

PROTECTION IN ACTION

Regional evaluation of the
effectiveness of community-based
child protection mechanisms
supported by Plan in Asia

REPORT

With an Introductory Message by Marta Santos Pais,
Preface by Michael Wessels and Foreword by Mark Pierce,
Plan Asia Regional Director

Plan Asia Regional Office
2014



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**PROTECTION IN ACTION, Report of the Regional Evaluation
of the Effectiveness of Community Based Child Protection
Mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia**
2014 Bangkok, Plan Asia Regional Office

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Kunera Moore and Claire O'Kane

Lead evaluators, International Child Protection,
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ACRONYMS

ACMI	Asia Child Marriage Initiative
AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
A.P.	Andhra Pradesh
APPR	Annual Participatory Programme Review
ASHAs	Accredited Social Health Activists
ARO	Asia Regional Office
AWWs	Anganwadi Workers
BIAAG	Because I am a Girl
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
BCPC	Block Child Protection Committee
BDO	Block Development Officers
BLOP	Better Life Options Programme
BNWLA	Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association
BPS	Badan Pusat Statistik (Central Agency on Statistics), Indonesia
CAN	Child Advocacy Network
CASP	Community Aid and Sponsorship Program
BCBP	Community-Based Child Protection
CBCPM	Community-Based Child Protection Mechanism
CBCPS	Community-Based Child Protection System
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations
CCASVA	Cambodian Children Against Starvation and Violence Association
CCCD	Child Centred Community Development
CCDRM	Child Centred Disaster Risk Management
CCDN	Community Children Development Networks
CCWB	Central Child Welfare Board
CCWC	Commune Committee for Women and Children
CD	Country Director
CDO	Chief District Officer
CDP	Commune Development Plan
CDPO	Child Development Project Officer
CFS	Child Friendly Space
CICL	Children In Conflict with Law
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CIP	Commune Investment Plan
CLSA	Child Led Social Audit
CNCP	Children in Need of Care and Protection
CNSP	Children in Need of Special of Protection
CO	Country Office
CP	Child Protection
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CPG	Child Protection Group
CPIC	Child Protection Information Centre
CPID	Child Protection in Development
CPiE	Child Protection in Emergencies
CPN	Child Protection Network
CPP	Child Protection Policy
CPU	Child Protection Unit

CPWB	Child Protection and Welfare Bureau
CRAN	Child Rights Advocacy Network
CRPO	Child Rights Promotion Officer
CRSA	Child Rights Situational Analysis
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRMIS	Child Rights Management Information System
CRO	Child Rights Officer
CRY	Child Rights and You
CSEC	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
CSNCR	Civil Society Network for Child Rights
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
CV	Community Volunteers
CWC	Child Welfare Committee
CWO	Child Welfare Officers
CZOP	Children as Zone of Peace
DC	Development Coordinator
DCCCW	District Consultative Committee on Children and Women
DCPC	Department of Children Protection and Care (also known as Children's Bureau)
DCPS	District Child Protection Society
DCPU	District Child Protection Unit
DCWB	District Child Welfare Board
DDC	District Development Committee
DEO	District Education Office
DPHO	District Public Health Office
DWC	Department of Women and Children
DNA	District Needs Assessment
DoLISA	Department of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DWCD	Department for Women and Child Development
ECCD	Early Child Care Development
ECPAT	End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes
FIR	First Information Report
FGD	Focused group discussion
FKDF	Freed Kamalari Development Forum
FPN	Family Protection Network
GND	Grama Niladhari Division
GP	Gram Panchayat
GPP	Girl Power Project
GONGO	Government sponsored Non Government Organisation
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HPT	Highlanders People's Taskforce
HR	Human resources
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Scheme
ICPREC	International child protection rights and evaluation consultants

ICPS	Integrated Child Protection Scheme
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IICRD	International Institute for Child Rights and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INGOs	International non-governmental organisation
JJB	Juvenile Justice Board
JMO	Judiciary Medical Officer
JPAI	Jaringan Peduli Anak Indonesia – Indonesia Child Care Network
KAP	Knowledge Attitude Practices
KPAD	Kelompok Perlindungan Anak Desa (Village child Protection Committee, Indonesia)
KQE	Key Quality Element
LWF	Learn Without Fear
MCPC	Municipal Council for Protection of Children
MDGs	Millennium Developmental Goals
MER	Monitoring evaluation and research
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIS	Management Information System
MNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
MoLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs
MOVE	Men Oppose Violence Everywhere
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWCSW	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
MSDHS	Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
MWCD	Ministry of Women and Child Development
NCCWD	National Commission for Child Welfare and Development
NCPA	National Child Protection Authority
NCPC	National Child Protection Centre/Committee
NCPCR	National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NIPCCD	National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development
NO	National organisation
NPA	National Plan of Action
NWCWC	National Working Committee for Women and Children
OSCC	One Stop Crisis Centre
P2TP2A	Pusat Pelayanan Terpadu Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Anak (Integrated service centre for empowerment of women and children, Indonesia)
PADV	Project Against Domestic Violence
PALS	Plan's Accountability and Learning System
PAKEM	Pembelajaran yang aktif, kreatif, dan menyenangkan (Active, Creative and Fun Learning, Indonesia)
PANI	People's Action for National Integration
PDCC	Programme for the Development of Chinese Children
PDMA	Provincial Disaster Management Authority
PDS	Public Distribution System
PKSA	Program Kesejahteraan Sosial Anak (National Child Welfare Program, Indonesia)
PKT	Pusat Krisis Terpadu (Hospital-based integrated crisis Centre, Indonesia)
PO	Probation Officer
PPT	Pusat Pelayanan Terpadu Pusat Pelayanan Terpadu (Hospital-based integrated service centre, Indonesia)
PRIs	Panchayati Raj Institutions
PTA	Parent-Teacher Association

