

Report on Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms supported by Plan in Cambodia



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I. Executive summary

This report provides an overview of community based child protection systems supported by Plan Cambodia, as a contribution to a regional comparative analysis on community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in the Asia region. The overall objective of this comparative analysis is to increase learning of various structural and functional aspects of the existing community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan Asia across 13 countries, and to report on their potential for increased impact and sustainability. An eight day field study was undertaken in Cambodia in May 2012. 140 stakeholders (41 men, 17 women, 31 boys and 51 girls) including members of commune and village Family Protection Networks, village leaders, parents, youth, child club members, Plan staff, and government officials (local, district, provincial and central level) were actively involved in Focus Group discussions, interviews and/or participatory tools to share their views, experiences and perspectives on the community based child protection mechanisms.

In 2007, Plan started its community based child protection programmes under its Family Protection Network (FPN) programme, which were established with the local NGO PADV (Project against Domestic Violence), with whom Plan ended its cooperation at the end of 2009. From 2010 until the autumn of 2011¹, Plan halted its work with the FPNs whilst searching for new partners following some problems with PADV. In the autumn of 2011, Plan identified two new local partners to continue PADV's work and strengthen and expand the FPNs. The Community Based Child Protection Programme / FPN will have been established in 6 districts, 35 communes and 353 villages in Plan's targets areas by the end of 2013.

The goal of the project is to reduce the incidence of various forms of domestic violence, drug addiction, trafficking and sexual abuse by creating community based watchdogs against child abuse and sensitizing the community on the dangers of domestic violence, trafficking, drug abuse and sexual abuse. Through the project, women and will become more aware of their right to be protected and will know where and how to seek support; the overall communities will no longer support domestic violence; lastly, the project aims to make local authorities more responsive and better at addressing abuse cases, leading to an overall reduction of violence against women and children in the targeted communities and districts.

The Family Protection Networks have evolved into becoming 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", as well as the related earlier laws on domestic violence, drugs and prostitutions offences. The guidelines aim to make communities safer and free from drugs, violence, including domestic violence, trafficking and prostitution and gambling.²

Plan's planned expansion of its work comes amidst great support from the Cambodian government and UNICEF. However, this support has to date not resulted in an expansion of the network beyond Plan target areas through implementation by other agencies. Plan also realizes, as do their local partners, that the network needs further standardization through the development of tools and trainings for both the village based FPNs as well as the government partners, which will enable professionalization on both sides leading to better protected children. As in all contexts, the programme has many strengths but also some areas that need more work.

¹ And for some communities not until June/July 2012, where LAC will be implementing

² Safety Village Commune/Sangkat Policy Guideline, May 2010

Key lessons learnt:

- The close collaboration with the government run child protection system has been vital in the acceptance and cooperation from the government stakeholders and as such, in the successes of the FPNs in both Kampong Cham and Siem Riep provinces.
- The gap between the first FPN project implemented through PADV(2007-2010) and the second current FPN project (Autumn 2011-2013) implemented through CCASVA and LAC, has both shown that many of the FPNs have continued to respond to certain child protection cases, but no longer form a pro-active body as they do not hold regular meetings nor do they conduct awareness sessions. It is positive to see that the skeleton of the response still exists but this gap has come at too early a stage for the FPNs that still need further capacity building to foster their independence and strength, especially in terms of case management and a wider focus to include a wider range of child protection issues outside rape and domestic violence. However, over the next 18 months, Plan Cambodia through LAC and CCASVA has an opportunity to build on these lessons learnt in the way Plan is training and guiding both the new and the older FPNs.
- Children's Clubs are a great driving force in the communities for monitoring and reporting on child protection cases. Children are proud of their clubs and feel frustrated with the sometimes inactive FPNs in their communities. The Child Clubs could play a larger role in the FPN in awareness raising and monitoring rights. However, more needs to be done to involve the most marginalized children, who are currently not participating.
- The project's aim to increase children's protection and well-being is enhanced and strengthened by the ECCD project's positive parenting groups as well as by the Learn without Fear programme, all sending strong messages of non-violent communication and problem solving.
- The programme has focussed heavily on domestic violence and mostly on violence against women. Whilst the focus on domestic violence benefits children directly, the project should try to widen its interpretation of child protection to include other violations of children's protection rights other than violence against children, rape, trafficking and drugs abuse.
- Ownership over the project is the key to involve community people and local authorities. Especially village leaders, children and some local authorities are actively involved in the project and therefore take responsibility for the project. It is therefore vital to ensure village leaders are on board. Equally, inactive village leaders result in inactive FPNs.
- The heavy reliance on "echo trainings" for this project, means there is very little direct training to village level FPN members. Where the echo training can be empowering for some who enjoy taking on a leading role and who are natural educators, it has also resulted in messages and trainings not being shared on commune and village level, which has hampered the ownership and effectiveness of the project. More focus on quality versus quantity of people trained will improve quality and services offered to children.
- Child protection case management is in its early stages of development. There still appears to be reluctance among children, parents and other community members to report cases of child sexual abuse. Increased training of local FPNs and government women and children councils is needed on social work skills, case management and referrals especially for sensitive cases such as child sexual abuse, and children in conflict with the law.
- The closed groups work for families where domestic violence takes place has been hugely successful in the first project cycle and CCASVA reports that current meetings

are also having a positive impact on the decrease of domestic violence and the acceptance thereof. More could be done to expand the closed groups to focus on other child protection problems, including discrimination, violence against children and other forms of abuse.

- More needs to be done by Plan International and other NGOs, UNICEF and the Royal Government of Cambodia to connect the different community based child protection networks. Currently, the government run Women and Children councils work to commune level but they completely depend on NGOs for the village level work and referrals outside the criminal justice system.
- UNICEF has donated funds to the Royal Government of Cambodia for child focussed projects coming out of Commune Development Plans. In none of the Plan target areas, Plan nor the FPN has succeeded in releasing these funds for child protection or child focussed projects, which could hugely benefit the FPNs and their credibility.
- There is no central database of general child protection cases in Cambodia. There is a database on child trafficking and children in alternative care settings but a general database of child protection cases would improve a national monitoring and evaluation system, as child protection data collection (disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, age and other factors) can inform more effective child protection planning for appropriate child protection services, laws and policies.

II. Introduction

Plan is as an international child-centred development organization working in 48 developing countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas. Plan's vision is of a world in which all children realize their full potential in societies that respect people's rights and dignity. In recent years³ child protection has become a key programming and thematic area for Plan in which it effectively contributes to the realisation of child rights, applying its Child Centred Community Development approach. For Plan International, child protection encompasses the work and activities it undertakes to prevent and respond to all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children. Plan's child protection work incorporates work on child protection in emergencies (CPiE), child protection programming 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;
- Integrated advocacy to strengthen legal frameworks and for access to basic and specialist services.

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

This report provides an overview of community based child protection systems supported by Plan Cambodia, as a contribution to a regional comparative analysis on community based

³ particularly since 2006

child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in the Asia region⁴. The overall objective of this comparative analysis is firstly, to increase learning of various structural and functional aspects of the existing community based child protection mechanisms in Plan Asia and secondly, to provide a comprehensive report on their potential for increased impact and sustainability. The specific objectives of the regional study are:

- to provide a broad mapping of the scale and coverage of community-based child protection mechanisms 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 community based child protection mechanisms;
- to analyze identified achievements and gaps of community based child protection mechanisms in different operational contexts, including crisis/emergency, early recovery and longer-term development; and
- to provide a broad overview of lessons learned on key components and processes contributing towards effective child protection and sustainable community based mechanisms.

III. Methodology

The comparative analysis study has been carried out by a consultancy group⁵ in 3 key stages involving data collection, analysis and synthesis:

- 1) Data collection through a desk review of available information and mapping existing community based child protection mechanisms across Asia (*January – April 2012*).
- 2) Data collection and participatory analysis through field visits in 5 countries (Cambodia, East Timor, Nepal, Pakistan and Vietnam) using child/user friendly participatory tools, interviews, Focus Group Discussions and observation with all relevant stakeholders (*May – June 2012*)
- 3) Analysis and Synthesis: comparative analysis of existing models and report writing (*May – September 2012*)

For each of the country studies, eight days of field work were undertaken. Core research tools used during each of field study visits⁶ included:

- Interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with Plan staff and partners who are actively engaged in CBCPM work
- FGDs and 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 community based child protection activities either through their child groups/ councils and/or through children's representation in the CBCPMs).

⁴ Encompassing an analysis of community based child protection work in 13 out of the 14 countries where Plan works in the region: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The study did not include Myanmar where Plan's work is more recent and child protection programme work has not yet started.

⁵ ICPREC – International Child Protection Rights and Evaluation Consultants led by Claire O'Kane and Kunera Moore. Kunera Moore undertook the field study in Cambodia.

⁶ See Annex 3: Methodology used during field visits with CBCPM members, children, parents/ caregivers, government officials and other stakeholders

- 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 other agencies supporting child protection system strengthening.

The field visit schedule for Cambodia⁷ was adapted to the local context and the fact that the consultant is living in Cambodia, which gave both Plan and the consultant more flexibility in planning for the research. As such it was decided to organize separate field visits to two provinces, one early May and the other at the end of May. In between the two visits and afterwards, meetings took place in Phnom Penh between the consultant and Plan child protection and MER staff as well as with implementing partners. During both field visits, consultations and meetings took place on village, commune and district level and in Kampong Cham, also on provincial levels. On village and district levels, the consultant and Plan research team held meetings with Family Protection Network members and/or representatives, Child Club members/representatives, police and commune council for women and children representatives and teachers and interested parents. It was decided not to organize a workshop with all representatives as there was sufficient time (because of the flexibility of the consultant living in Cambodia) for more outreach meetings both at commune, with representatives from different villages, and at village level. On district and provincial level, the consultant met with the District council for women and children, consisting of representatives of the different ministries and police officials. Meetings were organized with other protection NGOs and in depth focus group discussions took place with the partner NGO both on provincial and national level. Plan staff members from child protection, MER and senior management were also interviewed. Overall 140 stakeholders (41 men, 17 women, 31 boys and 51 girls) including members of commune and village Family Protection Networks, village leaders, parents, youth, child club members, Plan staff, and government officials (local, district, provincial and central level) were actively involved in Focus Group discussions, interviews and/or participatory tools to share their views, experiences and perspectives on the community based child protection mechanisms.

The participatory research tools used with children and adults the outreach commune level consultations⁸ included:

- visual mapping of protection issues affecting girls and boys in their commune (from girls, boys, women and men's perspectives);
- time line by actors involved in the community based child protection system to identify key achievements and challenges faced over time in community based child protection work;
- venn mapping of community based child protection mechanisms and their links to other structures enabling referral and support (from girls and boys, village collaborators and local government officials/ Child Protection board members perspectives);
- circle analysis to explore patterns of inclusion/exclusion of children in the child club and FPN activities/responses
- response pathway exploring how CP risks/ concerns are identified through CBCPMs and what happens next;
- body mapping (before and after) to explore the outcomes of community based child protection on girls and boys lives;

⁷ See Annex 1: Schedule for Field Visit Schedule in Cambodia

⁸ See Annex 3

- 'H' assessments of the strengths/ achievements, weaknesses/ challenges faced in their CBCPS and their recommendations to strengthen the CBCPS.
- Drawings by children of their protection issues and/or how they are solved through CBCPS.
- Interviews with parents/ caregivers and village heads;
- Stories of Most Significant Change to share case stories that illustrate the achievements of their CBCPS.

The participatory tools were effective in enabling girls, boys, village Family Protection Network members and the local officials who were members of the Family Protection Network to reflect, analyse and share their views, experiences, insights and lessons learned on the community based child protection systems. Focus group discussions and interviews with officials at district and provincial level were also highly informative enabling better understanding of the systems approach in Cambodia in particular how the national emerging child and women protection system is being linked with community based child protection mechanisms.

Ethical guidelines⁹ have been applied throughout the study, particularly in preparing for, undertaking and following up to the field work to ensure safe, ethical and inclusive participation of girls and boys with attention to issues of: informed consent, assessment of risks, and opportunities to report on protection concerns relevant to Plan's child protection policy.

IV. Introduction to the Country Context

Cambodia is a relatively peaceful and stable country and has been undergoing a "national healing process" under the current Khmer Rouge Tribunal. Except for the contraction of its economy between 2008 and 2009, the country boasts double-digit growth in the last five years. Poverty has declined from 45% in 1994 to about 31% in 2007. The country has been making steady progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals but lags behind in the areas of child mortality, maternal health and gender equality¹⁰. The growing inequality between the rich and the poor, the widening gap between the urban and rural population, the increasing migration to the urban areas and the consistent patterns of gender inequality remain persistent challenges for Cambodian society today.¹¹ Cambodia ranks 20th in Transparency International's Global Country Corruption Index; corruption is systemic at all levels of society and government.¹² A problem which reportedly affects ten percent of the Cambodian population is forced evictions as Amnesty International reports: "Numerous UN human rights monitoring bodies, and national and international ngos, including Amnesty International, have exposed the Cambodian authorities' systematic failure to protect people from forced evictions. Forced evictions in the name of economic development now occur regularly across Cambodia, as local elites and foreign investors seek to capitalize on a newly privatized land market and take control of the country's natural resources. Government authorities often actively assist forced evictions or fail to act when laws are applied selectively or ignored altogether.¹³ In addition, the impact of floods, drought, climate change

⁹ See Annex 4: Ethical guidelines, and Annex: 5 Child/ user friendly information on the field visits.

¹⁰ GDI Ranking is 97 out of 136 countries.

¹¹ Plan International Cambodia, Country Strategic Plan 2011-15, Cambodia, page 2

¹² Voice of America, Khmer Radio Program, 12th April 2012, interview with Transparency International CD Cambodia

¹³ Amnesty International, Eviction and Resistance in Cambodia: five women tell their stories, November 2011

and decreasing level of water in the Mekong River due to development of dams have contributed to the growing inequalities.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has ratified the CRC and the two Optional Protocols to the CRC as well as the relevant ILO Conventions on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Cambodia has adopted a law on Domestic Violence in 2005, on Combating and Preventing HIV/AIDS, and ratified the UN Convention on Human Trafficking in Women and Children. Furthermore, the Government has also adopted the law on the Suppression of Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation as well as the law on Inter-Country Adoption. By contrast, a Juvenile Justice Law has already been drafted, but the Government has not yet adopted it. Additionally, there is still no minimum age of criminal responsibility.¹⁴

The child rights' situation in Cambodia differs between urban and rural areas and between the rich and the poor. 30 percent of Cambodians still live in poverty and more than 15 percent in abject poverty. The impact of poverty on Cambodian children includes dropping out of school, child labour, child trafficking, sexual and commercial exploitation of children, violence against children and lack of access to health care. Selling and exploiting children for sexual purposes and trading drugs to other countries are other persistent problems s part of the region and is a Tier 2 country on the US State Department 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report.¹⁵ Domestic violence against women and children is a serious and widespread issue in Cambodia. 22.5% of women in Cambodia have suffered from the various physical, emotional and sexual effects of domestic violence (*CDHS 2005*). Violence against children in the family home is even more prevalent: 50.5% of boys and 36.4% of girls admitted to having been beating by their parents. Moreover, 82.4% of girls and 81.1% of boys say they have seen other children beaten by their parents. Children have to follow their parents' decisions whether it benefits them or not; girls in particular are often treated as inferior and are socialised to put themselves last, thus undermining their self-esteem. Corporal punishment is seen as an acceptable part of disciplining children and women. Emotional injury and even trauma are characteristic of women and children subjected to such violence, and this extends to other family members who witness abuse.¹⁶

There are structural and systemic reasons for the reported violations of and gaps in the fulfilment of the rights of the child. On a local level, children who are affected by domestic violence are typically those that belong to populations working and out-of-school children; those living on the street with their families; children who are disabled or have one or more parents with a disability, and minority children whose cultures condone corporal punishment. Children whose parents are addicted to gambling, alcohol and/or drugs are also at a high risk of domestic violence and its related problems. On a macro level, factors contributing to widespread child rights abuses include weak enforcement of the laws, inefficiencies in the education and health systems despite increased spending, insufficient human and financial resources focusing on child protection, and a high corruption index. A combination of factors including fragmented coordination amongst civil society organizations, and the low level of overall ownership and accountability of the duty bearers, is also seen to limit the effectiveness of international development assistance focussing on children for Cambodia. The Cambodian National Council for Children, the body tasked with coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the CRC, remains under-funded and under-resourced, leaving it unable to monitor and operate at a provincial level or conduct assessments of

¹⁴ Cambodia NGO CRC Alternative Report on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Cambodia, 2009, page IX

¹⁵ <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2011/164228.htm>

¹⁶ Plan International Cambodia, CSP 2011-15, page

implementation independently from the reporting Ministries. Lastly, there is no independent mechanism, such as an ombudsperson, through which children can seek redress for breaches of their rights under the CRC.¹⁷

Furthermore, while there is a relatively high awareness on the rights of the child, a gap still exists between knowledge and practice. Traditional cultural beliefs of the role of children in families and society and the more recent introduction of “modern values” which recognize the rights of the child, have created tensions between parents and children. Parents are willing to respect children’s rights as long as the children acknowledge their responsibilities, a shared value in the Cambodian culture—but rarely emphasized in child rights programming.

V. Overview of Plan’s strategic child protection work and the scope of CBCPM work

Plan started working in Cambodia in 2002 in Siem Riep and Kampong Cham provinces in Basic education; Improving health and practice; Water and Sanitation for Children’s Health; Child Participation and Protection; Household Economic Security and Disaster Risk Reduction. This year Plan has started work in Ratanakiri province as well. It works in 353 communities where it implements programmes in different sectors, including health, education, watsan, youth programmes as well as child protection. The goal of the CSP 2011-15 is for “children and youth will realize their full potential in a country in which the Royal Government of Cambodia guarantees and the society respects and promotes the children’s rights from early childhood to youth”. The supporting country goals are firstly for children, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized ones, to enjoy their right to have access to quality ECCD programmes and services. Secondly, for all children, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized ones, to enjoy their right to have access to child-friendly schools and services and are adequately prepared for an effective transition to the adolescent stage supported by a nurturing environment and have realized their full potential to participate at different levels in matters affecting their own development. Thirdly, for all young people, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized ones, to enjoy their right to have access to youth-friendly services and are adequately prepared for an effective transition to adulthood supported by a nurturing environment and have realized their full potential to participate at different levels in matters affecting their own development.

In order to help realize these goals, Plan Cambodia will be implementing three programmes from FY 2011-2015 namely Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), Improving Primary Education (IPE) and Youth and Development (YAD). The programmes on Child Protection, Children Participation and Disaster Risk Management which previously were separate programmes will be mainstreamed into the three programmes.

