by Plan, enabling children to play a more effective role in prevention, monitoring and response to child protection concerns in their communities. Through their associations child leaders are trying to reach out to more children to raise awareness and action on child rights by holding activities ('youth participate' sessions) in the more remote sub-villages of their respective villages. Some children's associations are also able to monitor and contribute to local government efforts to strengthen child protection mechanisms. However, challenges remain in institutionalising children's representation in the BCPCs. Most BCPCs continue to have adult-led decision making processes, and traditional attitudes towards children result in a lack of recognition and appreciation by adults on children's capacity to be involved in development process.
Thailand	Children do not directly participate in the village committee. However, children did participate in action-based research and project design in five districts at the outset of the project in Srisaket in 2009. In the 54 communities where Plan has established the CBCPMs, 12 youth clubs have been established. These children and young people play significant roles in providing knowledge about children's rights and protection to community members, especially to other children and youth. These groups were established by the children themselves. Plan aims for all the youth groups to have representation at the village committee in the future. However, the Thai Government's active promotion of child and youth involvement in community development and in their own protection provides an important opportunity for Plan to increase children's participation in CBCPMs.
Children's representatives are included in each CBCP structures (e.g. CPCs) supported by Plan in the country	
Cambodia	Children are represented in all 129 FPNs through two representatives of the child clubs, one boy and one girl. These representatives express their views and recommendations on child protection issues during FPN meetings, including topics as trafficking, rape, domestic violence, drugs and school dropouts. They occasionally participate in commune and district level meetings and some have met at provincial, national and international fora with members of government and civil society. Through the FPNs, children have been at the forefront of combating child abuse by reporting child abuse cases for action, by providing awareness to their peers and by following up on cases of child labour, dropout and other child protection issues that are not as regularly reported or followed up on by the adult FPN members
Nepal	The VCPC guidelines ¹¹² developed by the government in 2004 include a mandate to have two representatives (generally one boy and one girl) of child clubs and their network in the VCPC (or municipal level child protection committee – MCPC) as members. This rule is generally respected in practice. However, there is no similar provision or practice of inviting children to be members in para-legal committees (PLC) ¹¹³ formed at the village level. However, if the PLC is dealing a case concerning children (and/or related to children), child clubs are consulted on a case-by-case basis. Similarly the vigilance and surveillance groups do not include children as members, but work closely with child clubs and their network on specific issues/agendas. Thus, in practice children are members of the VCPCs and represent children's clubs as well as girls' and youth clubs. Children usually have opportunities to: represent other children; advocate for change with their communities; participate in the village development committees and district development committees to increase child-centred community development. Children monitor the rights situation in their communities and also monitor project progress and report back to Plan/partners which makes them active agents in their own development.
Sri Lanka	Within the 30 communities where CPCs have been established, children's groups/clubs are supported to enable children's active participation in awareness raising and action initiatives to prevent and promote the protection of children in families, schools and communities. Two to four children's representatives from the child groups are usually included in the CPC. The child groups/clubs generally involve girls and boys aged 10-18 years. The children's groups/clubs vary in their membership, however many clubs have 40-60 members. Through their child groups, children are involved in prevention efforts, in raising awareness, and ensuring identification and response to child protection concerns.
Vietnam	In all CBCPS project areas, children's core groups of 12-30 members have been established at the commune level. Thus, there are 27 commune children's core groups (more than 50 percent of members are girls). In some project areas, village level children's core groups have also been formed with support from the Youth Unions or pioneer teachers. Children from the commune children's core group are invited to be part of the monthly commune child protection board meetings. The children's core groups (at commune and village level) work closely with the village collaborators to identify, prevent and respond to child protection concerns in their localities.

112 The Guideline has also defined roles and functions of VCPC (or MCPC) besides formation of this structure.

113 PLC formed at village have 13 – 15 women members (PLCs have only female members with few exceptions) representing all nine wards in a VDC. Whereas the district level 'Resource Group' (of PLC) have both male and female as members, and invite experts (e.g. lawyers, doctors, etc.) to be in the team as well.

Annex B

Key quality elements on CBCPMs

These key quality elements (KQEs) can be used to inform the second phase field-based evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of these mechanisms for the unhindered development of children and realisation of their full potential.

Based on the lessons learned during the comparative analysis 16 KQEs have been identified to inform planning, implementation, and M&E of CBCPMs. More detailed indicators for each of the KQEs can be developed in the second phase evaluation. The suggested KQEs are:

- **KQE 1: Strong collaboration and partnership work with government authorities** at national, sub-national and local levels in planning, implementing and monitoring CBCPMs as part of broader efforts to strengthen the national child protection system.
- **KQE 2: Effective advocacy** with government at different levels to influence laws, policies, standards, and budgets which contribute to a stronger child protection system from national to local levels.
- **KQE 3: Community ownership** for the CBCP structure.
- **KQE 4: Positive traditional practices** towards the care and protection of children are built upon; and practices which are not in the **best interests** of the child are transformed.
- **KQE 5: Inclusive and active participation of stakeholders** in the **CBCP structure** with a **clear mandate to protect children**.
- **KQE 6: Inclusive and meaningful children's participation** in CBCP efforts, and in broader child protection practice and policy developments affecting them.
- **KQE 7: Community members are aware of children's rights, child protection and positive discipline** and have changed their behaviour to care and protect children in families and communities.
- **KQE 8: CBCPM members are actively involved in prevention and early interventions** to increase children's protection from abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation.

- **KQE 9:** Community-based **reporting mechanisms on child protection** are clear. Community members (parents, caregivers, and children) know who to report to if they have any concerns.
- **KQE 10:** CBCPMs are able to coordinate with, and make referrals to, **government statutory child protection bodies** to ensure an effective child protection response and necessary referrals for psychosocial, legal, medical, social protection and other relevant services.
- **KQE 11:** **Child protection social workers are accessible** to CBCPMS and have the capacity to undertake **child protection case management** to resolve cases in the best interests of the child.
- **KQE 12:** **Child-friendly protection services** are available to support children's psychosocial recovery from different forms of violence against them.
- **KQE 13:** **Improved M&E systems** to measure the impact of child protection interventions are in place, including the establishment of a **government database on child protection**.
- **KQE 14:** CBCPM members, Plan staff, civil society, and government partners access **capacity building** to develop the necessary competencies to support the implementation of the KQEs for CBCPMs.
- **KQE 15:** **CBCPMs are piloted and scaled up in urban and rural contexts**.
- **KQE 16:** **Emergency preparedness and DRR is integrated into CBCPM activities**, such that adults and children in communities have increased knowledge and skills on emergency preparedness, and the care and protection of children in emergencies.





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