PU	Programme Unit
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
SCPC	State Child Protection Committee
SCPCR	State Commission for Protection of Child Rights
SHG	Self Help Group
SJPU	Special Juvenile Police Unit
SMC	School Management Committee
SMSC/C	Stories of Most Significant Change and Most Significant Challenge
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPG	Social Protection Group
SRG	Self Reliant Group
SSPCAN	Shaanxi Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
TAO	Tambon Administration Organisation
TOR	Terms of Reference
TOT	Training of Trainers
UBR	Universal Birth Registration
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Child Rights Conventions
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UP	Union Parishad
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
UPU	Urban Programme Unit
VCDC	Village Child Development Committee
VCPC	Village Child Protection Committee
VCRMC	Village Child Rights Monitoring Committee
VDC	Village Development Committee
VEC	Village Education Committee
VFPN	Village Family Protection Network
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WCO	Women and Children Office
WCPU	Women and Child Protection Unit
WDO	Women Development Officer
WU	Women's Union
YU	Youth Union

INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE

PROTECTION IN ACTION: Regional Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia

Introductory message by Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children

In the year that we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), this report, Protection in Action, presents an important opportunity to reiterate our commitment to uphold and protect the rights of all children and to re-double our efforts to ensure that every girl and boy enjoys a childhood free from all forms of violence.


Protection in Action confirms that the findings and overarching recommendations made in the UN Study on Violence against Children remain as relevant today as they were in 2006.

Across the Asia region, violence remains a hidden phenomenon that blights the life of millions of children. Most child victims are not able to report incidents for fear of retribution and due to a lack of independent, child-friendly and safe reporting and response mechanisms. While legislation to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation has improved in many countries in the region, its implementation sadly still lags behind. Moreover, in some countries socio-cultural barriers to prevent violence and ensure children's effective protection need to be overcome to ensure that children can live free from fear and seek redress for when their rights have been violated.

While the phenomenon remains pervasive across the region, as it is around the world, significant efforts are underway to strengthen national systems of protection for children, including through community-based child protection mechanisms (CBCPMs). This report by Plan Asia gives a timely assessment which not only contributes to a better understanding of the hidden face of violence and its root causes in Asia, but significantly enhances the impact of efforts to prevent and respond to violence by examining what is working and what could be improved in community-based child protection work.

Indeed, the recommendations set forth in this report complement and reinforce those from the 2013 Global Survey on Violence against Children conducted in the framework of my mandate. In particular, the urgent need to:

- Develop and promote national, child-centred, integrated, multidisciplinary and time-bound strategies to address all forms of violence against children.
- Ensuring an explicit legal ban on all forms of violence against children, accompanied by detailed measures for implementation and effective enforcement.

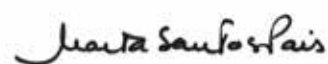
- 
- Ensuring policy initiatives and legal measures are accompanied by greater efforts to address the social acceptance of violence against children.
 - The ongoing need to ensure children's meaningful participation.
 - The urgency of ensuring the social inclusion of girls and boys who are particularly vulnerable.
 - The crucial importance of collecting appropriately disaggregated data on violence against children, and matching this recognition with adequate support.
 - The need for a stronger focus on the factors that influence levels of violence and the resilience of children, their families and communities.

Protection in Action provides a critical evidence base that shows the effectiveness of community-based child protection mechanisms (CBCPMs) in Asia, and the linkages of these mechanisms with formal child protection systems.

Among other key areas, it highlights the importance of listening to children and actively engaging with them and respecting their views in all aspects of prevention, response and monitoring of child protection interventions. It highlights the crucial importance of prioritising violence prevention efforts and addressing immediate risk factors, as well as capacity building of those who work for and with children. The report also points to the added value of working together and that efforts to strengthen CBCPMs and the child protection system in Asia have been most effective when Plan has worked collaboratively with government and civil society partners at different levels.

Protection in Action is a timely reminder of the need to use research and evidence to inform programmatic responses to children's protection from violence. I encourage all partners to conduct regular evaluations to increase knowledge on effectiveness of different child protection interventions across the region.

As Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children, I congratulate Plan Asia for undertaking this comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of community-based child protection mechanisms and remain committed to support the report's follow up and recommendations.



Marta Santos Pais,
Special Representative of the Secretary
General on Violence against Children


PREFACE

In low- and middle-income countries worldwide, children are subject to a myriad of risks, which accumulate rapidly and damage children's well-being and development. These risks include family separation, exposure to violence, sexual abuse and exploitation, trafficking, natural disasters, early marriage, discrimination, disabilities, recruitment into gangs or into armed forces or armed groups, HIV and AIDS, or living or working on the streets, among many others. Although the constellation of risks varies by country and region, these risks are pervasive in many parts of Asia.

To help respond to risks, mitigate their effects, and prevent children's exposure to them, international NGOs, governments and other stakeholders frequently establish community-based child protection mechanisms (CBCPMs). For example, in both emergency and longer term development settings, NGOs frequently work with communities to establish, train, and support Child Protection Committees (CPCs) that consist of 10-15 or so adults and children selected by the communities in which they live. These committees are a bulwark against urgent violations such as sexual abuse of and physical violence towards children. Having received appropriate training, the CPCs raise awareness in the community about the importance of protecting children and supporting children's rights and creating a protective environment; monitor the situation of children; respond to less severe cases of abuse, violence, exploitation, or neglect; support the child victim; and refer to authorities the severe or criminal cases.