Plan Cambodia started its work on child protection (falling under the Youth and Development arm of the programmes) in 2005 by mainstreaming child rights in schools under the “Learn without Fear” campaign. Additionally in 2006, Plan started working with the Cambodian NGO NGOCRC, a child rights consortium, which is working on the promotion of participation of children on all government and societal levels, from village to national parliament.

In 2007, Plan started its community based child protection programmes under its Family Protection Network (FPN) programme, which were established with the local NGO PADV (Project against Domestic Violence). This programme was implemented in 17 communes in

¹⁷ NGOCRC, Alternative Reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2009

3 districts (Dambea: 73 villages. Banteay Srey: 37 villages, Ankor Thom 26 villages) throughout Siem Riep and Kampong Cham provinces until the end of 2009. From 2010 until the autumn of 2011¹⁸, Plan did not work with the FPNs. In the autumn of 2011, Plan identified two new local partners to continue PADV's work and strengthen and expand the FPNs, following some problems with PADV. Plan has started working with Legal Aid Cambodia (LAC) and Cambodia Children Against Violence and Starvation Association (CCASVA). CCASVA has started its work in November and LAC started in May 2012. Plan needed another partner outside CCASVA because CCASVA is a new partner for Plan Cambodia and was considered too risky to depend solely on CCASVA.

The Community Based Child Protection Programme / FPN will have been established in 6 districts, 35 communes and 353 villages in Plan's targets areas by the end of 2013. There are total 4650 child protection focal persons and out of which 2150 are children. Currently, CCASVA is implementing in Srey Snam and Angkor Chum in Siem Reap province and in 2 districts in Kampong Cham, Dambea and Pohnea Kraek. Once LAC starts, it will work in 2 districts of Siem Riep, namely Angkor Thom and Banteay Srey. LAC is currently recruiting staff and will implement following the same guidelines and instructions as CCASVA currently follows.

The Family Protection Network Project is a community-based project, targeting populations in remote districts of Siem Reap and Kompong Cham provinces. The project aims to reduce the incidence of various forms of domestic violence, drug addiction, trafficking and sexual abuse by creating community based watchdogs against child abuse and sensitizing the community on the dangers of domestic violence, trafficking, drug abuse and sexual abuse. The aim is for women and children in CCASVA and LAC working areas to be aware of their right to be protected; and to know where and how to seek supports if they are facing violence. The second aim is for villagers, especially men, to understand that beating women/their wives is against the law and that they should not do this. Lastly, the programme aims to make the local authorities more responsive and better at addressing abuse cases. The overall expected outcome is a reduction of violence against women and children in the targeted communities and districts.

VI. Structural aspects of CBCPMs

The Family Protection Networks have evolved into becoming 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", as well as the related earlier laws on domestic violence, drugs and prostitutions offences. The guidelines aim to make communities safer and free from drugs, violence, including domestic violence, trafficking and prostitution and gambling.¹⁹

This network goes all the way up to the national level and consists of the following structures at different levels:

1. Commune level –Commune Council on Women and Children (CCWC)– comprising of commune chiefs, Vice-Assistant to Commune Chiefs, Commune Committee for Women and Children, Commune Police and Children representatives
2. District level – Children and Women District Council (DCWC)– comprising of District Governor, District Police, District Women Affairs, Health Care staff, Monk and Children representatives)

¹⁸ And for some communities not until June/July 2012, where LAC will be implementing

¹⁹ Safety Village Commune/Sangkat Policy Guideline, May 2010

3. Provincial level – Provincial Council for Children and Women (PCWC)– comprising of Representative of Department Against Human Trafficking & Juvenile Protection, Representative of Provincial Department of Women Affairs)
4. National level – Children and Women National Council (CWNC) –as well as Child Help Line Steering Committee, of which Plan is a member.

As per above, the government does not have a structure at the village level and as such, the Plan supported FPNs form the lowest level:

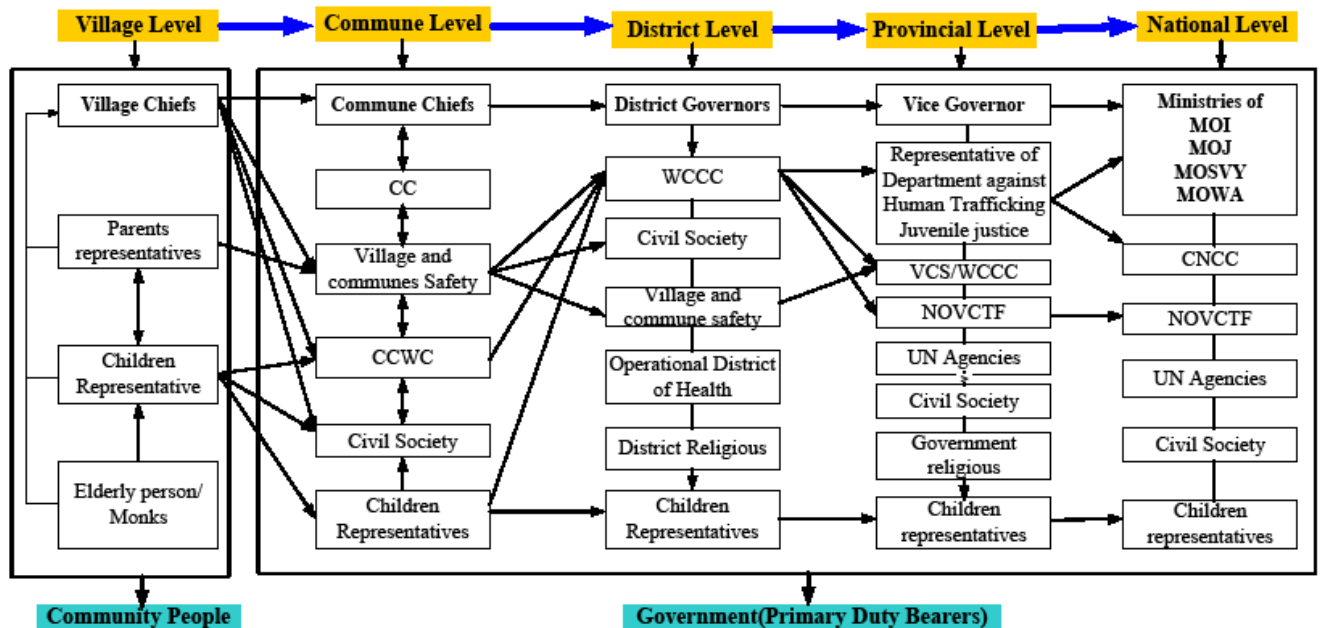
1. Village level – FPN – comprising of Village Chiefs, Parents and Children representatives, Elderly people

Cases come through the FPNs and then go up through the Government System but the government system relies heavily on NGOs for referrals as the government itself does not have many of the needed services. As such, at a district, provincial and national level, there are loose and open “working groups” of both government and NGOs/ civil society and other stakeholders concerning women and children’s issues, which Plan and CCASVA refers to as the FPNs on district/provincial level. This could be described as a parallel system but since it includes the Women and Children Council Members, it is more of an extension of the Network but then including all relevant civil partners.

The members of the village level FPN include official representatives including the village chief and village commune safety focal point (VCS – implementing the government decree to make villages safe) but also includes elected parents and youth representatives. The newly formed FPN in 2011/12 include monks, elders and teachers on a local level; this was not the case in the FPNs formed by PADV. The members usually do not include the most marginalized families as they are too busy surviving financially, which might include migration to another place in search of work or land, including recently deforested areas without any health or education services. The FPNs have approximately 7 members, who Plan also refers to as “child protection focal points”. The FPNs have 2 representatives for parents and 2 for youth. These youth are usually also members of the children’s clubs, which will be described in chapter VIII. The members of the FPN are officially endorsed by the government at commune level and as such, it is difficult to change members. FPNs to date have only changed members in case they did not participate in meetings and follow-up, moved elsewhere or in case they behaved inappropriately. The FPNs in theory meet bi-monthly but in reality this differs from place to place, depending on the village leader (mostly but also other members)’(s) interest in the network. Many of the FPNs that have not had any support since December 2009 do not meet unless there is a case. None of the FPNs keep minutes, only if they file a case with the police. The FPNs meet in the village hall, where it exists. The location of that does not always guarantee confidentiality as they are often located in between the village houses.

Below chart shows the structure of the FPNs and the Government Children and Women Councils:

Diagram of Community Based Child Protection Mechanism (Family Protection Network)



Notice:

- CCWC: Commune Chief, Vice Commune Chief, Commune Ckeak, Health Center Chief, Cluster principal school, commune women focal point, police post chief, and all village chiefs. They work focus on women and children issue.
- WCCC: Under direction of counselors chief at District and provincial level that women counselors are chief.
- OVC Task Force: In both provincial and national network work on children issue. They deal with children issue.
- CCASVA works at all level (from village to national level) which will be supported from Plan International on technical support.
- Village and commune safety VCS: News mechanism to protection social issue such as, non stolen and robberies; non drug addiction use; non prostitution; trafficking of women and children and domestic violence; non gangsters; non illegal gambling, illegal weapon used and crime committed.

VII. Functional aspects of CBCPMs

The goal of the FPNs is for Children and adults in targeted areas to realize their rights to be protected from all forms of abuse; the purpose is for Duty bearers (CC, CCWC, District WCCC, Provincial WCCC, OSVY, DoSVY, MoSVY, Office/Department/Ministry of Women Affair, Relevant Unit in Criminal Justice, and Working Group on Juvenile Justice), children and adults to have skills to make their communities to be safe for children. The expected results of the programme are:

- **Result 1:** Girls and boys in targeted communities understand their rights to protection, aware of protection structure and mechanism and utilize the gained skills to keep themselves safe from all forms of abuse.
- **Result 2:** Family Protection Networks become more effective through improving on legal knowledge, child protection skills, referral services and administrative work.
- **Result 3:** Parents/caregivers become more aware on protective behaviour in caring and protecting their own children at home and in communities.
- **Result 4:** Local authorities, Commune Councils, Commune Committee for Women and Children, District Women and Children Consultative Committee, Provincial Women and Children Consultative Committee, become more accountable and responsive for the protection of children and women.
- **Result 5: CCASVA/ LAC** key project staffs are more capacitated in Capacity building on TOT, M&E, Child Rights and Child participation, Advocacy, Team Building,

Counselling skill, Reporting Skill, Reconciling Skill, and Law and regulation regarding to children rights.

When discussing the goal of the FPN with their members or community members during the field visits, they were described as: “preventing domestic abuse, child abuse, rape, drugs and trafficking and following up on cases”, which shows that the purpose and goal of the FPNs are very clear to its members.

The FPN focuses mostly on prevention, by sharing knowledge and awareness with the community members, including children and youth, about child rights and protection issues. Plan’s implementing partner has organized evening video shows for its awareness campaigns about sexual abuse, domestic violence and drugs abuse in some of the new communities. Other awareness mechanisms include peer education through the FPN youth members and the child clubs and the awareness sessions that the parent members of the FPNs are supposedly organizing for other parents. However, no evidence of this latter activity taking place could be found during the field research in Kampong Cham and Siem Riep.

Secondly, the FPN monitors child protection issues within their communities, with close cooperation from the Child Clubs. Sometimes the FPN is involved in direct response to victims on a local level, which could include intervening in cases of domestic violence, children dropping out of school and child labour. Occasionally, the FPN makes referrals to other services, including the “closed groups” which are part of Plan’s programme. These are group sessions for violent couples, in which they learn about non violent communication techniques and about the negative consequences of violence. Other referrals are made to the police, when victims file cases, to safe houses for women and girls, to hospitals and to legal aid centres, when victims need legal assistance in court.

The FPN members all have different roles, of which the village leader is the most important. 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 should organize parents’ meetings. Youth members should do this for youth. The village commune safety focal point deals with issues related to his mandate and the teacher deals with educational matters. The elders and monks are involved in awareness raising on religious ceremonies but also help with solving disputes. On a commune level, again the commune leader is the focal person for cases and follow-up as well as coordination together with the Commune focal point for women and children. However, during the field visit to Siem Riep, many FPN members stated that the only person with a prescriptive role was the village leader to whom all the cases go as well as the commune leader and commune women and children focal person.

The priorities for child protection are children drop-out school, domestic violence, gangsters/bully, sanitation issues, gambling, child labour, illicit drugs, rape and migration. Although many FPNs talked about the risk of rape for girls, only 2 FPNs admitted to having had a rape case in their communities but more in the surrounding villages in commune. Priorities differ from village to village, depending on the economic situation and on the adults versus children’s perspectives. Whereas for children domestic abuse, school drop out, child labour, violence against children and rape is mostly mentioned, adults also include gambling, alcohol abuse and migration. All agree that poverty is one of the root causes for child protection problems.

Family Protection Network members report cases through their meetings and will then decide about the needed follow-up. Cases are identified by neighbours who then talk to the victim or report directly to the FPN. Sometimes the victims contact the FPN by themselves and in other cases, child club members find out about child protection cases and inform the FPN about them. This is often the case for school drop-out, violence against children and child labour. Children seem to be the most active “reporters”. The FPNs used to work on non protection issues between 2007 and 2010 and it is likely that they will resume this and that the newly formed FPNs will as well, once they are fully up and running and have received training to follow up on cases. Poverty, watsan and education are subjects that many FPNs are working on.

Reportedly, violence against women and children in communities where Plan established the FPNs between 2007 and 2010, had decreased by 70% although it is difficult to verify this. As such, Plan reports that domestic violence is a relatively easy subject to work on. The well established FPNs reported that domestic violence had indeed dropped, but they differentiated between “severe” violence and low level violence, which is still deemed acceptable. Parents interviewed in Siem Riep said that domestic violence is against the law now and that therefore men are less likely to resort to these mechanisms. The newer established FPNs in Kampong Cham said domestic violence was very difficult to solve as the families did not want interference from the FPN and did not care about the law. However, these FPNs also said they needed more training so that they could more effectively deal with domestic violence. Plan Cambodia in its final report about the FPNs in 2010 states that the following are reasons for the decrease in violence:

- Local authorities are now better fulfilling their obligations to protect children and women in their communities. Heads of the communes, commune counsellors and village chiefs jointly conducted community education sessions to villagers to prevent abuses against children and women. Since attending the 7 day awareness workshop, their capacity is built in finding out solutions, making referrals as well as in enforcing the law brought about by more knowledge regarding these laws.
- Local authorities gained better knowledge on legal procedures and relevant laws such as law on prevention of domestic violence and protection of victims and criminal code. They understood the difference between a civil case and criminal case; this is crucial information for them to be able to take legal actions against abusers.
- Villagers have been actively participating in the community education project. They learned causes of domestic violence and different forms of abuses.
- The FPN functions well in terms of providing assistance and referrals for the prevention and protection of those involved in domestic violence cases. Thanks to these watchdogs based in their community, they know where and how to report the abuse cases for intervention.

However, we also met with village leaders in Siem Riep, where FPNs were established five years ago who reported as follows:

Svey Check village: “before and after the PADV group was here, the violence still remained the same, it did not go up or go down; the people who commit violence are the same families and we cannot stop them. Sometimes they have emotional feeling when the husband goes to jail, then the wife pleas for her husband to come back as they cannot financially survive without the husband there. The village chief makes husbands and wives write a promise that they will not be violent against each other otherwise they have double punishment through the police post. The wife hesitates to report to village chief as she fears her husband will be taken away.”

Child from same village: “15 % of families still have violence against women mostly (husband hits his wife)

Sometimes also on children by wife and sometimes wife hits husband.

The most difficult cases to solve (and this was echoed by all FPNs during the field consultations) are the rape cases of small children, because the perpetrators are often known to the victims, who therefore fear reporting. These cases are still often settled financially, sometimes with assistance from the FPN, village chief and the police, despite the further risk this poses to the victim. The police prefer this as the victim and perpetrator will pay the police so that the case doesn't become public and the perpetrator pays off the victim. In case the victim doesn't receive the money, she will report this to the police.

Below chart derives from an exercise conducted with 16 girls and 4 boys in Rumcheck village, Siem Riep on the 2nd of May 2012, in which children identified the changes in their lives by going over all body parts and reporting the changes. This clearly shows the improvement children experience because of the FPN and child club in their communities:

Body Parts	Before FPN	After FPN
Head	Children feel discourage as their parents did not value their view as they did not understand the importance of child participation and they did not know about Child Rights	As children now we are happy that we and our parents and adults have more knowledge about Child Rights. They start value the children's view when they speed and encourage children's participation. In addition, children know more how to protect themselves.
Eye	What we saw before having FPN are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authorities did not pay much attention in solving the CP issues. Many domestic violence around 80% out of the total families in the village Many children did not go to school Many children were illiterate. 	Now, we can see <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have local authorities We have FPN Few domestic violence around 10% Children go to school Can access to the information via radio, meeting, training, etc. Having literacy classes Learn English
Ear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents did not listen to the view of children Children have to do what parents say, do not deny 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The parents start listen and value the speech of the children. They start encouraging children to share their views.
Mouth	Parents and other children inappropriate word to the children and scolding the children when they did something wrong. And children among themselves did not speak the appropriate or polite words to each other.	Now, the parents and children speak less in appropriate words to the children, and children among themselves speak more polite words.
Heart	Discrimination between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the poor, medium and rich youths/children from one village to another 	Very few or no discrimination among: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the poor, medium and rich (the poor themselves try to isolate from the other) youth/children from one village to another. They can play and visit

		freely.
Stomach	The food prioritizes to the boy or father.	Now, it is the same prioritize to boy and girl. For father, somehow, more priority.
Hands and arms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boys more chance to play while less chance for girls as they needs to do some chores More chance for boy to go to school Girls sell labor for income than boys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boys or girls have the same chances to play and help with chores. Same chances or sometime girls have more chance than boys to go to school.
Feet and legs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls less chance to go far from home Could not walk at night, especially far distance. Girls has to dress with appropriate dresses (follow tradition/custom) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls can go far from home with considering Child Abuse Can walk at night time (however, to ensure safety it requires accompany) Any dresses they wear except extremely destroy Khmer custom.

Below table was put together by children in our consultation in Psar and Kmey village in Kampong Cham, where the FPNs have only recently been established. It demonstrates the enormous achievements of the “older” FPNs when one compares the child protection risks children still face.

Child Protection Issues	Group of Victims	Does FPN address issue*	Should be priority for FPN**
Falling down from the trees	Boys and girls	☹	3
Dog bites	Boys and girls	☹	3
Threats	Boys and girls	☺	4
Forcing children to do heavy works	Boys and girls	☹	1
No birth certificate	Boys and girls	☺	1
Dropout of school	Boys and girls	☺	7
Domestic violence	Boys and girls	☹	5
Worm in children’s bodies	Boys and girls	☺	1
Suffering from polio	Boys and girls	☺	1
Child labour	Boys and girls	☹	12
Suffering from hitting by their parents	Boys and girls	☹	2

Wound on the body	Boys and girls	☹	0
Rape	Girls	☹	5
Getting cold	Boys and girls	☹	0
Drowning	Boys and girls	☹	3
Poor intelligence	Boys and girls	☹	2
Bleeding and breaking his/her arm from falling down from bicycles or motorbikes	Boys and girls	☹	2
Mother plucks his/her hair	Boys and girls	☹	1
Head gets bleeding from the hitting by his/her mother	Boys and girls	☹	2
Bleeding from fighting each other	Boys and girls	☹	2
Sad feeling	Boys and girls	☹	1
Getting blind from illness	Boys and girls	☹	1
Getting deaf from illness	Boys and girls	☹	1
Using illegal drug	Boys and girls	☺	5
Dropout of school by their parents	Boys and girls	☹	3
Disdain from their parents	Boys and girls	☹	0
Getting deceived by others	Boys and girls	☺	2
Suffering from illness (i.e. dengue fever, malaria, etc.)	Boys and girls	☹	0

* ☺: Always address the issue

☹: Sometime address the issue

☹: Never address the issue

** number of children voting for cp problem to be prioritized

VIII. Case management

The FPNs on village level serve both as watchdogs as well as first points of referral and reporting. The FPN members should be keeping a close eye on child protection issues and family violence and when they see / hear of cases, should take action. Action usually involves the FPN member first talking to the victim to establish what the situation is and what follow-up the victim would need and want. In case the victim (or family/victims) would need follow-up, the FPN member will report the case to the village leader. This does not necessarily involve the whole FPN but just the reporting FPN member and the village leader, without calling for a meeting. Then the village leader will follow up with the victim and establish or confirm what following steps need to be taken. He will then take these steps,

which can range from 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, so PADV in the past and now, CCASVA and in the future, LAC. They will then contact relevant agencies – on a provincial level -, including women’s shelters, legal NGOs such as LICADHO and ADHOC, counselling services where available through the Women Crisis Centre and medical services. In the new programme, Plan has added a socio-economic component for victims of domestic abuse, which the village leader will also be able to refer victims to. This has not happened to date.

During field research, protection pathway response analyses were conducted both with FPN members as well as with child club members to better understand the kind of protection issues the FPNs were dealing with and the typical response pathway that would follow and the extent to which the outcome was favourable for the victim. Especially in domestic violence and school drop-out cases, the outcome of the FPN intervention was seen as favourable by children, as illustrated by these two pathway response exercises conducted in Siem Riep province, Rumcheck village, with children from 3 different child clubs. When comparing the current FPN structure to deal with child protection issues to before this structure was established, there is a clear sense of improvement amongst children, parents and duty bearers.

Group 1 – Pathway Response to Domestic Violence

Question 1: Who could the child go for help? Is it easy to access for support? What happened after the report?

Child went for help from Village Chief, Community Elders, and Police. After the report, we found the members of FPN came to intervene. It is easy to access support from the member of FPN because they live in the same village and we have many members of FPN. In addition, we live close to them.

Question 2: What support did the FPN provided to the child and family?

During the intervention, the FPN educated the parent especially the father on the negative impact of domestic violence and the law against domestic violence, and asked them to stop the violence against his wife as well as on their children.

Question 3: How satisfied with the outcome be with the child and family? Why?

The child and family satisfied with the solution from the FPN as they understood the negative impact to their family especially their children. In addition, they could come back and live together without divorce and leave their child in an orphanage.

Question 4: How did they do before having the FPN with the similar issue? How satisfied with the outcome be with the child and family? Why?

Before we have FPN, we had the neighbours to help stop the violence but they could not stop and the violence would continue. As a result, the violence caused the divorce between husband and wife. Child and family especially mother weren’t satisfied with this result because there was no proper solution or support.

Interestingly, mothers and grandmothers interviewed in Rumcheck village, Siem Riep, stated that they did not know what the FPN was, but that they were aware of the law against domestic violence because the village leader had told them about this law and had also told the heads of family to stop physical and mental abuse of women and children. They also stated that the village chief would intervene in case of domestic violence, but they both added that “this does not happen anymore other than light cases”. As such, even though the mechanism in itself is not a direct point of reference for parents, they would report cases to the village chief and they all seem to report that violence against children should not be committed. FPNs in these villages have not received any direct input from Plan in the last two years, which shows that even in a slimmed down mode, the system is still responsive to the needs of the population and the community is aware of a reporting and follow-up mechanism. Plan’s ECCD and education programmes also educate community members about positive parenting, child protection and education, this has reinforced the FPN programme’s outcomes, as reported by community parents and children.

Group 2 - Pathway Response to Dropping out of School

Question 1: Who could the child go for help? Is it easy to access for support? What happened after the report?

Child went for help from members of FPN, Village Chief, Police, Commune Chief, and other relevant institutions like local NGOs, friend, teachers, and neighbours. It is easy for children to get accessed to them, however some children feel shy to get accessed to those people.

Question 2: What support did the FPN provided to the child and family?

After reported, the local authorities took intervention by meeting the parents and explained the importance of education. In addition, the members of FPN helped explain to the parents of those children,

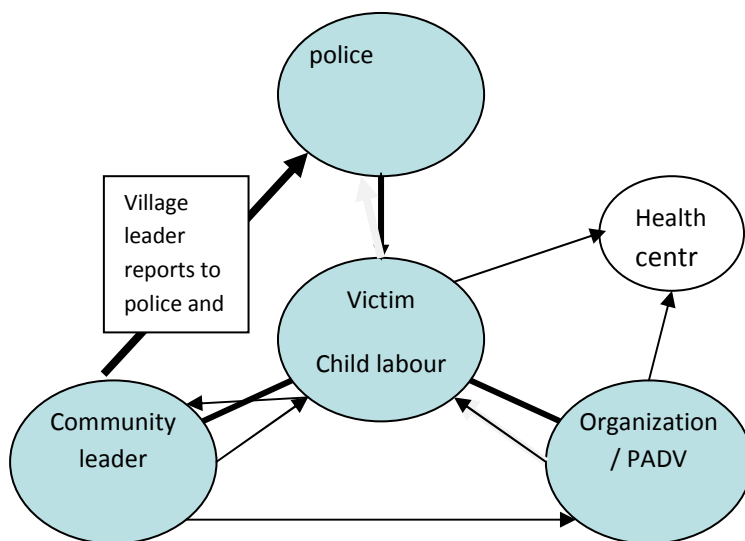
Question 3: How satisfied with the outcome be with the child and family? Why?

As a result from the intervention, the children and their parents satisfied with the intervention from the FPN and local authorities because they understood the importance of education. However, few families did not much satisfied because due to their living condition they could not allow their children to go to school.

Question 4: How did they do before having the FPN with the similar issue? How satisfied with the outcome be with the child and family? Why?

Before we have FPN, the children report the case to the neighbours, local authorities and teachers. But the result is still the same as the teacher, neighbours and local authorities always accept what they complained. In addition, it took a long time until the intervention was provided. As a result, the children did not satisfied with the supports provided.

Below figure was drawn by the FPN in Siem Riep’s Rum Chek, Banteay Srey district, showing the protection pathway response their village practises.



In the villages where FPNs were only recently established, the procedures for follow-up are not so well known yet, nor are the village leaders confident yet about their tasks in interfering in domestic violence, as expressed during consultations in Kampong Cham in May 2012. One of the clear results of the FPNs is that there is more attention for the victim and the services the victim needs compared to the situation before the FPNs were established. However, both in the new and old FPN communities, the FPNs have reportedly followed up on cases of child labour, often reported through the child club rather than through the FPN members, resulting in families sending their children back to school and allegedly even in the police investigating the employer to explain the employer about the risks of child labour. However, the absence of economic opportunities for these families continues to pose risks to the children’s education and possibly result in economic exploitation. However, the current FPN programme has an economic skills training programme for victims.

Caseload

During the first 3 years of the program between 2007 and 2010, the following cases have been reported: cases reported/ actions taken in 2011*:Number of reported cases: 701Number of cases referred: 14 – through court procedures, unclear how many have been referred to other NGOs.Number of cases “solved”:520Thanks to the village-based children protection network, children helped combating child abuse by reporting child abuse cases for action. As of December 2009, there were total 768 child abuse cases (2 trafficking cases, 17 rape cases, 6 sexual abuse and 42 corporal punishment cases) were reported and taken action by the network. 42 of the total 768 cases were reported by children.

Reported cases	type of cases	Follow up
768 in total		520 “solved” – only 14
165 of these reported by children	666 domestic violence	through court procedures, the remaining cases through
	10 violence against children	reconciliation and “closed
	18 rape cases	groups” work at
	1 human trafficking case	community/commune level.

6 sexual harassment cases	Only 4 perpetrators were jailed as a result of the FPN.
4 illicit drugs addiction cases	
42 corporal punishment cases	

In the newer programme areas in Kampong Cham, the reporting systems are not so clearly established yet nor are referral mechanisms so not so many cases have come forward to date. One victim of domestic violence was brought to hospital and was brought to court to press charges. Additionally, there was a rape case of a 6 year old girl by a 13 year old boy. CCASVA referred the girl to hospital. Lastly, CCASVA dealt with a case of a father who killed his young daughter. They set up psychosocial assistance for the mother and legal counselling during the court procedure against her husband. In Siem Riep, through the FPNs, 4 rape cases have been reported in the last six months reporting period. Follow up medical services were provided but no legal assistance.²⁰ CCASVA has requested more training and information about referral mechanisms so that their community outreach workers are more confident to take action. However, as observed during the field research in Kampong Cham, more training needs to be provided to the FPNs directly so that they will share their newly gained knowledge with their communities, which will result in the FPN and communities reporting cases and then CCASVA needs to be able to set up follow up assistance and referrals.

Across the FPNs, two common problems are apparent: firstly, confidentiality is difficult to maintain for FPNs as villages are small and people talk and as such, information about cases often gets out. As reported earlier, FPNs do not have access to a space that isn't overheard by other community members. Secondly, many FPNs, or mostly village leaders, are involved in settling rape cases by organizing for the victim to pay the perpetrator so that the perpetrator will escape justice and the victim does not get stigmatized (although rape cases are mostly widely known so this factor weighs less heavy) nor has to pay for legal (and corruption fees). It was reported that police are often involved in settling cases in exchange for money. The settlement of cases is not in the best interests of the child, as the perpetrator continues to walk freely within the same community. Plan and LAC have discussed strategies to deal with this, which will include trainings for children, FPNs, authorities at different levels in Siem Riep (starting August 2012) to change the response to rape cases.²¹ There is a high level of awareness about the weaknesses of the FPN case management at the national level of Plan. It is important for Plan to ensure this awareness results in positive changes on the ground, through the planned training activities.

IX. Children's participation and involvement in CBCPM

Children are represented in all 353 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 on topics as trafficking, rape, domestic violence, drug and school drop-out. They also occasionally participate in commune and district level meetings and some have even met at provincial, national and international fora with members of government and civil society. At the end of 2010, when the first FPN programme phased out, there were a total of 2333 child protection persons of whom 1058 are children. 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

²⁰ It is unclear from CCASVAs report whether criminal charges were pressed or whether the perpetrator was put in jail. All information deriving from CCASVAs reports to Plan – Oct-Dec 2011 integrated report for SR and KC and the 2 provincial reports for the first quarters of 2012.

²¹ See Action Plan to protect Child Rape Cases, by Legal Assistance Cambodia

by following up on cases of child labour, drop out and other child protection issues that are not as regularly reported or followed up on by the adult FPN members. Children have sat in on meetings with community and district representatives, have spoken in front of officials and have raised problems/ issues that adults would have been less likely to share.

The children's clubs in Plan target areas are primarily supported through the Cambodian local NGO NGOCRC. Additionally, the leaders of these child clubs are also focal points for the Family Protection Network and they participate in training, organized by CCASVA, on child protection, child rights, the laws around domestic violence and sexual abuse, how to prevent this and what to do when witnessing this taking place. These child club leaders are then supposedly organising "echo trainings" with the child clubs in their villages, who in their turn then make their peers aware of the same topics. The NGOCRC project from 2006-2009 and the extension in 2010 supported by Plan Cambodia focuses on advocacy for child participation. This project has systematically linked 293 children clubs at the commune level up to the provincial level. Of these 293 children clubs, 282 clubs were linked during the project period of 2006-2009 and 11 clubs were linked in 2010 without additional funds. The Child Advocate Network (CAN) was established in each of the above targeted areas and a National Child Advocate Network (CAN) was also established during 2006-2009 comprising members of the CAN from the 11 provinces/municipal. Since its creation, CAN at the local and provincial levels have played a crucial role through their ability to identify and prioritize child related issues in the community through their regular meetings and by providing suggestions and recommendations.

With Plan support, NGOCRC has established in 11 provinces, between 2006-2009, 282 children clubs, which had 6,246 child members (3,451 girls). Then, in 2010, the project established another 11 children clubs so totalling 293 child clubs, with a total of 6,669 children as members of whom 3,659 girls. About 40 to 50 percent of the child club members are girls and their ages when joining are between 12 and 18. However, the child clubs, like the FPNs, do not have a rotating membership system, so many of the child club members are already 20 and older and have moved out of the village to towns to go to university or to work. They come back for meetings but of course, do not have as significant interest in keeping the child clubs going as children living in the community aged 12 to 18. To the best of Plan and implementing Partners' knowledge and confirmed by the consultant's field visits, there are no child club members with disabilities.

Child Clubs participated and continue to participate in a range of trainings. Firstly, through their meetings with the commune, district and higher level government officials, they are exposed to professional meetings and learn how to represent themselves and children and youth in their communities. Official trainings take place mostly through the child club leaders who then in turn train the rest of the child club. NGOCRC has organised trainings in the following subjects:

- a. training children about local commune council's work, monitoring tool and English
- b. training children's representatives and Commune Councils on child rights and child participation.

CCASVA has organised trainings for children on the FPN, focussing on child and domestic violence and abuse, illegal drugs, trafficking, prostitution, rape and ways to prevent this and how to follow up when these cases happen. (Conducted 35 capacity-building trainings on domestic violence, trafficking, illicit drugs to 781 children (B: 317 G:464) and 414 parents (F: 202 M: 212)). CCASVA's work with the child clubs under the FPN complements the work of the NGOCRC.

Children benefit from the child clubs in many different ways:

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1. They have the opportunities to participate in training events
2. They are being listened to by community elders
3. They are sitting in and speaking on Commune Investment Program meetings on provincial level
4. They are being exposed to media and leading media initiatives
5. They are being actors of change on local, district and provincial level

Interestingly, children stated that they have learned to become 'brave and thoughtful' and have learned public speaking skills and how to share ideas and comments. In addition, children had learned about their peers' lives, how to share ideas and work together as a team. There is a strong sense of solidarity and mutual respect. Parents interviewed in the different communities literally rave about the child clubs, said that they oblige their children to be part of the meetings as the child clubs are seen to have a very positive impact on children; going to school, taking care of each other, being responsible citizens, not using violence, being good public speakers.

Child club members are especially proud about their success stories including bringing drop-out cases back to school, interfering in domestic violence and helping children out of child labour situations. They also feel strongly about their role as role models and educating their peers.

Challenges to the child club are mostly posed by cultural perceptions that children should only talk when being talked to, that domestic violence is normal, that children should obey and that children don't have rights but only responsibilities. However, through trainings to the communities by the FPNs and through awareness sessions by PADV and CCASVA, the perception of children as active agents for change has become more accepted in Plan's target villages. Secondly, inactive members pose a challenge to the effectiveness of the child clubs. Children identified more direct training for all children as a solution; during field interviews, child club members said they needed more direct trainings for all child club members, not only for the leaders. It was felt that currently, only the child club leaders benefit from NGO's input.

Child clubs have been very vocal and critical in what they expect of the FPN and their commune councils. Below recommendations illustrate their commitment to child protection and guts to speak up for themselves:

Children's suggestions to commune councils.

The following children's suggestions were raised to commune councillors, local authorities.

1. Commune councils should discuss poverty issue in their monthly meeting and find solutions to help poor people.
2. School directors should to take action on poor students, suggest school directors shall seek some scholarship and contribution such as school materials.
3. Commune councils shall mobilize community people to participate in its monthly meeting so that they have opportunities to raise their concerns.
4. Commune councils shall enumerate numbers of children who are working in agriculture sector and find out the solutions to help them.
5. Commune councils and commune committee on women and children (CWCC); shall educate the families who committed violence and its disadvantages.
6. Commune councils shall efficiently take action against human trafficking and rape.
7. Village chiefs should effectively take action against gambling and report to police.

X. Capacity and support systems

Given Plan Cambodia's CSPII focus on learning, quality, innovation, evidence-based and scaling-up (LQIES), Plan Cambodia places special emphasis on the development of capacities of the human resources both on general and specific skills. For general skills, this includes rights-based programming and working knowledge of Plan's programmes and strategies. Specific skills include advocacy and negotiation, partnership and networking with civil society organizations, youth media, technical skills related to programmes, resource mobilisation, grants management and strengthening our capacity on disaster response. The skills of all the frontline staff will be enhanced in terms of facilitating children and youth groups so that they can successfully roll-out the training of children and youth groups using the "Bamboo Shoots" training manual that was collaboratively developed under the leadership of the regional office.²²

There are four target groups for training within the Family Protection program:

1. The FPNs and their communities – they are trained through the CCWCs
2. Children – they are trained through child leaders on commune level
3. Local duty bearers including police and community leaders – who are trained directly
4. Teachers and health workers – where they are part of the newer FPNs. They were not members of the previous FPNs but are in some new FPNs.