The use of CPCs is widespread for several reasons. Because many of the risks to children arise at local levels, it makes sense to provide supports and services for vulnerable children at community level and to make referrals when children need more specialised supports or protection by state authorities and national laws. Although governments bear the primary responsibility for protecting children, governments may have limited presence in remote areas or lack the capacity to ensure that children are protected nationwide. Further, communities frequently have social norms that support harmful practices such as early marriage. If matters were left to untrained community members, such practices would likely continue. The establishment of a CPC and the training of a cadre of people on child rights and child protection standards provides a means of not only responding to violations involving harmful practices but also of helping to educate local people and change the harmful practices themselves. Over the years, child protection workers have found that CPCs are adaptable to diverse contexts and potentially helpful in addressing child protection issues.

At the same time, critical reflection and a spirit of ongoing learning are essential elements of strong practice. By 2008, skilled practitioners who had helped to establish and train CPCs in diverse countries had begun to ask questions such as "How effective are CPCs in addressing child protection issues?", "How sustainable are CPCs?", and "What enables CPCs to have sustainable impact?" These questions reflected a desire to make the global child protection sector more systematic and accountable in a humanitarian sense. The questions also reflected practitioners' experiences of helping to establish and prepare CPCs to do their work only to find that the CPC members did not understand well their roles and responsibilities and tended to overstep their boundaries. Or, the CPCs worked for a time but collapsed abruptly once the external funding and support had ended.



Out of these concerns, numerous agencies, including Plan International, launched a global review of community-based child protection mechanisms, the technical work on which I had the honour of leading. It found that across diverse agencies, situations, and geographic regions, there was a very weak evidence base regarding CBCPMs and a lack of systematic evaluations that could be used to strengthen the practice of child protection. More than a few evaluations reported negative, unintended consequences. For example, when CPCs were set up as parallel systems, they tended to undermine or marginalise existing supports for vulnerable children. In contrast, CPC effectiveness and sustainability were increased by factors such as community ownership, genuine child participation, and functional linkage with and collaboration between CBCPMs and formal actors. Overall, these results indicated that child protection workers and agencies needed to evaluate their work on CBCPMs on a more systematic and regular basis and to use the findings to strengthen practice.

Fortunately, Plan Asia has risen to this task and has developed an approach that incorporates the links between systematic evaluation, ongoing learning, and the strengthening of community-based child protection. Over several years, Plan Asia has conducted a systematic evaluation of the CBCPMs they have been supporting throughout the Asia region. Led by two highly accomplished child protection practitioners and analysts – Kunera Moore and Claire O’Kane, the evaluation examined the quality and levels of important dimensions such as collaboration with government and civil society partners, community mobilisation, emphasis on prevention and early intervention, advocacy and capacity building, and children’s participation. Although the evaluation documented good practices and identified positive results overall, it is equally valuable in its analysis of weaknesses and gaps and its recommendations for strengthening Plan Asia’s collaborative work on CBCPMs.

Through the evaluation and learning process and this excellent, highly readable report, Plan Asia is making a highly significant contribution to the child protection sector. Indeed, this work embodies Plan’s commitments to systematic evaluation and use of the learning to strengthen practice that are needed to fulfill our collective obligation insure children’s protection and well-being. In important respects, this report sets a model for how child protection agencies can take a more systematic approach that enhances the protection and well-being of vulnerable children, families, and communities. It should be required reading for everyone who cares about the world’s highly vulnerable children.

Michael Wessells
Columbia University



FOREWORD

INCREASING EFFORTS FOR EFFECTIVE PROTECTION: FROM CONSOLIDATED LEARNING TO DECISIVE ACTION

Having defined child protection as one of Plan's global priorities, a clear commitment was made to increase focus and investment in this crucial area of our work. This strategic decision has been continuously translated into various types and levels of action, ranging from capacity building to programmatic interventions and advocacy campaigns – all aiming at preventing and addressing root-causes and the incidence of violence against children.

This endeavor views the community as central to development: the setting in which children make their first steps, grow up and learn, and experience both nourishing or challenging effects and influences of their immediate environment. Communities are therefore both a source of protection, and a space in which violence is being triggered at home, in school or on the street. With our focus on child centred community development, the community is a natural starting point for mobilising different community members for collective efforts to keep children safe from harm.

Over time, these protective safety nets have begun to take the shape of organised community based child protection groups and committees, different types of mechanisms that contribute to ensuring children are protected and empowered to reach their full potential. These groups have gradually evolved into different bodies with diverse structures and focus, depending on the forms of violence characteristic and pervasive in different areas. Having assumed an important role within national child protection systems in-the-making, community based child protection mechanisms have simultaneously earned a central place in Asia's regional child protection sub-strategy, "Safe and Sound: Growing Up with Protection".

While these operational efforts and strategic focus have resulted in significant achievements, the growing challenges of rapidly changing societies in which today's young generations develop, requires that approaches to child protection be dynamic and iterative. This affirms the importance of evaluating and documenting learning and analysis, to constantly inform and revisit our strategic decisions.

Building on a comparative analysis of the existing community based child protection mechanisms across the Asia region that was presented in "Lessons for Protection" report (2012), the next logical step was to evaluate the effectiveness of these efforts in order to recognise and address gaps, promote good practice and advance protective measures at different levels.

The comprehensive and practical learning stemming from the evaluation exercise conducted in ten Asian countries offers significant encouragement regarding the effectiveness of efforts and helps us learn and plan more strategically to address gaps and better protect more children. The findings and recommendations of the "Protection in Action" report provides precious insights and recommendations, which I have the pleasure to endorse for integration into future Plan child protection interventions across Asia.

It is our equal pleasure to share these findings with the global child protection community as a renewed invitation for strategic collaboration and joint action, through which we will continuously aspire to make communities safer and more conducive for children and their development.