The FPN programme heavily depends on "echo trainings" to be organised by the commune and district level representatives for the FPN level right below them, as follows: Plan's implementing partners organize trainings for commune chiefs and district officials. Following this training, the commune chiefs organize trainings for the village chiefs within their communes. Then the village chiefs will organize 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 also means information does not always reach all the way down, because some commune and/or village leader might not organize follow up trainings. In addition, quality control of messages becomes a problem, especially in absence of a training manual for FPNs. A manual or handbook is high on the list of the implementing partner CCASVA as well as the FPNs as they feel it would help them perform their duties more effectively. There is a great wish for professionalization on all levels. Plan's national child rights advisor is planning on creating such a handbook. Plan is currently in the process of finalizing a handbook called Child Friendly Community Manual, encompassing all programmes in their target communities, including CBCPMs, which will offer some guidance to the FPNs as well as front field staff (Plan plus partner agencies) on what to do in case of child rights' breaches and which referrals to make for non-child rights' issues.²³

Each village FPN has a "focal point", who is trained with the village leader to be a social worker and to be a point of reference for victims to turn to. However, during the field research, none of the interviewees mentioned this person during conversations about the FPNs in their villages and the case management or protection pathway response analyses. They all reported that they would report cases to the village leader or a neighbour.

A number of trainings have taken place encompassing all relevant subject matters for the FPNs.²⁴ However, it is generally felt by both the FPNs and the child clubs as well as by the implementing partners and Plan, that the number of trainings are insufficient and that

²² Plan Cambodia, CSP 2011-15, page 26-27

²³ Hard copy shared with consultant

²⁴ An overview of all trainings for the FPNs on CBCP is provided in Annex VI

expectations of FPNs are high compared to the input that they receive. The same is true for the capacity of CCASVA's community workers: they are expected to be the point of contact for the villages, to follow up on cases and to ensure procedures are properly followed in terms of case management, referrals and awareness raising. However, they feel they have not received sufficient training to carry out all of their duties. In addition, the workload of the community workers is very high. They each are responsible for 15-25 villages depending on the distance to/from and in between the villages, which they are expected to visit each month. In addition, they need to follow up on cases. Plan's child protection team is aware of the shortcomings but it is unclear whether the budget (and timeframe) allows for more trainings to be organized for front field staff. The creation of a handbook on case management and referral system would greatly help systemization and professionalization of the FPNs' work. Plan's national child rights' specialist is organizing a training in July 2012 for both implementing partners about the programme and their roles, to ensure everyone has the same understanding and implements the programme in a similar way.

The FPNs do not manage their own funds nor do they receive direct funding from Plan. In case the FPNs want to assist a victim financially to organize transport to access referral services, the FPN needs to request funds from CCASVA or LAC. The level of professionalism of FPNs depends largely on the strength and interest of the village leader. If interested, he will ensure the FPN is doing its work. If he is not interested, the FPN usually does not take responsibility or ownership of protection issues in their community. The FPNs that were established during the 2007-10 programme all said that they stopped meeting on village level since PADV phased out, because PADV stimulated them to meet up and also provided assistance to victims. Since PADV left, the FPNs did not feel empowered to respond and as such, intervened less.

The field visits demonstrated the need for the implementing partner's front field staff, and in lesser extent Plan's front field staff, to participate in more detailed and practical trainings at the onset of the programme as well as in refresher's training on an annual basis about *practical aspects of and their responsibility in* child protection, child rights and other relevant laws in Cambodia, as well as case management and referral mechanisms. More direct training for the FPNs at community level would also greatly empower the communities and their work.

The current 2011-13 project focuses on strengthening the referral network and the government's ability to contribute to an improved child protection climate. The capacity of local authorities at sub-national level is limited in relation to child protection, limiting their ability to respond appropriately to child rights' breaches. CCASVA has organized three days trainings to build district level leaders' capacity in the fields of legal procedures and relevant laws in relation to violence against women and children.

Other NGOs interviewed during the field research in Kampong Cham echoed villagers and children's request for CCASVA/Plan to organize the trainings for children and village leaders/FPNs in the evenings or in the weekends so that it would not intervene with school and other tasks. This would maximize effectiveness of trainings. Currently, some of the trainings take place during school time and during busy agricultural seasons.

Another great opportunity for the newer FPNs would be to meet with the older (but revamped/trained) FPNs so that they can learn from their experience and lessons learnt. It would be great if all FPN members rather than the village leader only, could participate in such exchanges.

XI. Linkages with civil society and Government:

The FPNs are intrinsically linked with the Cambodian government child protection system, as the Family Protection Network on a village level is seen as the extension of the government's committees on children and women on a local level. On a district, provincial and national level however, the FPN partners with civil society and many different government agencies, not only through the Government's Women and Children Councils. Because of the multiple NGOs working on children's and women's and general human rights issues on national and sub-national levels, the FPN on district and higher levels, links with a variety of service providers. This cooperation though can be extended to include more service providers, so that the FPN becomes more effective in its case management. On a national level, Plan is beginning to play a larger role in the general child protection field, partly through the Women and Children's Council but also through its work on child participation with the NGOCRC and the government.

Local level partnerships: The FPNs at village level interact with the local authorities through their village leader. They link with the Commune Councils, Commune Committee for Women and Children affairs, all government agencies. Also, all FPNs have a direct relationship with CCASVA and/or in the future LAC. The FPNs interact with the police directly when necessary. They also cooperate with schools, health clinics, the child club and with the ECCD centres. All other referrals (such as closed groups for domestic violence cases, psychosocial and legal assistance) outside the village, go through CCASVA.

District level partnerships: On a district level, the FPN interacts with the District Council for Women and Children and in addition, with police focal points for child protection and domestic violence. These are accessed through the commune leaders and through CCASVA. CCASVA coordinates its activities with other NGOs active in the district.

Provincial level partnerships: On a provincial level, the FPN interacts with the Provincial Committee for women and Children Affairs. They have become more responsive for the protection of children and women over the last years through trainings organized by other NGOs/UN agencies, including a recent training by CCASVA (through Plan). In addition, the FPN through CCASVA/LAC/Plan interacts with representatives from the Department against Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection, Representative of Provincial Department of Women Affairs. Plan is part of the provincial level coordination body of the FPN and as such, directly interacts with government partners, but always in cooperation with its implementing partners. Nongovernmental partners on provincial level include Cambodia Women Crisis Centre, LiCADHO, ADHOC, and Legal Aid for Cambodia, World Hope International and LSCW. Plan, UNICEF and Save the Children are coming together in Kampong Cham to ensure alignment and complementation of their programmes and to avoid duplication and / or conflicting policies and programmes.

Example of result of FPN programme's influence through its provincial level trainings/advocacy work
Provincial level advocacy and influencing very important to interfere in rape cases for instance. CCASVA has links with MoJ and Mol – they provided training to the different PCWC members, and then cases came up and CCASVA found out the cases had been closed on local level, but through influencing on provincial level, cases were followed up. So since the training, the PCWC members have agreed to become FPN members, so following up on FPN cases that have come through the system, which do not come through the DCWC or CCWC committees. So in this way, CCASVA is calling the meeting in close cooperation with Task Force under Social Welfare Department, MOSAWI

ministry, to provide to NGO and gov sector to work together, the gov focal point works on agenda but Plan (with other NGOs) works on follow up. Also, CCASVA works cases through the system. For cases, individual meetings are organized with relevant service providers. For coordinating in general, every 3 months, the meetings are held.

National level partnerships: Plan's work on the FPN has predominantly focused on the village to district level, and not so much on the national level. But this is changing and Plan's newly hired Child Rights Specialist is active in all child protection fora. It is now working closely with UNICEF, Save the Children and Child Fund Cambodia, to contribute towards strengthening national child protection coordination and policy implementation. Plan works with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs Youth and Rehabilitation and Ministry of Women Affairs on the national level of the FPN/Women and Children's Council.

Plan has been working with the Ministry of Justice to enforce the Proclamation on Safety Village and Commune on prohibiting and eliminating illegal and criminal acts, including producing and distributing illicit drugs, "debauchery", women and child trafficking and domestic violence, gangster, gambling and weapon use. At national level, Plan's former partner PADV contributed to the realization and enforcement of the national law on preventing domestic violence. Through the NGOCRC, Plan supports children's groups in provinces and in their advocacy with the national government on child related policies. Save the Children is taking a lead in forming the NGO Working Group on Child Rights Advocacy (NGOWGCRA) to work on the specific child rights unit within the National Human Rights Institute.

Linkages with other FPNs: Joint training events as well as quarterly meetings between FPN chairmen / village leaders and focal points took place at the beginning and the end of the first programme period. This was greatly appreciated as it gave FPNs the opportunity to exchange experiences, best practises and lessons learnt. The new programme also organized joint a training event on district and commune levels for the village /FPN leaders. As discussed above, extending these trainings/meetings to other FPN members would enhance ownership and understanding of the FPN's mandate and roles.

Linkages with other Plan sectors: The FPNs interact with and refer to Plan's ECCD programme, which includes parenting courses on positive parenting and child rights. The NGOCRC programme with the child clubs is closely linked with the FPNs as the NGOCRC provides a variety of capacity training and representation and advocacy opportunities to the child clubs, strengthening their ability to contribute to the FPN programme. Furthermore, the FPN programme cooperates with the child friendly school programme and the mainstreaming of child rights in schools. Lastly, the FPN programme refers the most deprived and at risk families to the "empowering communities" programme for economic assistance and training opportunities.

XII. Monitoring and evaluation system and process

Plan Cambodia has a Country Planning Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Manager, as well as a Research Coordinator. They are working with all different sectors of Plan Cambodia on MER on a continuous basis as well as on research initiatives. The overall MER framework²⁵ relies on PPMs, project Technical Monitoring Checklists, PPI tools and logical frameworks to monitor Plan Cambodia's progress against goals using set indicators. In

²⁵ Approved CSP_MER Framework(2), page 2-5

addition, Plan Cambodia is planning to conduct the following pieces of research throughout the implementation of this CSP:

- Situational Analysis from the Child Rights Perspective
- Phase-in and Phase-out intervention studies
- Baseline Studies to support Program Unit Long-term Plan (PULTP)
- Annual Participatory Program Review (APPR)
- Additional MER activities
- Country Strategy Evaluation

The Family Protection Network programme has a clear log frame with semi-quantifiable indicators and methods of measurement for each activity. CCASVA reports progress against these indicators on a quarterly basis to Plan in quarterly reports. CCASVA started the programme in the different target villages by conducting a village mapping exercise with different villagers, including the children's clubs, parents' representatives, elders and the village leaders. This has resulted in detailed maps of all households, providing data on the different child protection issues and other problems per household. Some of this information has already been shared with relevant ministries and has contributed to the Ministry of Social Work's listing of Orphans and Vulnerable Children, as part of its effort to coordinate assistance to this group of children. The mapping does not provide information about who does what where, but this information could be added in a later stadium of the programme, as this could assist villages in reaching out to much needed service providers. Some of the programme indicators have not got baseline data, but do get measured through pre and post tests.

The increase in number of cases reported can be an indicator of a successful programme, as families and especially children, feel it is safe and useful to report to the FPN. However, the increase in caseload for the FPN can also be an indicator of more violence happening. So far, FPNs have all reported decreases in domestic violence. However, it is important to keep the notion in mind that now that families know domestic violence is against the law, they keep it more secret than they used to, fearing criminal charges.

FPN Programme Results and Indicators 2011-13

Result 1: Girls and boys in targeted communities understand their rights and utilize knowledge to protect themselves from all forms of abuse.

By the end of 2013, 30% of all children in the targeted communities, aged 12 to 18, have a good understanding of their rights and know how to protect themselves.

By the end of 2013, 25% of all children in the targeted communities seek the available services to protect themselves from all forms of abuses.

By the end 2013, 200 abuse cases will be reported by children

Result 2: Family Protection Networks are strengthened to be more functioning to promote the protection of children and women.

By the end of 2013, 500 cases in the targeted communities will be reported and taken into account by Family Protection Network members.

By the end of 2013, 50% of members of Family Protection Network will apply their roles and

responsibilities.

By the end of 2013, 70% of Family Protection Network members will have a good understanding of DV, human trafficking, sexual abuses, counselling, drugs, legal procedures, and children's rights to protection.

By the end of 2013, 10,000 community people will have attended awareness sessions delivered by the members of the Family Protection Network and have a good understanding of children's rights.

Result 3: Parents/caregivers have improved capacity and competence to care and protect children in all circumstances.

By the end of 2013, 250 parenting groups/caregivers will have been formed and capacitated on positive discipline, communication skills, parenting skills and children's rights.

By the end of 2013, 50% of parenting groups/caregivers will have applied positive discipline in their families, promoted children's rights and have become more caring and protect children.

By the end of 2013, 180 closed group members will have a good understanding of DV, anger management, conflict resolution and gender and have utilized their knowledge to promote non-violence in the family and have improved gender roles, equity and equality.

Result 4: Local authorities, CC, CCWC, DCCWC and PCCWC are strengthened to be more accountable for the protection of children and women.

By the end of 2013, 300 reported cases on women and children issues were assisted by Local authorities, CC, CCWC, DCWC and PCWC

Quarterly reports are submitted to Plan International on the activities conducted. CCASVA frontline staff visit each community once a month. CCASVA's managing staff also conducts regular field visits to check on progress and to do spot checks. Quarterly meetings take place between Plan and both implementing partners to discuss progress against the annual plans and to compare the budget versus actual expenditure. Plan and CCASVA discuss achievements and impact and conduct field visits to the target areas, meeting with the direct beneficiaries including local authorities, parents, youth and children to assess impact of the project and to listen to their suggestions for improvement. Children and community members are invited to join Annual Program Progress Review meetings facilitated by Plan staff at commune, district and provincial level. Besides, community members can be active agents of change by contributing to safer villages through observing child rights violations and taking follow up actions, attending and contributing to monthly and quarterly meeting with the FPN member in their communities.

In addition, Plan provincial and district level staff coordinate closely with its implementing partners, especially on trainings and other events. Plan's outreach workers visit the target communities regularly, following up on activities and projects, including the FPN project. They know Plan's target villages and its leaders very well, providing another source of information when problems arise. They are not tasked with monitoring progress of the project but do provide a direct source about the project's implementation. Children are very

active agents of change and are the most vigilant child rights monitors. This monitoring is not necessarily linked to the programme's log frame but does contribute to the overall goal of the programme.

The programme would benefit from a more systematic M&E system. Tools need to be developed for the frontline staff of both implementing partners and Plan's own staff, to assist in regular and systematic monitoring. Front field staff need tools to improve the effectiveness of their monitoring. This was repeated by all field staff and national child protection staff during consultations for this research. Developing these tools should not be difficult. A training with the staff focussing on M&E would greatly benefit effective usage of these new tools.

XIII Sustainability and scale up

The government law and policies for "village commune safety" contribute to the sustainability of the FPNs as these policies rely on local communities' focal security points and local leaders to implement this policy, which the FPN is also contributing to. The FPN provides a platform for awareness raising about this and other relevant laws and for dealing with the breaches of the law/policies including follow up and counselling. The active child clubs further provide enormous stimulus to the FPNs because it is in their interest that the FPNs carry out their duty of making communities safer for children.

Plan's current focus on improving the capacity of government partners and other referral mechanisms will contribute to a stronger nationally owned child protection network, of which the FPNs can become an official local level actor and through which they will hopefully be able to provide reliable services to victims within their communities. That is currently not the case yet and as such, the FPNs are still largely dependent on Plan's support for referrals of identified cases. On a national level, Plan's advocacy with the Ministry of Social Affairs Youth and Rehabilitation, on child protection, particularly child protection in its National Strategic Plan, reinforces the message that the government has to take a leading role in protecting children, which will ultimately contribute to the FPNs' sustainability. The FPN is entirely funded through Plan's Swedish national office. The Sweden NO funded both the first project cycle from 2007-10 and the current one from 2011-13. Currently, Plan spends on average 78 USD per village FPN per year. Compared to Plan's expenditure on CBCPMs across the Asia region, this is very little. Plan's indirect spending on the FPNs through trainings and other capacity building events is also relatively low because of Plan Cambodia's reliance on "echo" trainings. It is questionable whether this "economic" approach in the long run is the most sustainable one, given that the relative low capacity of the FPNs in terms of case management, referrals and their lack of experience in budget management.

Despite the low capacity of some of the older FPNs and the absence of any kind of training or assistance of NGOs or government in the last two years, the consultant found the reporting system, be-it in a thinned down version, still very much an accepted practise for communities in cases of rape/sexual or domestic violence, although (as discussed above), in many rape cases, families still prefer settlement above pressing charges against the perpetrator. The children's clubs in these villages did complain that the FPNs in their communities had become less active, but simultaneously all stated they would report cases to the village leader, who would then in turn report to the police and, if available, NGOs for assistance. The FPN structure, even with little outside help or input, has shown that it can survive and continue to provide services to its communities. The new programme will provide refresher's training and organize awareness events in these communities, contributing to the sustainability of these services.

SCALE UP – All government officials without exception stated that the Family Protection Network should become a common feature across Cambodian villages and communes. Provincial officials (and members of the Province Council on Women and Children) further stated that the government run Commune Councils on Women and Children are most effective in areas where Plan has supported the establishment of the FPN. These officials (from the Ministries of Women Affairs; Labour, Youth and Rehabilitation and police and court officials) all requested Plan to expand to other districts within their provinces and to other provinces.

Plan is already expanding the FPN to other communities and is hoping to further expand the network to Ratanakiri province in the North-East of the country, where Plan has recently started working on water and education. The FPN in its current set-up/support framework could be replicated across the country through other agencies and in close cooperation with the government's Women and Children Councils. Because of the programme's dependency on training of trainers and "echo trainings", costs are kept to a minimum. As discussed above this does result in a simplified version of the foreseen FPNs. In order to professionalize the FPNs, more awareness, training and guidance are needed on village and commune level so that the FPNs can be more effective in reaching more children in need of different assistance.

XIV. Key achievements, challenges and lessons learned

Plan Cambodia's support to the Community Based Child Protection System since 2007 has seen results on local, commune and district levels. The alignment of the FPNs with the government's run Children and Women Councils on each level of government is in line with international human rights norms, as it contributes to a strong national child protection system. Plan's current efforts on building the capacity of relevant government ministries on district and more importantly provincial levels will further strengthen a supportive environment for the FPNs to function in. Plan's decision to continue its semi-parallel system of the FPN alongside and in close collaboration with the Women and Children Councils allows for child participation and inclusion of ordinary citizens as well as civil society organizations in their own protection, which the government system does not. This is also conform international human rights covenants and conventions. Lastly, Plan's meetings with UNICEF and Save the Children with the aim to make sure that their work on CBCP mechanisms in Kampong Cham complements rather than overlaps and that the caseload management systems are compatible, could help in standardizing community based child protection mechanisms in Cambodia, something that has not been worked on to date. This would entail standardizing trainings and referrals and follow-up on all levels of the FPN. More work needs to be done to strengthen the capacity of the FPNs on village levels through direct training and intervention and more regular follow up by Plan and its partners. Additionally, joint efforts need to be made by Plan, partners and other NGOs / civil society including UNICEF and others, to hold the government responsible for an improved child protection climate including an improved child protection system and reporting system. As reported by government officials at district and provincial level, the government highly depends on NGOs for the implementation of their own policy to keep children and women safe; this needs to be changed so that the government jointly with civil society takes responsibility for cases and follow-up.