Mark Pierce
Regional Director, Plan International – Asia Regional Office



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Plan is an international child-centred development organisation. Plan's vision is of a world in which all children realise their full potential in societies that respect people's rights and dignity. Plan International has identified child protection as one of the priority thematic impact areas. For Plan International, child protection encompasses work and activities to prevent and respond to all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children through Plan's rights-based child-centred community development (CCCD) approach contributing to the realisation of children's right to protection.

This report is the result of the regional evaluation of the overall effectiveness of the existing community-based child protection mechanisms (CBCPMs) supported by Plan in the Asia region, and their contribution to improved protection of children from all forms of violence. The evaluation was coordinated by the Plan Asia Regional Office and took place between November 2013 and October 2014. This evaluation builds upon the regional comparative analysis of the CBCPMs completed in 2012 which resulted in the "Lessons for Protection" report.¹ This evaluation had a two-pronged specific focus: the effectiveness of CBCPM in preventing and responding to violence against children at community level on one hand, and the effectiveness of its linkages with formal child protection systems on the other.

Although Plan is working in 13 countries in Asia, the evaluation focused on countries which had been implementing CBCPMs for more than two years. As a result child protection programmes supported by Plan in Laos, East Timor and Myanmar were not included in the regional evaluation. Furthermore, due to the timing of the evaluation and the priority to respond to Typhoon Haiyan, Plan Philippines' programme was also excluded.

Key stages of the evaluation: The regional evaluation was carried out by ICPREC in three key stages involving data collection, analysis and synthesis.

- 1 Preparation and finalisation of the evaluation methodology** (October – December 2013): Desk-based analysis of global and regional literature, and communication with Plan ARO was used to inform the development of the evaluation methodology. Key clusters of Key Quality Elements of CBCPMs identified through the regional comparative analysis on CBCPMs were used to inform indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of CBCPMs, and their links to formal child protection systems and services.
- 2 Data collection and analysis** (January – June 2014) including: a) Desk-based analysis of CBCPMs in 10 Plan Asia countries; and b) Field visits in five countries, namely Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Vietnam enabling use of participatory evaluation activities with key stakeholders. Over 1,100 stakeholders were involved, including 303 girls, 176 boys, 348 women and 325 men.
- 3 Analysis, synthesis and Reporting** (March – October 2014): Data analysis, synthesis and reporting culminating in 10 country reports sharing key findings concerning the effectiveness of CBCPMs in each specific country context. Country reports and e-discussion findings were used to inform analysis and development of this regional report.

¹ Plan Asia Regional Office, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012.

KEY FINDINGS

In recent years, Plan countries across the Asia region have made significant progress in strengthening CBCPMs effectiveness and are contributing to wider government efforts to strengthen the child protection system. Such efforts are extremely relevant, and are in line with Plan ARO's regional sub-strategy "Safe and Sound",² and Plan International's new global strategy for child protection programming, which establishes an ambitious framework for action.³ This global strategy prioritises Plan's work to strengthen effective and tailored CBCPMs and encourages partnership work at various levels to achieve this.

Efforts to strengthen CBCPMs and the child protection system in Asia have been most effective when Plan has worked collaboratively with government and civil society partners at different levels – local, sub-district, district, state/provincial, and national levels. Appropriate community mobilisation and awareness raising on child protection, ensuring community ownership for CBCPMs and active informed members, has been essential to the establishment of effective CBCPMs. A strong focus on prevention and early interventions, links between community and school-based child protection mechanisms and collaboration between CBCPMs and children's groups have also increased the effectiveness and efficiency of the response. Furthermore, advocacy and capacity building efforts with relevant government authorities at sub-national and national levels has been crucial to ensure linkages between CBCPMs and the formal child protection system, including links to referral and response mechanisms to medium and highly complex child protection cases.

In many countries (including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam), Plan has made significant progress to replicate and scale up CBCPMs particularly in the last two years. However, increased efforts across the region are needed to adapt and scale up CBCPMs in urban and peri-urban communities, particularly in areas with high prevalence of the poorest most marginalised families. In addition, increased efforts are needed to build CBCPM members' capacity on emergency preparedness, DRR and CPIE, so that communities can mitigate risks and respond more effectively to care and protection of children in emergencies.

CBCPMs supported by Plan are increasingly effective in preventing and responding to different forms of violence against children; and children's groups further enhance children's role in their own self-protection and protection of their peers. Overall, CBCPMs are contributing to reductions in corporal punishment (by parents, caregivers, teachers); child marriage; child labour; child neglect; domestic violence; gender discrimination; school dropout; and bullying. CBCPMs are also contributing to improvements in the value for children's education and sending girls and boys to school; consideration of children's needs, interests and voices within families, schools and communities; communication and non-violent ways to resolve conflicts and to discipline children within families; and birth registration. Some CBCPMs are also contributing to prevention, reporting and referrals concerning child sexual abuse, child trafficking, and substance abuse.

Across the region further efforts are needed to overcome barriers to reporting and response among community members, children, CBCPM members, and the concerned authorities. Under-reporting on child protection concerns and use of informal justice

² Plan Asia Regional Office, Safe and Sound – Growing up with Protection: Regional Sub-Strategy Child Protection in Development, 2013.

³ Plan International, Protection from Violence is Every Child's Right: Plan International's Global Strategy for Child Protection Programming, July 2014.





mechanisms which are not based on the best interests of the child remain common. Such practices are decreasing the effectiveness of the CBCPMs supported by Plan. Thus, increased efforts are needed to engage children and adults in strengthening child friendly reporting mechanisms; and to strengthen referral mechanisms so that sensitive and timely responses to child protection reports are made by the concerned statutory agencies.