Accomplishments:

- All interviewed community members from villages where Plan has established the FPN in the first phase of the project report to feel safer and that there is less violence in their communities since the FPNs were established.
- In the short duration of the second phase of the programme, CCASVA has trained a huge number of people and children.
- CCASVA has established very good relationships with the government officials at provincial and district level, creating support for the FPN and thus strengthening it.
- Children and families understand the types and impact of physical abuse and their rights.
- High general awareness of children's rights to be protected from physical abuse.
- High awareness of alternatives to corporal punishment among children and some parents.
- As reported by PADV in its final report to Plan Cambodia at the end of the project in December 2010, the FPN grassroots approach to countering violence has resulted in a 70% decline in reports of domestic abuse in the village, according to Svay Chek commune police chief Ith Rasmey as well as the commune's women's affairs official Chhorng Sokunthea. This steep decline is not isolated to this village but has been observed in almost all of the communities where Child Protection Networks have been established.
- Police has become more aware of domestic violence and is now there before the violence happens, because children come and warn them – "Children now come to the police to alert us when they see warning signs of violence. Before they avoided us," explained the Ith Rasmey police chief who, despite his stern demeanour, relaxes around children and listens to them carefully, as though they were his own. "Before when we arrived at the scene the victim was unconscious, now we arrive when the warning signs are there because the children report them to us," he said.
- There is cooperation with the project to mainstream child rights into the schools to create child friendly schools, which is training teachers and students alike on child rights, child participation and positive disciplining techniques. In cooperation with the MoE's Child Friendly School project and local NGO Child Rights Foundation.

**Some outcomes as presented by the FPN in Svay Check commune, Angkor Thom district
Discrimination against children, because of poverty / HIV/AIDS**

So it is mostly the child club that takes action following discrimination; they will both assist the victim and will also educate the perpetrators; this will lead to more joint activities and the children participate happily.

Child Labour

The child would be very happy with the FPN's intervention – as the FPN would make sure the child now no longer work; but now in general less child labour as family now only lets their children work less hours with cattle so they can go to school. Before the FPN, there was no solution, children would continue working. Before the FPN, children would continue working as no one was aware of child rights etc. Now that PADV is no longer working, the cases happen less as people were already made aware; but they would still report cases. Parents are the ones who make their kids work and village leader would speak to them

Violence against children

Network mostly reports to village leader; village leader comes to the offender and tries to settle the case and educate the offender to stop hurting the children. In case the parent does not listen to the village leader, the village leader will report to the police; if the police cannot solve, they will report to the commune justice sector (deputy of commune leader)

Before establishing the network, no one took action for the victims, village just believed it was ok to beat children. They also thought that no one could interfere in other families' business, including violence. Village

leader has main decision making role in this.

Plan Cambodia shared the following success stories in their final report of the first FPN program in 2010

Ms. Chhorng believes the dramatic decline (from 2007 to 2010) in domestic violence is the result of education, outreach, training on gender equality for both children and adults, as well as the involvement of committed, well-informed and properly trained police.

Seventeen-year-old Cham agreed that “domestic violence is everyone’s problem”. What the Children’s Protection Network has accomplished, he said, is that it “has made residents fully aware that there are laws against violence and that even if [violence] is confined to the home these laws will be enforced. People who break the law will go to jail”.

“We know the warning signs,” explained Pheav, 17. They include alcohol abuse, gambling, and drug use, she said.

Because wives usually keep household funds, husbands who gamble or drink too much fight with their wives if they are refused more money to continue gambling or drinking. These situations can escalate from arguments to violence, she explained. “When the argument starts we contact the village leader or the police,” she explained.

Challenges

- Child protection is still not high on the agenda of the commune councils nor on the village leaders’. The safe village/commune decree has helped to raise the awareness about specifically domestic violence and rape but overall child protection issues do not feature in commune development plans nor is available government funding easily accessed for child protection. More needs to be done to get child protection higher on the agenda on all levels of the Cambodian government system.
- On a national level, the Cambodian National Council for Children (CNCC), still lacks the necessary human, technical and financial resources to fulfill its coordinating role in relation to child rights, and there is no obligation for any government department to refer or defer to the CNCC on issues related to child rights. Additionally, CNCC structures on provincial and district levels still need to be created. Currently Plan is coordinating all its work with the Women and Children Councils on district and commune levels, however, on a national level, Plan has established relationships with the CNCC.
- Limited coordination amongst NGOs on a national and provincial level working on child protection means in duplication of efforts, confusion amongst government and local partners on expectations and methodologies. Plan Cambodia, Save the Children, Child Fund Cambodia, UNICEF and World Vision have come together to discuss this problem, and are hoping to jointly change this through combined efforts.
- Cambodia has only one district social worker per 25,000 people, and most lack resources and skills to prevent, assist and refer cases of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, significantly compromising quality of case management and support.²⁶
- High parental expectations of children’s behaviour based on traditional value and custom. Low parental understanding of behavioural problems that accompany normal child development. The Chbap Srey (didactic code) which legitimizes the perceived

²⁶ See UNICEF Cambodia’s website, accessed 24-06-2012 http://www.unicef.org/cambodia/12961_13750.html

inferior role of girls and women in the society is still taught in the State party's schools and is still widely prevalent in society.²⁷

- The notion that one should not mind other people's business is still hugely prevalent, especially in the villages where the FPNs were recently established.
- Alcohol abuse continues to be a great problem and directly related to domestic violence.
- The FPN programme focuses heavily on domestic violence, rape, sexual abuse, drugs abuse and trafficking. Other child rights' breaches including child labour, discrimination, other forms of physical and mental abuse are not dealt with in trainings so the FPNs and front line staff feel less confident in dealing with these cases.
- Weak law enforcement and high levels of corruption in all parts of government and society hamper the complete trust of people in the police and judiciary resulting in unreported cases and cases being solved through mediation at a village level, which is often not in the best interests of the child.
- Violent disciplining is still practiced; particularly within household. Unreported abuses against children within household continue but to a lesser extent because the community is more vigilant and it has become less acceptable to use violence against children.
- Lack of capacity and awareness of government at local/district level; Local authority at sub-national level has limited knowledge on child protection child rights especially in its commune development plan.
- Some FPNs told consultant that they are disappointed about the impact of their awareness raising sessions on domestic violence and that they feel that they are not welcomed by some villagers and that they are scared to intervene.
- FPNs also feel they need financial support to organize meetings and awareness sessions and that this would make them more effective and would lead to more cases being solved through the network.
- Very difficult to sometimes reach out to victim and connect with services because the district offices are far and phone lines often don't work.
- For rape / sexual abuse cases, the family and police, local authorities want to solve the case through negotiated payment. Plan is actively encouraging victims to use the official legal system to solve the problems rather than settlements and is gaining some ground but slowly.

Ethical challenges

- Alternative solution with compensation outside the court procedure is practiced at community level, particularly on rape and sexual harassment cases.
- Notion of children having to listen to parents and follow their orders, not speak up, even when being victims of violence.
- Commitment and participation of community people is limited because they put higher priority on generating incomes to support families, and less on children's activities at schools
- Limited capacity of commune councillors. Some commune councillors had high commitment to implement the project because they were sensitized throughout series capacity building trainings on children's rights, domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, gender, relevant laws and legal procedures. However, illiteracy sometimes meant that none of this information was shared with communities

²⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 44 of the Convention, Concluding observations: Cambodia, 20th June 2011, page 7

because the councillors were unable to organize education sessions for their communities.

Lessons learned:

- The close collaboration with the government run child protection system has been vital in the acceptance and cooperation from the government stakeholders and as such, in the successes of the FPNs in both Kampong Cham and Siem Riep provinces.
- The gap between the first FPN project implemented through PADV(2007-2010) and the second current FPN project (Autumn 2011-2013) implemented through CCASVA and in the future LAC, has both shown that many of the FPNs have continued to respond to certain child protection cases, but no longer form a pro-active body as they do not hold regular meetings nor do they conduct awareness sessions. It is positive to see that the skeleton of the response still exists but this gap has come at too early a stage for the FPNs that still need further capacity building to foster their independence and strength, especially in terms of case management and a wider focus to include a wider range of child protection issues outside rape and domestic violence. However, over the next 18 months, Plan Cambodia through LAC and CCASVA has an opportunity to build on these lessons learnt in the way Plan is training and guiding both the new and the older FPNs.
- Children's Clubs are a great driving force in the communities for monitoring and reporting on child protection cases. Children are proud of their clubs and feel frustrated with the sometimes inactive FPNs in their communities. The Child Clubs could play a larger role in the FPN in awareness raising and monitoring rights. However, more needs to be done to involve the most marginalized children, who are currently not participating.
- The project's aim to increase children's protection and well-being is enhanced and strengthened by the ECCD project's positive parenting groups as well as by the Learn without Fear programme, all sending strong messages of non-violent communication and problem solving.
- The programme has focussed heavily on domestic violence and mostly on violence against women. Whilst the focus on domestic violence benefits children directly, the project should try to widen its interpretation of child protection to include other violations of children's protection rights other than violence against children, rape, trafficking and drugs abuse.
- Ownership over the project is the key to involve community people and local authorities. Especially village leaders, children and some local authorities are actively involved in the project and therefore take responsibility for the project. It is therefore vital to ensure village leaders are on board. Equally, inactive village leaders result in inactive FPNs.
- The heavy reliance on "echo trainings" for this project, means there is very little direct training to village level FPN members. Where the echo training can be empowering for some who enjoy taking on a leading role and who are natural educators, it has also resulted in messages and trainings not being shared on commune and village level, which has hampered the ownership and effectiveness of the project. More focus on quality versus quantity of people trained will improve quality and services offered to children.
- Child protection case management is in its early stages of development. There still appears to be reluctance among children, parents and other community members to report cases of child sexual abuse. Increased training of local FPNs and government women and children councils is needed on social work skills, case management and

referrals especially for sensitive cases such as child sexual abuse, and children in conflict with the law.

- The closed groups work for families where domestic violence takes place has been hugely successful in the first project cycle and CCASVA reports that current meetings are also having a positive impact on the decrease of domestic violence and the acceptance thereof. More could be done to expand the closed groups to focus on other child protection problems, including discrimination, violence against children and other forms of abuse.
- More needs to be done by Plan International and other NGOs, UNICEF and the Royal Government of Cambodia to connect the different community based child protection networks. Currently, the government run Women and Children councils work to commune level but they completely depends on NGOs for the village level work and referrals outside the criminal justice system.
- UNICEF has donated funds to the Royal Government of Cambodia for child focussed projects coming out of Commune Development Plans. In none of the Plan target areas, Plan nor the FPN has succeeded in releasing these funds for child protection or child focussed projects, which could hugely benefit the FPNs and their credibility.
- There is no central database of general child protection cases in Cambodia. There is a database on child trafficking and children in alternative care settings but a general database of child protection cases would improve a national monitoring and evaluation system, as child protection data collection (disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, age and other factors) can inform more effective child protection planning for appropriate child protection services, laws and policies.

Further lessons learned as reported by CCASVA in its quarterly report to Plan Cambodia²⁸

- *The use of methods such as role-play, poster viewing and explanation techniques during the conduct of the Community Education Sessions (CES), made it easier for community people and children to understand the topics that were being discussed. FPN will continue with this good practice as well as produce more education materials that relates to issues for raising awareness on domestic violence, sexual abuse and trafficking in the next phase.*
- *It has been observed that video shows are the most powerful tool for community education because video show both entertains and educates villagers at the same time. It absorbs more and effectively communicates the intended messages to villagers. Whenever video show was conducted, lot of villagers turned out and they enjoyed and were more responsive to the guiding educational questions as compared to the same techniques in training/workshop. In the next project stage we will adjust our community education tool from workshop/training to video show on domestic violence, human trafficking, illicit drugs, rape, sexual harassment and other relevant topics.*

XIV. Conclusion

The national children and women protection system established by the Royal Government of Cambodia has provided an overall framework within which civil society, citizens and government can cooperate to improve the protection of children and women. Plan's Family Protection Networks closely collaborates with and further builds on this national system. As the national system runs from the national level down to the commune level, Plan's village level networks ensures the government protection framework reaches people down to village

²⁸ CCASVA quarterly report to Plan Cambodia on the FPN project, 2nd Quarter, Kampong Cham district

level. The government realizes its dependency on civil society to offer local protection networks and services for victims, but does not make funds available to change this. Child protection does not feature highly in national nor in commune level development plans. Advocacy and awareness is needed to change this. Simultaneously, there is a real momentum for all NGOs working on Community Based Child Protection Systems/Mechanisms to work with the government to standardize the village level / community based child protection work together with the government, ensuring integration with government services and improved standards of referral services.

The absence of a comprehensive national strategy or plan of action for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child means there is no guidance on a local level child protection network. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended the RGC to develop a comprehensive policy and strategy on children and to adopt a National Plan of Action for children or other such framework for their implementation which encompasses the various sectoral action plans and covers all areas of the Convention. The same committee applauded the fact that a Royal Decree in 2010 strengthened the Cambodian National Council for Children (CNCC), which provides that the CNCC has its own budget and will create structures at sub-national levels. However, the CNCC still lacks the necessary human, technical and financial resources to fulfill its coordinating role in relation to child rights, and that there is no obligation for any government department to refer or defer to the CNCC on issues related to child rights.²⁹

In the current situation, there are opportunities for Plan to further strengthen and expand its CBCP, including but not limited to:

- The legal and policy framework is highly supportive of FPN and provides many opportunities for the FPN to link with and further build (on). Plan could place itself in a position of advice to the national government on the expansion of the CBCPMs across the country, as Plan is supporting the highest proportion of community based child protection networks.
- The large number of NGOs with different strengths and attributes that Plan can cooperate with on both local implementation and referral levels as well as national advocacy / policy level, gives Plan the opportunity to improve services offered through the FPNs as well as to advocate for more government financial and human resources for child protection on all levels.
- The highly developed child rights action network as an active advocacy partner for change from local to national and even international level. The children's clubs in Plan target areas are connected with the CRAN and as such, have been able to share impact of FPNs in their communities on a national level.
- Plan's implementing partners bring a variety of experience, knowledge and insight, which Plan is supporting and building on in the further professionalization of the FPN.
- Strengthening cooperation with other lead agencies in child protection, including UNICEF and Save the Children, will give opportunity to scale up the FPN model in other areas, as there is great interest in Plan's FPN programme but it is not widely known.

²⁹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 44 of the Convention, Concluding observations: Cambodia, 20th June 2011, page 3

Annex 1: Schedule for Field Visit in Cambodia for the Regional Study on CBCPMs



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Introduction:

For each of the country field studies 8 days have been allocated for field work. Thus, we need to carefully plan for and make most efficient and effective use of the 8 days to learn as much as we can from Plan staff, partners, CBCPM members and from children and young people themselves about their Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms. Where-ever possible we are also keen to listen to the views of district and/or national level officials, and other agencies who collaborate with Plan to support and scale up CBCPMs and their linkages with national child protection systems.

The schedule for Cambodia has been adapted to the context, taking into consideration local travel that is needed to reach target communities, as well as the time availability for consultations with children (on non-school days). We also need to factor in time for preparations with local staff or partners to build their capacity to assist in co-facilitation and/or translation for use of the participatory tools and interviews with children, community members and other key stakeholders (who do not speak English).

Core research tools to be used during each field study visit include:

- Interviews and FGDs with Plan staff and partners who are actively engaged in CBCPM work
- FGDs and 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 community based child protection activities either through their child groups/ councils and/or through children's representation in the CBCPMs).
- Observation in the community.
- Interviews with local officials, and if possible with district and/or national officials.
- If possible interviews with other agencies supporting child protection system strengthening

Further to Plan Cambodia's preference for field visits to communes, three outreach visits were planned to communes, where the consultant held consultations with 2 to 3 village level FPNs and child clubs. In addition, 2 outreach visits were planned to villages, where the consultant held consultations with the village FPN and the village child club. Plus interviews / FGDs were undertaken with Plan staff, partners, officials and other agencies.