Good practices including positive parenting, closed groups, development of village rules, risk and resource mapping, early interventions to support children living with grandparents and children with disabilities, the roll out of “Sticks and Stones”, and police training which have been developed in various countries contribute to increased effectiveness of CBCPMs and should be adapted and replicated across the region. Furthermore, broader efforts should be made to include fathers, grandfathers, grandmothers, aunts, uncles and other family caregivers in parenting education and awareness initiatives on child rights and protection. To increase relevance of the CBCPMs for the most vulnerable population, increased efforts are also needed to support inclusive representation in CBCPMs and children’s groups, with more efforts to reach and actively include people/ children with disabilities, out of school children, and the most marginalised families.

Children’s role in their own self-protection and the protection of their peers is crucial. Close collaboration between children’s groups and CBCPMs, with children’s representation in CBCPMs enhances the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of CBCPMs. However, increased efforts are needed by Plan and their partners to systematically apply basic requirements for effective and ethical participation of children in child protection initiatives in their communities and schools. In particular, more efforts are needed to assess and minimise risks faced by children, to support inclusive participation, and adult feedback and accountability to children.

In many countries CBCPM and children’s group developments ensure a particular focus on the rights of girls and efforts to end different forms of gender-based violence and discrimination contributing to the “Because I am a Girl” campaign. Women and girls tend to be more actively involved in CBCPMs and children’s groups in many countries in the region. However, to further strengthen effective work on gender equality it is also important to recognise the importance of increased engagement of men, fathers and boys.

Ongoing and increased advocacy by Plan and their civil society partners is needed to ensure that CBCPMs mandate is recognised and supported by the local and national authorities, and that budgets are allocated to support CBCPMs’ prevention and early intervention efforts. Good practice from Indonesia in establishing CBCPMs that are replicable and sustainable through government legal and policy development and government funding can be used to inform such advocacy initiatives in the wider region.

In most countries across the region significant weaknesses and gaps in the formal child protection system’s response, referral and service delivery mechanisms are caused by lack of resources and lack of investment. In most countries referral mechanisms are limited or not functioning efficiently or effectively, particularly in rural and remote locations. There are insufficient child friendly protection services (including psychosocial support services for survivors of abuse, family support services, counselling for family members with substance abuse or additions, legal support etc). This creates significant challenges in establishing effective CBCPMs, as the referral mechanisms or protection service response by concerned duty bearers is often delayed or limited, and sometimes creates new risks to children if an institutional response is favoured. Thus, ongoing and increased efforts by Plan in collaboration with other child-focused agencies in each

country are required to support the government in strengthening the child protection system. Governments need to be convinced to increase investments (human, financial and material) to strengthen: CBCPMs; referral mechanisms; social work capacity; child friendly protection services; and child sensitive social protection schemes.

It is important for Plan country offices to ensure that child protection, CBCPMs and child protection system strengthening is prioritised in Country Strategic Plans moving 'beyond projects' to more strategic planning to institutionalise and strengthen effective and sustainable CBCPMs with clear links to the formal child protection system. Furthermore, ongoing and increased collaboration with other child-focused agencies is required.

A summary of key recommendations:

Plan in collaboration with civil society and/or government partners should:

1. Adapt and scale up efforts to pilot and strengthen CBCPMs in urban and peri-urban communities especially in the poorest neighbourhoods.
2. Strengthen CBCPMs through sufficient community mobilisation, capacity building and mentoring, especially in the first one to two years of their establishment.
3. Increase advocacy with local and national authorities to ensure that CBCPMs mandates are recognised by the authorities; and that CBCPMs can access local government budgets.
4. Develop strategies to increase the role of men, fathers, and marginalised families in CBCPMs and community-based protection awareness and parenting initiatives.
5. Strengthen collaboration between children's groups and CBCPMs to enhance children's role in their own self-protection.
6. Support networking among CBCPMs and children's groups at sub-district and district levels; and support CBCPM and children's group representation in sub-district, district and state/provincial level child protection structures.
7. In partnership with academia increase research on positive traditional child rearing and protection practices that contribute to the care and protection of children to further inform effective project planning, design and implementation of CBCPMs.
8. Expand CBCPM prevention and early interventions; and develop and scale up parenting education initiatives adopting a life cycle approach.
9. Engage child and adult stakeholders in dialogue and planning to develop strategies to overcome barriers to reporting and response on child protection concerns to further develop child friendly reporting and response mechanisms.
10. Support the development of resource directories at local, sub-district, district, state/provincial and national levels to enhance coordination, referral and response mechanisms.
11. Advocate with the government and support capacity building efforts to establish a sufficient cadre of qualified social workers at sub-district levels to ensure their accessibility to CBCPMs to undertake child protection case management.
12. Advocate for and provide technical support for increased government and civil society investments in pilots and expansion of child friendly protection services.
13. Advocate for increased budget allocations for increased human and financial resources for child protection system developments at national, provincial, county and community levels; and analyse use of existing government child protection budgets.
14. Support inter-agency initiatives to increase efficient and relevant capacity building for police and judiciary on child protection; for social workers on child protection case management; and for government officials on child protection laws, policies, and the roles of CBCPMs.
15. Advocate and support developments of an integrated government data base on child protection using disaggregated indicators.
16. Strengthen monitoring and evaluation of CBCPMs to increase quantitative and qualitative data on the impact of CBCPMs.

A child is shown from the back, running on a grassy field and flying a kite. The kite is a simple diamond shape with a long tail, flying high against a bright, cloudy sky. The child is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. The overall scene is bright and cheerful, with a soft focus on the background.

PART A:

INTRODUCTION TO CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY



CHAPTER 1

Introducing the evaluation, the methodology and its limitations

Plan is an international child-centred development organisation. Plan's vision is of a world in which all children realise their full potential in societies that respect people's rights and dignity. Plan International has identified eight thematic impact areas in which it can effectively contribute to the realisation of child rights.⁴ One of the priority thematic impact areas is child protection.⁵ For Plan International, Child Protection encompasses work and activities to prevent and respond to all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children through Plan's rights-based child centred community development (CCCD) approach contributing to the realisation of children's right to protection. Plan's child protection work incorporates work on child protection in emergencies (CPiE), child protection in development (CPiD), and internal organisational efforts to safe guard children, "Say Yes! to keeping children safe".⁶

Specific child protection programmes and strategies by Plan in the Asia region outlined in "Safe and Sound – Growing Up with Protection"⁷ encompass:

- Strengthening Child Protection Systems, focusing particularly on CBCPMs;
- 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.

In November 2013, Plan ARO hired ICPREC⁸ to conduct a regional evaluation **of the overall effectiveness of the existing CBCPMs supported by Plan Asia, and their contribution to improved protection of children from all forms of violence.**⁹

The specific objectives of the evaluation were to:

- Evaluate the functional and structural features of the CBCPMs; supported by Plan Country Offices across the Asia Region;
- Further develop indicators for jointly identified priority key quality elements (KQEs) identified in the regional comparative analysis and use these for evaluating the effectiveness of CBCPMs;
- Document the effectiveness of the role and responsibilities these CBCPMs to prevent and respond to violence against children and establish the number of children these mechanism serve;
- Capture strengths and weaknesses of reporting, response and referral mechanism (including the accessibility, referrals and child friendly child protection services);

⁴ Plan, Promoting child rights to end child poverty: Achieving lasting change through child centred community development, 2010.

⁵ Plan Asia Regional Office, Safe and Sound – Growing up with Protection: Regional Sub-Strategy Child Protection in Development, 2013.

⁶ Plan, Promoting child rights to end child poverty: Achieving lasting change through child centred community development, 2010.

⁷ Plan Asia Regional Office, Safe and Sound – Growing up with Protection: Regional Sub-Strategy Child Protection in Development, 2013.

⁸ ICPREC – International Child Protection Rights and Evaluation Consultants led by Kunera Moore and Claire O'Kane, and supported by Chandrika Khatiwada and Shikha Ghildyal.

⁹ See Annex 1: Terms of Reference for the evaluation.

- Analyse the effectiveness of involvement of children in their own protection;
- Analyse to what extent the CBCPMs have been effective in different operational contexts, including crisis/emergency, early recovery and longer-term development;
- Document to what extent the CBCPMs have been effective in building on existing positive practices towards the care and protection of children and transforming practices that are not in the best interest of the child;
- Document examples of the changes in the perception of girls and boys, families, community members and civil society organisations towards violence against children (including harmful practices based on culture, tradition, religion and superstition) in different settings (home, school, community, work settings and institutions); Document positive (and/or negative) changes in the lives of girls and boys (including children with disabilities and marginalised children) because of the CBCPMs;
- Document how the CBCPMs have been integrated within the evolving national child protection systems;
- Document the effectiveness of support received from Plan;
- Provide recommendations (for short, medium and long term) to strengthen the CBCPM to prevent, respond and/or support rehabilitation.

This evaluation builds upon the regional comparative analysis of the CBCPMs completed in 2012 by ICPREC which resulted in the “Lessons for Protection” report,¹⁰ to assess the effectiveness of CBCPMs in contributing to creating a protective environment for children. The evaluation had a two-pronged specific focus: the effectiveness of CBCPM in preventing and responding to violence against children at community level on one hand, and the effectiveness of its linkages with formal child protection mechanisms to support Plan’s ongoing efforts for a system building approach. The evaluation also focused on: (i) relevance, (ii) efficiency, (iii) effectiveness, (iv) outcomes (how CBCPMs have contribute to the protection of children from violence), and (v) sustainability. In addition, the evaluation focused on civil society’s role in CBCPM, gender perspectives, children as social actors and the involvement of and reaching out to the most marginalised and vulnerable children, including children with disabilities.

Countries included in the regional evaluation: In the Asia region Plan is working in 14 countries including: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, East Timor, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. Ten of these countries were included in the regional evaluation. The evaluation was coordinated by the Plan Asia Regional Office and focused on countries which had been implementing CBCPMs for more than two years. As a result, child protection programmes supported by Plan in Laos, East Timor and Myanmar were not included in the regional evaluation. Furthermore, due to the timing of the evaluation and the priority to respond to Typhoon Haiyan, Plan Philippines programme was not part of the evaluation.

Key stages of the evaluation: The regional evaluation was carried out by ICPREC in three key stages involving data collection, analysis and synthesis:

¹⁰ Plan Asia Regional Office, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012.





1 Preparation and finalisation of the evaluation methodology (October – December 2013): Desk-based analysis of global and regional literature, and communication with Plan ARO was used to inform the specific evaluation methodology. Key clusters of Key Quality Elements of CBCPMs identified through the Plan Asia regional comparative analysis on CBCPMs¹¹ were used to inform indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of CBCPMs, and their links to formal child protection systems and services. Three clusters identified in collaboration with Plan ARO that are being used include:

- I. Building blocks: participatory involvement, ownership and awareness.
- II. Operational mechanisms and coordination to prevent and address violence against children through CBCPMs.
- III. Supporting strategies: collaboration, advocacy, capacity building and replication.