**Consultant Field Visit Schedules
Siem Riep**

Time	Activities	Location /Destination	Organizer	Concerned People
Day 1: 02/05/2012				
09:30-12:00	Meeting with 6-15 FPN members (youth and community) – ideally equal no of men and women	Rumcheck Villages	Sokaun Romany	
13:30 -15:30	Meeting with with 6-20 children (equal no of boys and girls), FPN members or child group members and other children, with focus on involving children from marginalized backgrounds)	Rumcheck Villages	Sokaun Romany	
15:30-16:15	Meeting with 2 parents	Rumcheck village		
Day 2 : 03/05/2012				
08:50- 11:30	Meeting with 6-15 FPN (youth and community) members	Svaycheck and Preah Ko Thmey Village Svay Check Commune, Angkor Thom District	Sokaun Sothy	
11:30-12:15	Meeting with 1-2 community leaders	Svaycheck/PreahKho Thmey		
14:00-16:00	Meeting with 6-20 FPN Children	Svaycheck and Preah Ko Thmey Village, vay Check Commune, Angkor Thom District		
Day 3:04/05/2012				
08:30 -11:30	Meeting at FPN at Commune level (FPN member from Preah Dark and Khnar Sanday) (ideally 6-15 members again, equal no men/women if possible)	Khnar Sanday Banteay Srei Commune,	Sokaun Romany	Phanna Kunera Moore
13:30 -15:30	Meeting with FPN at district level	Banteay Srei District office	Sokaun Romany	

Kampong Cham field visit

Time	Activities	Place	Responsible	Other
Date: 28 May 2012				
9.00-10.30	Meeting with Plan staff about research project; FPN project in KC	KCMPU	Consultants/ CCASVA staff/ Sophon	
11:00-12.30	meeting with partner NGO	KCMPU		
12:30-13:30	Lunch		All	

13:30-18:00	meeting with Provincial Police, Women Affairs Ministry, Ministry of Social Affairs and NGO ADHOC	authorities office-members of FPN / Women and Children's network	ALL	
Date: 29 May 2012				
9:30-11:30	Meeting and interviewing the adult FPN member at commune level. Simultaneously, child clubs consultations were held	Khsak village or Pun Leak village	Consultants/ CCASVA staff/ Sophon	
14:00-16:00	Meeting and interviewing the FPN member at commune level as well as child clubs	Khsak village	Consultants/ CCASVA staff/ Sophon	

Schedule for one day community visits:

Time:	Who meet with:	Proposed tool/ methods:	Comments:
<i>Early morning arrival of consultant and Plan / partner staff in the field location</i>			
09:00 – 12:00	CBCPM members (e.g. members of FPN)	Introductions (15 mins) Time Line (90 mins) Response pathway (30 mins) (consider before and after CBCPM) 'H' Assessment (30 mins) (if time 15 mins) Story of Most Significant Change and Challenge	- Introductions will always be ensured. However, the tools in bold are the ones we will prioritise if time is short ☺
12:00 – 13:00	Community members – parents, caregiver, religious elders etc	Introductions Response pathway (30 mins) Interview or FGD (30 minutes excluding response pathway)	- We appreciate that CBCPM members will be busy with their ongoing work etc. However, if as many members can stay for the initial 90 minutes to be part of the Time Line discussion it will be most appreciated. The other activities can be continued with less members.
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break		
14:00 – 16:30	Children's representatives (6 – 20 girls and boys aged 8 -18 years (with a special focus on involving children from marginalised backgrounds) especially those who are members of Child Groups/ councils and/or CPCs.	Icebreaker introductions (20 mins) & finger catch game Body Mapping (90 mins) - exploring what children need protecting from - existence of CBCPMs and Child Groups - pathway response before and after - changes in children before and after 'H' Assessment of CBCPM and Child Groups (30 mins) <i>IF time drawing or drama</i>	See if Plan can help provide refreshments to adults and children's participants involved in the consultations.
17:00 – 18:00	Local official(s)	(if time and possible) Interview (60-90 minutes)	

Annex 2: Stakeholders involved in CBCPM study in Cambodia, May 2012

Who?	Role and location:	Gender:		Age range (if child)	Total number :
		Male	Female		
Outreach visit to commune on May 2 nd with FGDs and participatory activities, in Rumcheck, Bante Srey district, Siem Riep	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secretary leader of the commune office; 2. Commune council member; 3. Village chief – 4. Village chief rumchek – 5. Woman (I) –member of FPN 6. Head of the police at commune level; 7. Wise village chief; 8. Head of commune council; member of FPN 9. Woman (II) Member of commune council responsible for women and children 10. Girl – leader of the commune child club and rep at FPN 11. 3 Plan staff – 2 phnom penh office, one outreach worker 	7	3	Girl aged 18-20	10
Rumcheck village, Svaycheck village, parents and village leaders interviews, 2 nd & 7 th of May	One grandmother, one mother and one village leader (all separately interviewed)	1	2		3
Outreach visit to commune Angkor Thom villages Svaycheck, Kandau and Preah Ko Thmey village, 3 rd of May	1. 3 girls – Child club reps at FPNs in their villages		3	18-21	3
	2. 3 boys – child club reps at FPNs in their villages	3		15-21	3
	3. Commune women and children focal point		1		4
	4. 2 village leaders	2			
	5. 1 wise old man	1			
4th of May 2012, village Svey Check / in Bante Srei district	Man 43 years old, FPN member	1			1
	Old man, 66 years old, FPN leader in this village and village leader	1			1
	Boy, 22 years old, studies in University parent	1			4
	Girl, 19 years old, FPN member also member of child club Woman, 33 years old, parent		1	18-21	

	member of FPN				
FGDs with district level Women and Children's Council, Bante Srey district, Siem Riep, 4 th of May	Women and children affairs officer Police officer resp for children and women – he is the deputy head of district police Deputy district governor (m) Desputy district governor (f) District council for women and children	2	3		5
Children's club, 2 nd of May, Rumcheck Commune (3 villages),	16 girls and 4 boys Age range: 11 girls between 15 and 20 and 5 girls between 11 and 14 Boys all but one in school. Aged between 17 and 21	4	16	11 girls between 15 and 20; 5 girls between 11-14. Boys aged between 17-21	20
Children's club, 3 rd of May, Svaycheck village, Angkor Thom	Girls aged 15 and 17 (2) Boys aged 15 (2) CC leaders at commune level and at village level; also 1 FPN member	4	2	15-17	6
FPN Kampong Cham, 29 th May, Putleak village	Hu chie village chief The Bun – monk committee Che Tong – parent representative Community village people Parent representative (female) Neu Teth – adult representative Monk from Pagoda Parent representative (female) Two more women come in – parent rep; parent representative	6	4		10
FPN Kampong Cham, 29 th April, Ksak and Khmer villages, commune level	Police officer from district FPN member, police person from village Ksak, also FPN member FPN village chief from Ksak village, parent rep (x 4 for Ksak village) Khmey village FPN member, 2 youth members from Khmey village CWCC rep from Propei commune level and also CWCC rep from TjongTje Dambar district, commune level.	10	3	15-20	13

	Plus 1st deputy of commune Popal commune, FPN member too				
Child club Kampong Cham, Pun Leak, Char Thmey and Trapang Srange village 29 th of May	15 girls, 9 boys; all members of the child clubs	9	15	11-18	24
Khsak village, incl children from Thmey village. Kampong Cham, 29 th of May	9 boys and 13 girls. Children also came from Thmey village. Some child club members, some not.	9	13	11-18	22
NGO Adhoc, 28 th of May, Kampong Cham	Head of Kampong Cham province	1			1
Implementing partner CCASVA, Phnom Penh 22 nd May, 28 th May Kampong Cham	Deputy director of CCASVA and Provincial director	2			2
Government officials provincial level, Kampong Cham, 29 th of April	Head of police women and children section Head of police anti trafficking unit Communication advisor Ministry for women's affairs Department Head vulnerable children, Ministry of Labour, youth etc.	3	1		4
Interviews with Plan staff, Phnom Penh, March/April/May 2012	Child Rights advisor, Child rights officer, Programme Advisor, MER manager	4			4
		72	68		140
Total					140



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Annex 3: Methodology used during field visits

Community consultation with CBCPM members FGDs with CBCPMS using a) Time Line incorporating Response Pathway Analysis and (if time) b) 'H' Assessment

Note: *It is hoped that at least 6 – 15 members of CBCPM (ideally equal numbers of women and men) will have interest and time to be part of the consultation about their community based child protection work. Where-ever possible it will be appreciated if diverse members can be involved – women, men, local officials, teachers, religious leaders, community leaders / elders, marginalized people, children’s representatives etc. The consultation will take just over two hours (or up to 3 hours if they have time). It is crucial that their participation is informed and voluntary, that they have a choice to participate. Arrangements should be made for the discussions to take place in a quiet place with minimum disturbance. Their views will remain confidential and anonymous³⁰.*

Draft Schedule (2 1/4 – 3 hours)

15 mins	Introductions
100 – 120 mins	Time Line <i>incorporating Response pathway</i> questions considering responses before and after CBCPMS
30 - 45 mins	<i>If time 'H' assessment of CBCPMS and/or Stories of Most Significant Change and Challenge</i>

Materials needed: Flipchart paper, tape, non permanent markers, post it notes (two colours), 3 colour stickers.

Introduction: We appreciate the time given by your Community Based Child Protection group members today. Plan Asia is conducting a comparative analysis of the community based child protection mechanisms that their offices support across the Asia region. We are here to learn more about your CBCPGs (adapt name according to context) and any links that you have with other groups or committees, authorities, CBOs, local leadership). In today's

³⁰ Unless any significant child protection concerns are raised that require follow up by Plan's Country Office to ensure action in their best interests.

discussion we will use a timeline activity and group discussions to explore the history of your Child Protection Group, its purpose, the kinds of activities you are doing, the training you have had, how protection concerns are responded to in your community, key successes in protecting children and key constraints faced over time. If we have time, we also have an 'H' assessment for you to explore the overall strengths, weaknesses and suggestions to improve CBCPMs.

In addition we plan to facilitate discussions and activities with representatives of children and young people to better understand what changes the CBCPM is making to the lives of children in your community.

The findings of the learning in different countries will be used by Plan to improve efforts to strengthen communities' efforts to protect children.

All views will be respected during these discussions and will remain anonymous. We encourage each of you to be open and honest so that we may collectively identify the strengths of your Child Protection Group, as well as the weaknesses and challenges, in order to identify lessons learned for effective scale up in the future.

We would also like to ask permission to take photos. We will only use positive image photos in the report. Do you agree to photos being taken?

Introductions of people in the group discussion – name, role.

PART A) Time line Activity and Focus Group Discussion incorporating pathway analysis discussion (90 – 120 minutes)

Time line of the CBCPM is a useful tool to gain an overview of the community based child protection project. It can provide a simple illustration of the history of the work, capturing key training, different phases of work, how protection concerns are responded to in your community, successes and challenges over time

Identifying the history and main activities of CBCPMs:

- *Draw a horizontal line along the length of flipcharts (2-3 stuck together).*
- *Using time as a reference point enables the CBCPM members to identify when their CBCPM was formed and to mark this on the time line.*
- *How and when was your child protection committee/ group established? Please describe if and how it built upon on any existing committee or structure, or if it was newly established?*
- *On the time line, record key activities undertaken by the CBCPM*

Purpose, Roles and Responsibilities:

- *What is the purpose of the CBCPM? Has the purpose been clear from the beginning or has it changed over time?*
- *What are the main roles and responsibilities of your group members?*
- *How have you informed other community members – women, men, girls and boys; and/or other groups or committees in the village about the roles and responsibilities of your CBCPM?*

Membership:

- *How many members are there in your CBCPM? How were they selected?*

- Have there been any changes in membership over time?
- Are women and men from some of the poorest households members of the CBCPMs? Why?
- Are children or young people involved as members in the CBCPM? Please describe why? (or as invitees and/or observer)
- What value do the local officials and/or local religious elders have for the CBCPM? How do they collaborate and/or support the CBCPM?

Meetings:

- How often do you meet? And where?
- What proportion of members usually join the meetings?
- What are the main agenda issues discussed in these meetings? How is the agenda of the meeting decided?
- What are follow up mechanisms for decisions made?

Capacity building and support:

- *On the time line, please identify any training and/or other key support that you have received on child rights or child protection from Plan and its partners since your CBCPM was established.*
- How relevant, timely and effective was the training/ support?
- To what extent do you feel you have been able to put the training into practice? Please give some examples.
- What kind of support/supervision and monitoring has taken place since the training to guide realisation of training's goals and subjects?
- What kind of supervision and monitoring do you think would help ensure effective implementation of trainings?

Local beliefs and traditions:

- Can you share some examples of local beliefs, customs and traditional practices that are positive for the protection of children? To what extent is your CBCPM supporting these types of positive traditional practices?
- What are traditional ways of supporting vulnerable children in your community? Does CBCPM support these traditions? If so how?
- Can you share some examples of local customs and practices that are harmful to the welfare of children? To what extent is the CBCPM helping to change these practices? Please describe how?
- What are your views about disciplining children? How prevalent is beating of children in the community? Have there been any changes in behaviour or attitudes since forming the CBCPMs?

CBCPMs and awareness raising on child protection:

- Can you describe what kind of awareness-raising on child rights and/or child protection (including existing national laws) your CBCPM or your NGO partner has undertaken?
- What proportion of the community has been reached through awareness-raising?
- How effective/ ineffective do you feel the awareness-raising has been? Why?
- Which villagers (women, men, girls, boys, older or younger generation) have been most/ least influenced by the awareness-raising? Why?

CBCPMs and Children's participation:

- Can you describe any ways that girls and boys are actively involved in the CBCPM or in efforts to prevent or respond to child protection concerns in your village? *Record significant developments in children's participation on the time line.*
- What are the main benefits and/or challenges of involving children?

Protection issues, response pathway, and the difference CBCPMs make:

- What are the main protection concerns facing girls and boys of different ages and backgrounds in your community? (*place on post-its across the top of the timeline flipchart*)
 - We would like you to identify 3 of these protection issues that we can use to explore the 'response pathway' – who do children/ adults tell and what happens next? This will help us better understand how your community identifies and responds to children's protection needs, with or without the CBCPM.
 - Which are the 3 common child protection issues faced by girls and boys of different ages in your community? Lets explore each one – *one at a time on post-its on a separate flipchart*
- A. *For each of these issues lets use post its to explore what would happen step by step:*
- *CP ISSUE 1, then same questions for CP Issue 2 (and if time also explore CP Issue 3):*
 - Who could the child go to for help?
 - What would the family do?
 - What would the community do? Who would be involved? What supports would actually be provided for the child and family?
 - Who would be the key decision makers about what would happen?
 - What role would be played by people/services outside the community?
- B. *What would be the likely outcome of the responses to the problem?*
- What would likely happen to the child/perpetrator/family?
 - How satisfied with this outcome would various stakeholders (child, family, community, people outside the community) be with this outcome? Why?
- C. *What difference does CBCPM make? What other option did the child/family have?*
- What difference does the CBCPM make?
 - What would have happened to a similar case like this before the CBCPM (or in a neighbouring community where there is no CBCPM)?
 - What other options would they have for responding to their concerns? Which would they use/ not use? And why? (e.g. if not already mentioned, would they report to local authorities, to police, to a social worker)

CBCPM and case management:

- Which child protection issues does your CBCPM feel most confident responding to?
- Are there any protection issues that you feel less confident or effective in dealing with? If so, which? Please describe.
- How many child protection cases has your CBCPM been working on in the last 3 months?
- Can you describe processes or steps that you follow in case management?
- Can you describe the different roles and responsibilities of CBCPM members and/or NGO staff in terms of case management? Who takes what responsibility?

- How do you maintain confidentiality when dealing with child protection cases in your community?
- How do you take into consideration a child's own views, their gender, age, religious, ethnic, cultural or other factors to ensure a non-discriminatory approach?
- How do you ensure that decisions are made in the best interests of the child?
- What are your key achievements / successes in case management?
- What are your key challenges or constraints in case management?

CBCPM and Referrals:

- What kinds of referrals have you made in your case work?
- Which referrals have been most/ least effective and why?
- Have you mapped the processes of referrals and/or made an overview for a standardized response?

Outcomes on children:

- Which children have most benefitted from CBCPM activities? What is your estimate about how many girls and boys have benefited from CBCPM interventions? How?
- What changes are there in girls and boys lives as a result of the CBCPM? Please describe some of the most significant changes resulting from CBCPM interventions.
- Please can you describe any ways that your CBCPM has been effective in preventing or responding to children in contact with law, orphans, children affected by child trafficking, or child soldiers?
- Have there been any negative impacts on children or families as a result of CBCPM interventions? Please describe.

CBCPMs and Networking:

- How does your CBCPM network with other committees or groups within your village/district?
- How do your CBCPM work/collaborate with Govt agencies at community and district level?
- What are the benefits or challenges of networking?
- How do you think networks could be strengthened?

Sustainability and Replicability:




- How do you see your CBCPM developing or evolving in the future?
- As and when Plan and its Partners would phase out support to your CBCPM, what are your plans for the future? Is your CBCPM prepared to be sustainable beyond Plan's support?
- What, if any, support does your CBCPM need to better protect girls and boys (especially the most marginalized) in your community and to be more effective?
- What have been your main lessons learned on how to protect girls and boys in the community?
- What are your views and suggestions about replicating and scaling up CBCPMs in different parts of the country?
- What practical advice would you give to other communities who want to establish a CBCPM?

Recommendations: (if 'H' is not being used)

- What recommendations do you have for strengthening the CBCPM?
- What can be done to make it easier for children to seek or access help?
- How could the help/services that children receive be improved?

PART B: 'H' Assessment (30 minutes)

- In this part of the evaluation, a 'H' assessment on flipchart paper will be used to explore the overall strengths and successes of the CBCPM; the challenges and constraints faced by the CBCPM; and suggestions to improve the Child Protection Group and efforts to protect children from all forms of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation.
- *Children and young people's representatives, as well as other community representatives (parents/ caregivers, religious elders) may be involved in this part of the assessment to gain wider perspectives. It is possible that the 'H' Assessments can be undertaken simultaneously in different stakeholder groups within one community to see similarities, as well as differences in perspectives. Also to draw upon a wide range of stakeholders to give suggestions on how to strengthen and improve the community based child protection work.*
- *Like in the diagram a 'H' shape on large flipchart paper. At the top of the left hand column draw a happy face. At the top of the right hand column a sad face. Below the middle "H" bar draw a light-bulb to represent 'bright ideas'.*

	<p>CBCP Group/ committee (village name, district, province) <i>Add Date of assessment & the number of people involved in this H assessment</i></p>	
		

- *The 'H' assessment will be used by the CBCPM to explore and for them to record:*
 - In the top middle part of the 'H' record: 1) the location of your CBCP group/ committee (village, district, province; 2) the date you completed the 'H' Assessment; and 3) the number of people, *gender and background of people involved in this 'H' assessment (e.g. 3 women, 3 men, 2 girls and 2 boys).*

- In the left hand column (*happy face*) discuss and record the strengths and successes of your Child Protection Group
- In the right hand column (*sad face*) discuss and record the weaknesses, challenges or constraints faced by the Child Protection Group. *Remember to be open and honest in sharing weaknesses or challenges faced as it will help to inform program improvements.*
- *Under the light-bulb (middle lower part)* Please discuss and record your suggestions to improve or strengthen work by the Child Protection Group to increase child protection from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. *Think about and include what training or support is most needed to increase the confidence and skills of CBCPMs.*

THANK ALL PARTICIPANTS and INFORM THEM ABOUT NEXT STAGES OF THE COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS PROCESS.

Observation: Good observation skills are crucial throughout field work and the evaluation process. Through observation we can notice:

- Which members of CBCPMs are most/ least vocal; whether women and men are both vocal and active? To which extent?
- Body language and readiness to discuss and address child protection concerns;
- Whether children are actively involved in CBCPM discussions and/or in their own children group activities;
- Whether boys and girls have confidence to speak up during field visits;
- Which children speak more or less, for example whether proportionately more boys or girls, older or younger children are active? Whether children with disabilities are involved? Which children have most confidence?
- The degree to which parents or community members listen to children's views;
- Any protection concerns during our field visits – e.g. children involved in harmful work, children being beaten etc.

All these observation are crucial and can be triangulated with other data collected to inform the evaluation findings. The main evaluator will also keep a *diary* to record observations, ideas, thoughts and feelings. This diary will help identify and cross-check findings, and to record on gaps in information, or ideas for new areas to explore.