2 Data collection and analysis (January – June 2014) including:

- a. **Desk based analysis** of CBCPMs in 10 Plan Asia countries: making use of available country reports, evaluations of child protection programmes; updating the mapping (from the comparative analysis); and gathering updates from key stakeholders using self-assessments and participatory tools in communities in each of the ten countries.
- b. Field visits in five countries: Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Vietnam were selected for field visits taking into consideration: i) interest to undertake the field visits in countries across diverse contexts (considering different political systems, representing sociocultural and religious diversity); ii) including key countries that are part of Plan ARO programme to support civil society to address poverty through realisation of child rights¹² and iii) including India as this is where Plan supports the largest number of different forms of national governance within which CBCPMs in any one country were being strengthened. The field studies enabled use of participatory evaluation activities involving all relevant stakeholders including: girls, boys, parents, caregivers, CBCPM¹³ members, local and national officials, Plan staff, civil society partners, and other relevant stakeholders.

3. Analysis, synthesis and reporting (March – October 2014):

Data analysis, synthesis and reporting culminating in 10 country reports sharing key findings concerning the effectiveness of CBCPMs in each specific country context; the ways in which they contribute to prevention and protection of children from different forms of violence; and recommendations for strengthening CBCPMs. In late August 2014 a two-day e-discussion on critical issues relating to CBCPMs was organised enabling Plan child protection focal points and other interested staff and partners from the region to further engage and share their perspectives on emerging critical issues and lessons learned concerning CBCPMs. Country reports and e-discussion findings were used to inform analysis and development of this regional report.

A monitoring and evaluation framework was developed (see Annex 2) which outlined: key areas of the evaluation; 16 key quality elements (which were identified as a result of the 2012 regional comparative analysis¹⁴); key research methods; and stakeholders

¹¹ Plan Asia Regional Office, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012.

¹² The regional programme includes: Cambodia, East Timor, Nepal, Pakistan, and Vietnam.

¹³ ICPREC for Plan ARO, Lessons learned from the E-discussions on CBCPMs, August 2014.

¹⁴ Annex B, Plan Asia Regional Office, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012.

involved. Use of different methods (desk-based review, participatory mapping, child friendly participatory tools, interviews, FGDs, observation and an e-discussion) with different stakeholders enabled the evaluation team to gather rich information and to cross-check and validate findings.

Indicators for each of the Key Quality Elements were developed building upon Save the Children's Child Protection Initiative Global Outcome Indicator Handbook,¹⁵ while further adapting and updating them to ensure a closer fit with Plan's Key Quality Elements for CBCPMs.¹⁶ The methodology used was primarily qualitative, but also gathered some quantitative data, including scoring on each of the key quality elements by Plan staff and partners, which were reviewed by the evaluators.

The scoring for each KQE built upon a scoring method developed and used by Save the Children:¹⁷

Key Quality Element indicators:

- Score 1** = Indicator is not achieved: There is no evidence that any efforts have been made to achieve the monitoring indicator;
- Score 2** = Indicator is partially achieved: Some efforts to achieve the monitoring indicator are observed, although they are inconsistent. Some additional work is required to ensure consistency;
- Score 3** = Indicator is achieved: There is consistent evidence that the monitoring indicator has been successfully reached;
- Score 4** = Indicator were exceeded: There is direct and consistent evidence that the indicator has been achieved. In addition, there is evidence that a variety of methods were used to go beyond the minimum expectation and ensure an exceptionally high/excellent level of quality during implementation.

Note: While this evaluation report presents KQE scores from each country, it is recognised that there are numerous factors which contribute to some countries being further ahead, or further behind other countries. The length of time that CBCPMs have been supported within each country¹⁸ is one factor that influences their effectiveness, as it takes sufficient investments (human, financial and material) to effectively mobilise communities on child protection, and to support CBCPMs which are mandated and linked to formal child protection systems with functioning reporting and referral mechanisms. Furthermore, it must be recognised that each country encompasses specific socio-political, sociocultural and geographic contexts which may help and/or hinder CBCPM and child protection system developments.

Ethical guidelines¹⁹ have been applied throughout the study, particularly in preparing for, undertaking and following up the field work to ensure: informed consent; confidentiality; and child safeguarding. These guidelines ensured close adherence to Plan's Child Protection Policy and Code of Conduct.

¹⁵ Save the Children, Child Protection Initiative QoS Global Outcome Indicator Handbook, August 2013.

¹⁶ See Annex 2: M&E Framework.

¹⁷ Save the Children, Child Protection Initiative QoS Global Outcome Indicator Handbook, August 2013.

¹⁸ See Table 2 in Chapter .2

¹⁹ ICPREC for Plan ARO, Lessons learned from the E-discussions on CBCPMs, August 2014.

Methodology used for field-based evaluation in five countries:

Eight to 10-day day field studies (undertaken between April – June 2014) to evaluate the effectiveness of CBCPMs were conducted in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Vietnam. These enabled the consultants to interact with a range of stakeholders including girls and boys from child/youth groups, CBCPM members, staff from local NGO partners and from Plan Country offices, government officials at sub-national and national level, and other relevant stakeholders (including parents/caregivers; community elders; police; staff from other child focused international agencies or national institutes). In most countries CBCPM project sites were purposefully selected to provide diversity in terms of: i) CBCPM work supported in different geographic/sociocultural/political contexts; ii) urban and rural locations where CBCPMs are being supported; iii) visits to more established and newer CBCPMs; and iv) visits to CBCPMs supported by different NGO partners.



Figure 1:
Using pots and stones
evaluation activity, India

Different M&E tools were applied with different stakeholders, and the findings were triangulated to increase the validity of the findings:

- Child-friendly tools such as body mapping to explore protection issues affecting girls and boys; protection pathways (who girls/boys may turn to and what response there may be); sticker ratings to explore the extent to which various protection issues were responded to by CPCs or other concerned agencies; and drawings.
- Focus group discussions with members of CBCPMs; use of a time line activity to explore the history and effectiveness of their CBCPMs and pathways of response and referral to common child protection concerns.
- A one-day workshop with members of CBCPMs, children's groups and adolescent groups using: a "pots and stones" exercise to explore specific Key Quality Elements of CBCPMs; and a Venn diagram to explore existing partnerships between the CPC and other stakeholders at the local and district levels.
- Focus group discussion and interviews with relevant stakeholders.
- Briefing and de-briefing discussions with Plan staff in different locations.
- "H" assessment of the strengths, weaknesses and suggestions to improve CBCPMs by CBCPMs.