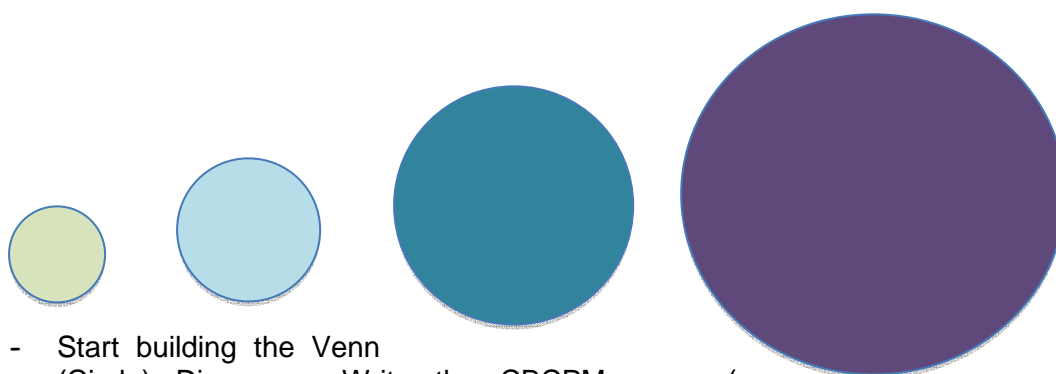
Venn diagram

The Venn diagram can be used to show a social map of how the CBCPM links with other groups and institutions within and outside of the community. It can be used to show which individuals and groups have influence on CBCPM decision making, as well as the relations between village institutions and outside forces, such as government services or development agencies.

Materials needed: if available, large flipchart paper, coloured paper to cut circle shapes in different sizes (at least four sizes), glue, scissors, tape, pens.

Key steps:

- Explain that this tool will enable the participants to identify and explore important partners/institutions (and individuals) who influence their CBCPM, and to explore social and power relations.
- Take 5- 10 minutes to discuss, identify and list stakeholders who have a positive or negative influence on the CBCPM.
- Come back in a large group and let the participants share their findings to create a list of all relevant partners/institutions or individuals (e.g. local NGO, teacher, religious leader, Women's Group, Youth Group, Local Government Official, police, local military commander, national government etc.)
- Identify the importance of each partner to the CBCPM: For each partner/institutions or individual, decide how important their influence / support is to CBCPM processes. Their current influence may be positive or negative. Place the partner's name on a large, medium, small or very small circle depending on their importance. The most important partners are each written on their own circle.



- Start building the Venn (Circle) Diagram: Write the CBCPM name (or whatever their group/ committee is called) on one of the large circles and place it in the middle of a large flipchart paper.
- Arrange partners/institutions near or far away from the CBCPM to indicate the degree of partnership between them: Discuss and place each of the circles near or far away from the CBCPM to illustrate the degree of partnership. For example if there is a lot of collaboration between the CBCPM and the Village Development Committee then place the circle with the Village Development Committee close to the CBCPM circle. If the Child Group, Youth Group and Women's Group work collaboratively on CBCPM on child protection then place all three circles close to one another. Or for example if there is no partnership between the CBCPM and the local Government

official in supporting protection then place the circle with the local Government official far away from the CBCPM.

- Discuss the Venn diagram findings: what are your main findings? Who are good allies and partners of the CBCPM for child protection initiatives?
- Discuss and record on post-its the types of support you get from each of these stakeholders and if there are any ways to strengthen such support.
- Which people or groups have power to make decisions concerning resources that may be used to support the child protection response?
- Are there any important influential partners/institutions in terms of child protection who the CBCPM has not formed a positive partnership with? If so, why? How can partnerships be built with such stakeholders to ensure effective and sustainable child protection response?

Girls and Boys: Community Based Consultations

Note: *It is hoped that at least 6 – 20 girls and boys aged 8 -18 years (with a special focus on involving children from marginalised backgrounds) will have interest and time to be part of the consultation, and that especially children who are involved in CBCPMs and/or Child Clubs/Groups in their community will be involved. The consultation will take approximately two hours (or ideally 2 and a half hours if they have time). Children will be asked to participate in activities and discussions about child protection and the role of the Community Based Child Protection Group and Child Groups in their community (village/urban area). It is crucial that their participation is informed and voluntary, that they have a choice to participate, and that their parent or caregiver has agreed to their participation in this activity. Arrangements should be made for girls and boys to discuss in a quiet place with minimum presence of other adults so that they have freedom to express their views and experiences. Furthermore, their views will remain confidential and anonymous³¹. If in local culture, girls and boys can't participate in consultations together, please arrange for separate girls and boys consultations.*

Draft Schedule (2 - 2.5 hours)

20 mins	Icebreaker introductions and Finger Catch Game
90 mins	Body Mapping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - exploring what children need protecting from - existence and activities of CBCPMs and Child Groups - pathway response before and after - changes in children before and after
15 mins	Refreshment and energizer
30 mins	<i>If time 'H' assessment of CBCPMs and Child Groups</i>
	<i>If time drawing or drama</i>

Materials needed: *Flipchart paper, tape, non permanent markers, coloured crayons, post it notes (two colours), 3 colour stickers.*

Introduction: We appreciate the time given by you today. Plan Asia is supporting us to visit different communities and different countries in Asia to learn more from children and adults about how children can be better protected. Plan wants to learn more about how communities can protect children from different forms of abuse, violence and exploitation. We are here to learn more about how child protection concerns are identified and responded to in your community. We will use a 'body mapping exercise' to better understand your views about the things you need protecting from, and to better understand what changes the Child Protection Committee/ group (*adapt word **CBCPM** to context*) is making to the lives of children in your community. The findings of the learning in different countries will be used to improve efforts to strengthen communities' efforts to protect children.

³¹ Unless any significant child protection concerns are raised that require follow up by Plan's Country Office to ensure action in their best interests.

It is your choice to participate. You are encouraged to participate IF you are interested in the discussions. All views will be respected during these discussions and will remain anonymous. Only in cases where a child may be at risk, we will inform others to ensure a sensitive response in the child's best interests. We encourage each of you to be open and honest so that we may collectively identify the protection issues most affecting girls and boys in your communities, the ways in which the Community Based Child Protection Mechanism is helping to protect children, as well as any suggestions to improve the activities. All your suggestions will help us to identify ways to improve this programme in the future.

We would also like to ask permission to take photos. We will only use positive image photos in the report. Do you agree to photos being taken?

Circle icebreaker introductions of girls and boys in the group: name, age and an action of your favourite hobby.

Finger catch game: In the circle place your right hand flat towards the person on your right. Place your left index finger on the hand of the person on your left. The caller counts to 3, on 3 you have to try to save your left finger, while also trying to catch the finger of the person on your right.

Body Mapping (90minutes)

Introductions and identifying protection issues affecting girls or boys:




- Stick 3 large flipcharts together and ask for a volunteer to lie on the charts to have their body shape drawn around.
- Explain that this 'body' represents all girls and boys in their village/ ward.
- First of all we want to consider all the things that girls and boys need protecting from in their communities, homes, schools, workplace or in wider society. Think about the finger catch game we just played to think about 'what do children need protecting from?' In small gender groups discuss with your friends what girls and boys of different ages and backgrounds need protecting from. Place each of these protection concerns on a post it.
- Ask the girls and boys groups to present their post its and to place them inside the body.
- Discuss whether each of these protection risks affect all children in the community and/or whether some children are more vulnerable or at risk to certain protection issues. *Make a note which children (girls/ boys, ages, background factors) are more vulnerable to certain protection concerns and why.*

Exploring the existence of **CBCPMs in addressing children's protection concerns and pathway responses:**

- If children face any of these protection concerns what do they do? Who do they tell? What happens next?
 - Is it easy or difficult to share your concerns? What happens if girls or boys do share their concerns? What happens next?
 - Let's identify 3 common child protection issues faced by girls and boys of different ages and backgrounds in your community to explore the '**response pathway**'? Let's explore each one – *one at a time on post-its on a separate flipchart to show who children tell, what happens next, and what is the likely outcome?*

- *Are these protection issues different for boys and girls? And do the responses differ for boys and girls?*
- Can you tell us more about the **CBCPM** in your community? When did it start? Who is in it? What do they do?
- Do children also have their own Child Clubs/Group? If so, when did it start? Who is in it? What do they do? Are out of school children, children from different caste/ethnic groups, economic backgrounds also included? Are children with disabilities also included?
- Are children able to participate in community based child protection activities? If so, who? And how?
- Are children included in any community meetings or training on child rights or child protection? If so, what?
- What happened before the **CBCPM** was here? Who did children tell when they faced a protection issue? Was the response (solution offered, if any) different to the response following the establishment of the CBCPM?

*Exploring which protection issues are addressed by **CBCPMs**:*

- If we look at the different post-its you made about the different protection concerns faced by girls and boys which protection issues do they think **CBCPMs** address most/least?
 - Place a 'green'  sticker by protection issues that **CBCPMs** often address
 - Place a 'yellow'  sticker by protection issues that **CBCPMs** sometimes address
 - Place a 'red'  sticker by protection issues that **CBCPMs** rarely address
- Which protection issues would they most like **CBCPMs** to give more attention to? Why?

*OUTCOMES: Now let us use the body shape to explore the outcomes on children of the **CBCPMs**. We will draw a line down the middle of the body. The left hand side is children in their community BEFORE the formation of the **CBCPM**, and the right hand side represents children AFTER the formation of the **CBCPM**. Where-ever relevant children may also want to comment on before and after changes from their own participation in community based child protection initiatives.*

- Encourage the children to think about any changes in girls and boys in their community as a result of **CBCPM** activities. We can use the body parts to facilitate discussion and to record different changes BEFORE /AFTER in relation to:
 - the *head*: any changes in what girls and boys think about/ worry about/ feel happy about? Any changes in children's knowledge? Any changes in the way adults think about girls and boys?
 - the *eyes*: any changes in the way children see themselves/ their families/ their communities? Any changes in the way adults see girls and boys? Any changes in the way vulnerable children are seen by their peers, their families/ their communities?
 - the *ears*: any changes in what children hear? Any changes in how adults listen to girls and boys? Any changes in the way children listen to adults?
 - The *mouth*: any changes in the way children communicate or speak? Any changes in the way adults communicate or speak to children? Any changes in opportunities for children to express their views or concerns? Any changes in opportunities for children to participate in issues affecting them in their homes, schools, community or work place?

- The *heart*: any changes in the way girls and boys feel? Any changes in the way adults feel about or care for girls and boys? Any changes in the way girls or boys from different backgrounds experience discrimination in the community?
- The *stomach*: any changes in what children eat? Or families eat?
- the *hands and arms*: any changes in what activities girls and boys do? What kinds of work they do? Any changes in the way adults treat them? Any changes in the way children are beaten by adults?
- the *feet and legs where do they go*: Any changes in where children go? In what they do? In where they feel safe?
- The *clothes*: Any changes in what children wear?
- Discuss the changes achieved, and give examples. Identify whether this is a change for a only a few children (*), some children (**), or a lot of children (***). Can they share concrete examples.
- Discuss which girls and boys have most benefitted from **CBCPM** activities? Which children have least benefitted? Why?
- Have there been any negative outcomes on children or their families from **CBCPM** activities? Please describe:
- Can they describe any local beliefs, customs and traditional practices that help protect children (especially the most vulnerable)? Is the **CBCPM** supporting these practices?
- Can they describe any local customs and practices that are harmful to children? Is the **CBCPM** helping to change these practices?
- What are children's suggestions/ recommendations to improve **CBCPMs** so that they are more effective in preventing and responding to abuse, violence and exploitation. *Can divide back into the girls and boys groups and give them post-its to record their recommendations.*
- *What practical tips would they give children in other villages about what they can do to increase prevention and protection of girls and boys from all forms of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation?*

Note: IF TIME and INTEREST CAN ALSO DO:

- a '**H**' **Assessment** with Children about the **CBCPM** and/or about their Child/ Youth Club/Group; and/or
- **Drawings by children** to show changes in girls/ boys lives in their community since the formation of the **CBCPMs**. Alternatively children may prefer to develop **poems, songs or dramas** about the impact of **CBCPMs** or recommendations to strengthen them. They will be encouraged to participate in the medium of their choice.

Observation: Good observation skills are crucial throughout field work. Through observation we can notice:

- Whether children are included in **CBCPM or Child Club/Group** discussions?
- Whether girls and boys have confidence to speak up during field visits;
- Which children speak more or less, for example whether proportionately more boys or girls, older or younger children are active? Whether children with disabilities are involved? Which children have most confidence?
- The degree to which parents or community members listen to children's views;
- any protection concerns during our field visits – e.g. children involved in harmful work, children being beaten etc.

Informal interviews with parents, caregivers or other community stakeholders on CBCPMs

Approximate time: 45 minutes

Introduction: We appreciate the time given by you today. We are here to learn more about how children are protected in your community. Findings from these discussions will be used by Plan International and their partner organizations to inform and strengthen improvements in child protection work. We encourage you to share your views freely, they will remain anonymous and will help us improve our efforts to care for and protect children.

Key questions:

Child protection concerns and pathway response:

- What do you feel children need to thrive and develop?
- What are the main protection concerns facing girls and boys of different ages and backgrounds in your community?
- Which group of children face most protection concerns and why?
- If a child faces such a concern (*taking an example raised by the interviewee*) – what does the child or family do? Who do they tell? What happens next? What is the usual outcome?
- *Are these protection issues different for boys and girls? And do the responses differ for boys and girls?*
- Are there any other options about who a child or family member should tell? Why are these options not usually taken?
- Who do you approach if you have a concern about your own child's or another child's protection in the community?

Community perception of CBCPM:

- Can you tell us about the CBCPM in your community.
- When did it start? Who is in it? What do they do?
- What is the CBCPM doing to prevent or protect children from the protection concerns you raised? Please describe.
- What proportion of the community members do you think are aware of the CBCPM and what they do?
- How does the CBCPM inform and involve other community members in their activities?
- How easy or difficult is it to approach the CBCPM if you have a concern about a child in your community? Please describe.
- Can you describe any experiences that you or your neighbours have of interacting with the members of the CBCP group/ committee?
- In your view what are the most significant/useful activities undertaken by the CBCP group/ committee? Why?
- What are main strengths and weaknesses of the CBCPM?

Addressing child protection concerns before and after CBCPMs:

- Before the CBCPM existed, how were child protection concerns addressed in your community? Were there any formal and/or informal organizations/agencies?
- What difference does it make to have a CBCPM in your community? Please describe

- How do people in neighbouring communities without a CBCPM prevent or respond to child protection concerns?

Awareness-raising by CBCPM:

- Have you been part of any awareness raising (activities) organised by the CBCPM or partner organization? Please describe.
- How appropriate was the awareness-raising to your local context?
- How effective/ ineffective was the awareness raising? Can you describe any personal changes in practices or attitudes or any changes among community members as a result of the awareness raising?
- What proportion of the community do you feel have changed practices or attitudes as a result of the awareness raising? Please share examples.
- Which people haven't been reached or changed through the awareness raising? Why?

Disciplining children:

- How are children disciplined in your community?
- How prevalent is beating (or any other type of physical punishment) of children in the community? And in school?
- Have there been any changes in behaviour or attitudes to beating children since the CBCPM was formed? Please describe.
- Has any training on positive disciplining been provided at home and in school?

Local practices:

- Can you share any examples of local beliefs, customs and traditional practices that are positive for the protection of children?
- Is the CBCPM supporting these types of positive traditional practices?
- What are traditional ways of supporting vulnerable children in your community?
- Does CBCPM support these traditions?
- Can you share any examples of local customs and practices that are harmful to children?
- Is the CBCPM helping to change these practices?

Listening to children:

- What are your views about listening to children and encouraging their expression and participation (particularly in relation to protect them from any sorts of harms)?
- Are children able to participate in CBCPMs or any other community based child protection activities? If so, who? And how?
- Is there any example of representatives of children participating in CBCPMs as members/invitees/ observers? What is the value addition of children's participation in such structures (CBCPMs)?
- What are your views about the benefits or challenges of encouraging children's expression and participation?

Increasing child protection:

- Do you have any suggestions about what can be done to better protect girls and boys in your community?
- Do you have any suggestions to strengthen the role and effectiveness of the CBCPM?
- What are your views about the value of CBCPMs and whether they should be formed in other villages?

SEMI STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS and/or FGDs

With Government officials or social workers involved in CBCPMs at national and/or local (district and community) level

Introduction: We appreciate the time given to meet with us today to share your views about the CBCPMs that Plan supports. We are here to learn more about your views about how Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms are protecting girls and boys, and how they can be strengthened, made more sustainable and scaled up. Findings from these discussions will be used by Plan International and their partner organizations to inform and strengthen improvements in child protection work. We encourage you to share your views freely, they will remain anonymous and will help us improve our efforts to care for and protect children.

All views will be respected and will remain anonymous. We encourage you to be open and honest so that we may identify lessons learned and strategic approaches for effective scale up in the future.

Key Informant interview and/or FGD (60 – 90 mins)

All views will be respected and will remain anonymous. We encourage each of you to be open and honest so that we may collectively identify the strengths of the CBCPMs, well as the weaknesses and challenges, in order to effectively identify lessons learned for future developments. Introduction – name and role of each discussion partner

Contextual background:

- What do you see as the main protection concerns facing girls and boys of different ages and backgrounds?
- What – in your view – are positive steps being taken by the Government, INGOs, national NGOs, CBOs or communities to address these and what are the major issues that are insufficiently dealt with on national and local levels?

Legal and policy framework:

- Can you describe legal and policy developments which support Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms and/or their linkages with more formal child protection systems at higher levels?
- Is there a process to improve legislation and policy for child protection?

Co-ordination and Planning:

- To what extent do you think agencies involved in child protection (government, INGOs including Plan, NGOs and CBOs) are well-linked and coordinated at different levels?
- To what extent do the formal coordination mechanisms link to community based mechanisms?
- Are there any groups or key individuals within communities who could be better linked/integrated into service delivery to promote child protection?
- What makes the existing national coordination mechanisms for child protection effective/ ineffective?
- How effective is inter-ministerial coordination with other sectors (health, education, justice, social protection etc) to better support child protection? How can it be improved? Do you see a role for Plan International or other NGOs in this process?
- How is child protection planning processes linked to other national processes, such as poverty reduction strategy planning or decentralization processes?

Capacity Building:

- What training have Government officials and/or social workers received on child protection and in specific, CBCPMs? From whom?
- How effective has it been? How has the training been applied in practice?

CBCPMs and their protection response:

- What is your understanding of Community based Child Protection Mechanisms?
- Which protection issues do you think CBCPMs can confidently and effectively respond to?
- Are there any protection issues which you think CBCPMs are less confident or effective in responding to? If so why?
- What factors do you feel influence whether CBCPMs are working well/ less well?
- What are the most significant successes of CBCPMs? Please share some examples.
- Can you describe the different roles and responsibilities of local government officials and/or governments social workers/case workers/child rights officers in helping to resolve child protection cases that are identified in communities?
- Is there a referral system to follow up on protection issues in the district you work in? And if so, how effective is it?
- Are the CBCPMs linked to this referral system? And if so, does this referral system work well? What are the challenges?

Children's participation:

- What are your views concerning children's participation and the role of children in community based child protection mechanisms?
- What do you see as the main benefits or challenges of children's participation?
- What opportunities may there be for children to influence policy or practice developments in the future?

Human and financial resources:

- Do you think that your office/department has appropriate staff (number and qualifications) to carry out your Department's (*or organization in the case of UNICEF/NGO etc*) mandate on child protection at a State/ Divisional, district and community level? What are the main constraints regarding human resources in the child protection sector?
- Do you think the currently available Government budget and resources for child protection services are adequate to carry out your mandate? Please explain and provide examples.

Sustainability, scale up and replicability?

- What factors influence the sustainability of CBCPMs?
- To what extent do you feel that the CBCPMs can be replicated and scaled up across the country?
- What recommendations do you have to strengthen child protection mechanisms and systems at community, provincial/ State or national level?
- Do you have any specific recommendations in terms of: laws and policies; planning; co-ordination; services; or resources?
- Do you have any other recommendations for Plan to consider with regards to effective use of resources and strengthening of CBCPMs?

Key Informant Interviews and/or FGDs with other agencies regarding their perspectives of Plan's strategic and practical work on CBCPMs and broader strategy and plans to strengthen child protection systems.

Introduction: We appreciate the time given to meet with us today to share your views about the CBCPMs that Plan supports. We are here to learn more about your views about how Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms are protecting girls and boys, and how they can be strengthened, made more sustainable and scaled up. Findings from these discussions will be used by Plan International and their partner organizations to inform and strengthen improvements in child protection work. We encourage you to share your views freely, they will remain anonymous and will help us improve our efforts to care for and protect children.

Recognising your organization as a key child protection agency working in (insert country), this interview seeks to learn more about (insert country).

All views will be respected and will remain anonymous. We encourage you to be open and honest so that we may identify lessons learned and strategic approaches for effective scale up in the future.

Key Informant interview and/or FGD (60 – 90 mins)

Relative strengths and weaknesses of Plan's strategy on CBCPM and CP system strengthening

- What are your views on the relative strengths and weaknesses of Plan's strategy and practical work on strengthening CBCPMs and strengthening child protection systems at different levels?
- What type of collaboration do your agencies have on child protection system building and strengthening? Does your agency interact directly with the CBCPM's supported by Plan?
- Which protection concerns do you feel are currently being effectively addressed through the CBCPMs?
- Are there any protection concerns affecting girls or boys that are being less well addressed through the CBCPMs? Why?
- What do you feel is needed to strengthen the links between CBCPMs and higher level formal CP mechanisms and systems at sub-national and national levels?

Contextual background:

- What do you see as the main protection concerns facing girls and boys of different ages and backgrounds? Which groups are most at risk?
- What – in your view – are positive steps being taken to address these by the Government, by Plan, your agency or other agencies, and what are the major issues that are insufficiently dealt with on national and local levels? Why?

Legal and policy framework:

- Can you describe the (if any) legal and policy developments which support Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms and/or their linkages with more formal child protection systems at higher levels?

Co-ordination and Planning:

- To what extent do you think the agencies involved in child protection (government, UN, NGO and CBO) are well-linked and coordinated at different levels?
- To what extent does Plan pro-actively coordinate with other agencies working on child protection system strengthening? How?
- To what extent do the formal coordination mechanisms on child protection link to community based mechanisms?
- Are there any groups or key individuals within communities who could be better linked/integrated into service delivery to promote child protection?
- What makes the existing national coordination mechanisms for child protection effective/ ineffective?
- How effective is inter-ministerial coordination with other sectors (health, education, justice, social protection etc) to better support child protection? How can it be improved? Do you see any role for NGOs in improving this coordination?
- How is child protection planning processes linked to other national processes, such as poverty reduction strategy planning or decentralization processes?

Capacity Building:

- What training have Government officials and/or social workers received on child protection and in specific, CBCPMs? From whom?
- How effective has it been? How has the training been applied in practice?
- What in your view are the capacity training needs for Government staff collaborating with CBCPMs?

CBCPMs and their protection response:

- What is your understanding of Community based Child Protection Mechanisms?
- Which protection issues do you think CBCPMs can confidently and effectively respond to?
- Are there any protection issues which you think CBCPMs are less confident or effective in responding to? If so why?
- What factors do you think need to be taken into consideration by NGOs when forming effective and inclusive CBCPMs that can respond sensitively to child protection concerns in their villages?
- What are the most significant successes of CBCPMs? Please share some examples.
- What is the minimum level of awareness raising or training that needs to be provided to CBCPMs to enable them to understand their roles and responsibilities and to start to function?
- Can you describe the different roles and responsibilities of local government officials and/or governments social workers in helping to resolve child protection cases that are identified in communities?
- Is there a referral system to follow up on protection issues in the district you work in? And if so, how effective is it in terms of assistance to victim and retribution for perpetrator?
- Are the CBCPMs linked to this referral system? And if so, how effective/ ineffective are CBCPMs in making and following up on relevant referrals? What are the challenges?
- What are the main constraints faced by CBCPMs in case management?

Children's participation:

- What are your views concerning children's participation and the role of children in community based child protection mechanisms in (insert country)? What are constraints that hamper children's participation?

- What opportunities may there be for children to influence policy or practice developments in the future?
- How can quality Child Groups and partnerships between children and adults be strengthened and scaled up by Plan and other agencies?

Human and financial resources:

- Do you think that the relevant government departments have appropriate staff (number and qualifications) to carry out their mandate on child protection at a State/ sub state level? What are the main constraints regarding human resources in the child protection sector?
- Do you think the currently available Government budget and resources for child protection services are adequate to carry out their mandate? Please explain and provide examples.

Sustainability, scale up and replicability?

- What factors influence the sustainability of CBCPMs?
- How sustainable are CBCPMs supported by Plan and/or your agency? What factors influence their sustainability?
- To what extent do you feel that the CBCPMs can be replicated and scaled up across the country? What strategies could be used?
- What recommendations do you have to strengthen child protection mechanisms and systems at community, district, provincial or national level?
- Do you have any specific recommendations in terms of: laws and policies; planning; co-ordination; services; or resources?
- Do you have any other recommendations for Plan to consider with regards to effective use of resources and strengthening of CBCPMs?

Monitoring and evaluation:

- How effective is Plan International in monitoring and evaluating child protection outcomes?
- How can Plan International and other child protection agencies improve their M&E systems to demonstrate positive impact in terms of child protection as well as challenges?
- What role can Plan play in catalysing and supporting the Government and NGOs to develop and implement effective data collection, monitoring and evaluation systems on child protection issues affecting girls and boys of different ages?

Recommendations:

- Do you have any other recommendations for Plan International to increase the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact or sustainability of its efforts to strengthen community based child protection mechanisms?



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Annex 4: ETHICAL GUIDELINES

Ethical Guidelines

Ethical issues which will be considered and applied³² during the Plan study and field work on community based child protection include:

- ✓ **Principles of child rights:** The evaluation will be conducted in a manner which ensures respect for children's rights to participation, non-discrimination and action in their best interests.
- ✓ **Ensure effective communication and co-ordination** systems are in place between Plan, their partners and communities to ensure timely sharing of information about planned field visits to enable informed voluntary participation of key stakeholders (grass-root CBOs, children and young people, parents/ caregivers, community members, NGO staff, government officials etc).
- ✓ **Timing of the evaluation** – Field visit planning is needed that responds to both the constraints and the opportunities in the time available by different stakeholders (girls, boys, women and men in communities; officials etc) to meet during these field visits. Appropriate methods and efficient use of time are needed to make effective use of the field visit time slots with different stakeholders. Where-ever possible meetings with children and young people should be arranged at times that do not interfere with children's school work, especially exam periods; or with other work responsibilities. Extra efforts should be made to find time to meet with children's representatives from marginalised groups (e.g. working children, children from vulnerable households).
- ✓ **Informed consent** - participation by different stakeholders, including children must be both relevant and voluntary. All stakeholders must be given clear information about the purpose of the field visits. Participants must be aware of their rights – for example, to withdraw from the study activities at any time. It is also important to gain consent, understanding and acceptance from parents/ caregivers and the wider community. Where-ever necessary permission from children's teachers or employers may also be

³² Adapted from Save the Children Norway (2008) Ethical Guidelines for ethical, meaningful and inclusive children's participation in participation practice. Feinstein, C. and O'Kane, C.; and from Child Frontiers Ethical Considerations section in 'Research Manual: Child Protection Systems: Mapping and Analysis in West and Central Africa, August 2010'.

needed. However, it is better to avoid situations where children either miss school or loose earnings due to their participation.

- ✓ **Avoiding harm to participants** – the consultants are responsible for making sure that the study is conducted in a manner that will do no harm to children or adults. Consultants are responsible for protecting all participants from any potential emotional or physical harm that might occur as a result of their involvement in the study and to protect their rights and interests. Traditionally in many parts of Asia girls and boys are not expected to speak up or express their views in front of adults. Thus, to support children's informed, safe and meaningful participation in the study it will be important that information is shared in advance with NGOs and Community Groups to encourage space for girls and boys to meet with the consultant to share their views (with minimum other adults present). Information about the field visits should be shared with children and their parents/ caregivers to gain their informed consent.

Harm can arise from methods that cause participants to recall distressing experiences or feelings. Participants will not be asked to talk about personal experiences of violence or abuse, but rather about general protection issues affecting girls and boys in their community. The consultants will avoid asking insensitive questions or probing for information when it is clear that participants would prefer not to answer. Discussions may be stopped if they become distressing or upsetting to participants. Before the field visits begin, the consultants in consultation with Plan Asia Regional Office and/or country teams child protection personnel will agree what actions will be taken, in accordance with agency child protection procedures, should a child disclose abuse (actual or potential). Similarly, the team will agree upon a procedure to ensure that distress is immediately recognised and mitigated, and that appropriate support is found for ensuring the comfort and wellbeing of the child.

- ✓ **Child Protection Code of Conducts** will be followed to ensure that behaviour with children is always respectful and protective. As discussed above, **Plan's Child Protection Policy** applying their formal child protection procedures will be followed in cases of disclosure of significant protection concerns by girls or boys during the study.
- ✓ **Confidentiality** – as a general rule confidentiality must be maintained at all times and participants' identities must be protected. All participants should be informed as part of the introductory explanation that their answers will be kept confidential. Their answers will be summarised in the analysis, but respondents will not be identified by name. Where-ever possible interviews and group discussion will be conducted in a quiet, private setting without interruptions. All information collected will be anonymous. However, in contexts where children or adults have shared positive experiences regarding their collective experiences as a Community Protection Group the consultant should discuss with them whether they want their real community name to be include, or whether anonymity is maintained. Furthermore, as per the child protection procedures, *confidentiality must never replace the need to protect children* – appropriate action must be taken if participants disclose abuse or risks of significant harm.
- ✓ **Minimise power imbalance**, and conduct the evaluation in a **non-discriminatory and inclusive way** which particularly allows the voices of some of the most marginalised girls, boys, women and men to be heard. An ethical approach acknowledges power differences between adults and children, and among adults, and ensures respect and appreciation for the contributions of all adults, young people and children, whatever their age, ability, background etc. It requires awareness and consideration of the local and

national socio-cultural, religious and political context. While recognising traditional hierarchies in countries in Asia (based on age, gender and other factors) that make it harder for some women, men, girls or boys to speak up, extra efforts will be made to reach and listen to the views of girls and boys, out of school working children, children with disabilities, children of lower castes, children or families affected by HIV/ AIDs, as well as women and men from the poorest sectors of the community. Participatory methods are being used which encourage more stakeholders to express their views and experiences in a less threatening manner during group discussions. Furthermore, as described earlier special efforts will be made to meet separately with children and young people, including opportunities for some separate discussions in girls and boys groups. Adults (community protection group members, local leaders, parents/ caregivers) will be encouraged to understand the importance of providing space for children to express their own views.

- ✓ **Trust building, respect for different perspectives and openness in sharing:** It is beneficial that the field visit process enables different stakeholders to express themselves freely, without fear of negative repercussions if they share challenges or weaknesses in the programme. Thus, trust building and creating a safe, open atmosphere where everyone's views are respected is integral to the approach and the process. Clear introductions at the outset of each discussion will emphasises the importance of openness and honesty, so that we may identify the lessons learned for effective and sustainable scale up of the community based child protection programme. The study may also help to identify and build upon strengths, including traditional values and practices which enhance the protection and care of children in their families and communities.
- ✓ **Wider accountability** – this includes providing feedback on results and findings to children, communities, partners, and other stakeholders who participate, acknowledging their strengths and responding to and acting upon their concerns. A user friendly summary report (translated into local languages) will be important to ensure accountability to children, communities and other stakeholders.



Annex 5: Child Adult Friendly Information about Consultations on Community Based Child Protection

WHAT?

Plan International is a non-governmental organisation promoting child rights including children's right to protection from all forms of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation. In the Asia region Plan is supporting a study across the Asia to find out more about the ways communities are protecting girls and boys. Someone will be visiting your country to meet with women, men, girls and boys to listen to your views and experiences about what is being done in your community to protect children.

WHY?

- ✚ Plan would like to learn more about the different ways that adults and children can work together in communities to better protect children.
- ✚ We want to learn about the strengths, achievements, and challenges of community groups or committees that are working to improve child protection in different places – in villages and towns in different settings.
- ✚ We want to better understand the different roles and responsibilities that different people are playing – women, men, girls, boys, teachers, government officials, as well as the role of civil society organisations.
- ✚ We want to better understand how the Child Protection Committees or groups, involve children, and how they work with Child Groups or Clubs.
- ✚ We also want to better understand how the community Child Protection Groups collaborate with local officials, and government and other agencies working in your local district, province or at national level.
- We want to use all the learning to strengthen and sustain community based child protection work and national child protection work so that more children can voice their protection concerns and get protected from all forms of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation.

WHERE?

The Plan Asia study is taking place in 13 countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam). Consultants will visit five of these countries to find out even more from children and adults. These five countries include: Cambodia, Nepal, Pakistan, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. Across these four countries we hope to meet with adults and children and young people who are involved in community based child protection work in both urban and rural communities.

WHEN?

The consultants will visit each of the five countries between mid April and early June. They will visit each country for 8 days, and during their visit they hope to spend one day in your

community. We hope that some adults and children will have 2 – 3 hours to be able to meet to share your experiences and ideas.

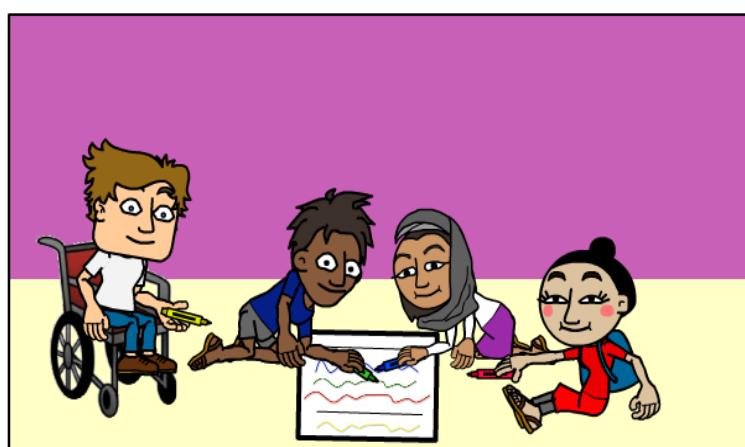
In some countries we also hope to be able to invite some women, men, girls and boys representatives to join a one day workshop on community based child protection. If children and adults are invited from your community, we hope that you will be able to identify some community members – girls, boys, women and men who are actively involved in child protection activities to attend.

WHO?

In each community the consultants are interested to meet with women, men, girls and boys of different ages and backgrounds who are involved in community based child protection work. *When meeting with children and young people all efforts will be made to make the meetings **safe, and interesting and fun to be part of.***

HOW?

The consultants hope to visit some communities to meet with groups of women, men and children who are part of community based child protection groups. They are also interested to meet separately with groups of children (especially the most vulnerable children) who are part of Child Groups or Child Clubs in their community. During our community meetings we will use some participatory activities to explore your views about what children need protecting from; how children are being protected; and the roles of adults and children in protecting children in communities.



We also hope to be able to organise a 1 day workshop in some countries so that representatives of women, men, girls and boys from a few communities can come together to share your experiences and ideas. For this workshop we will also use interesting participatory activities and group discussions to encourage everyone to express themselves.

If you have any other questions please ask one of the Plan staff who will be able to share your questions with the consultants who will be visiting your country.

Annex VI – overview of Plan’s trainings on CBCPMs

Below table shows the trainings that have been organised for the Family Protection Network in target areas as well as for the child clubs from the start of the programme in 2007 up to now:

Year of training	Name of training (main subject)	Who was included	facilitation	follow up training
2010	Planning of child related issues and integration into commune investment plan, M&E, project implementation	34 family protection network members	Provincial Facilitator Team	Plan staff assisted children to attend commune investment plan and district integration workshop as well. One off events.
2009-11	Commune investment plan, how to generate data on child related issues	communes	Project staff	Planned for every year but cancelled in 2009
2010-11	Awareness about violence against children and women and how to report it	Child and parents representatives	Project staff	35 awareness sessions to 781 children and 414 parents
2011	Provide training to local authority about child abuse related issues.	Commune councils, Village leader and focal person in each village	Project staff	Commune Councils, village leader and focal person conduct mapping in 290 villages.
2011	Provide 11 trainings to child-trainers on domestic violence, children’s rights to protection, human trafficking, sexual abuse and drugs.	169 child trainers in Kampong Cham and Siem Reap	CCASVA project staff	Project follows up every month with core children conducting echo training for other children in community.
2012	Child-trainers hold echo learning sessions with peers on domestic violence, children’s rights to protection, human trafficking, sexual abuse and drugs.	Children in community	Child-training	Child trainer and project staff monitor every month
2012	Conduct trainings on legal knowledge and procedures and child protection to Commune and	FPN member at commune and district level	-Project staff -Trainer for provincial police and	Project staff monitor their action plan every month

	District Protection members at level	Family Network at district level		POSAVY	
2012	Conduct trainings on legal knowledge and procedures and child protection to Commune and District Protection Network members at level	FPN at district and provincial level		-Plan staff -Project staff -Trainer from national level (MoJ)	Project staff follow the action point every quarter during quarterly meeting at provincial level.