The analysis in each country where field visits were not undertaken by the consultants (namely China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand) drew upon:

- I) desk analysis of existing proposals, baseline reports, progress reports, evaluation reports, and training reports concerning CBCPMs;
- II) an updated mapping completed by the Plan country teams concerning the number and status of CBCPMs;
- III) use of a "pots and stones exercise" by Plan staff and partners to self-assess priority key quality elements concerning CBCPMs;

- IV) ‘H’ assessments by members of CBCPMs on the main strengths, weaknesses and suggestions to improve CBCPMs; and
- V) sharing Stories of Most Significant Change and Most Significant Challenge (SMSC/C).

In Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand the evaluation and development of country reports was primarily based on this desk analysis, without additional field studies. In addition, relevant reports from Plan Asia Regional Office and from the International office were reviewed.

An e-discussion on critical issues relating to CBCPMs was organised over two days in late August 2014 enabling Plan child protection focal points and other interested staff and partners from the region to further engage and share their perspectives on emerging critical issues and lessons learned concerning CBCPMs.²⁰ The e-discussion explored questions concerning three themes: i) identifying and building upon traditional practices and beliefs which support children’s care and protection, while also ensuring practices in the “best interests of the child”; ii) supporting a sensitive response to child sexual abuse; and iii) scaling up and phasing out.

Table 1:

Overview of stakeholders involved in the participatory evaluation

An overview of stakeholders involved in the participatory evaluation²¹

Country	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Bangladesh	17	18	14	9	58
Cambodia	27	25	17	12	81
China	1				1
India	74	56	98	69	297
Indonesia	37	45	16	15	113
Nepal	101	113	122	40	376
Pakistan	25	33	4	4	66
Sri Lanka	17	10	6	4	37
Thailand	6	3			9
Vietnam	36	14	26	23	99
Plan ARO	1	1			2
Others ²²	6	7			13
Total	348	325	303	176	1,152

Limitations

The evaluation recognises a number of limitations including:

- The lack of opportunity to include Plan Philippines in the regional study due to their understandable priority to focus their staff and partners efforts on the emergency response to Typhoon Haiyan. It is recognised that Plan Philippines has established and innovative programming on child protection system strengthening and CBCPMs which would have enriched the evaluation findings.

²⁰ ICPREC for Plan ARO, Lessons learned from the E-discussions on CBCPMs, August 2014.

²¹ For more details see the Country Evaluation reports.

²² Participants who took part in the e-discussion, but avoiding double counting in relation to Plan staff who were involved in earlier country consultations.

- The lack of baseline data on child protection outcomes in most Plan programmes, limiting the evaluation of the impact of the CBCPMs. Thus, the focus was on assessing outcomes, rather than impact.
- Limitations in our evaluation methodology and limitations in available M&E data that is gathered in Plan country offices meant that we were not able to gather clear data concerning the total number of children served by CBCPMs by Plan in the Asia region.
- Budget constraints which meant that translation of progress reports that were only available in the local language was not possible. This created limitations in terms of the quantity and detail of information concerning CBCPMs and children's groups that was made available to the consultants in some countries.
- Furthermore, the eight to 10 day field visits did not allow sufficient time to visit all project sites.

A guide to report chapters

The report is written in three main parts encompassing seven chapters.

- **Part A** of the report provides an introduction to the regional evaluation. It includes this first chapter introducing the evaluation, the methodology and its limitations.
 - o Chapter 2 which introduces the regional context focusing on some of the protection concerns affecting girls and boys in Asia; as provides an overview of the number of CBCPMs supported by Plan in Asia.
- **Part B** of the report presents the key evaluation findings concerning the effectiveness of CBCPMs and their links to formal child protection system strengthening efforts. There are three chapters in this part of the report which provide more summary findings on the key quality elements.
 - o Chapter three presents evaluation findings on 'building blocks' for CBCPMs. It includes sub-sections on community ownership and inclusive membership; active participation of stakeholders with a clear mandate to protect children; inclusive and meaningful participation of children; building upon positive traditions and transforming harmful practices.
 - o Chapter 4 presents evaluation findings on 'operational mechanisms' and coordination to prevent and address violence against children through CBCPMs. It includes sub-sections on prevention and early interventions; community-based reporting and response; coordination and referral mechanisms to government statutory child protection bodies; child protection case management; availability of child friendly protection services; linkages with other Plan sectors and programmes; and the role of CBCPMs in DDR, emergency preparedness and emergencies.
 - o Chapter 5 presents evaluation findings on 'supporting strategies' by Plan to support CBCPMs as part of child protection system building. It includes key sub-sections on strategic collaborations and partnership work; capacity building; advocacy efforts; the status of M&E systems and a government data base on child protection; and scaling up and sustainability.
- **Part C** of the report focuses on lessons learned, conclusions and recommendations. It includes two chapters:
 - o Chapter 6 present provides an overview of key achievements, replicable good practices, as well as challenges and gaps relating to the 'building blocks'; 'operational mechanisms'; and 'supporting strategies'.
 - o Chapter 7 presents the conclusions and recommendations to strengthen effective CBCPMs.



CHAPTER 2

Introducing the regional/country context and providing an overview of CBCPMs supported by Plan

Regional context

Asia is one of the most diverse regions of the world in terms of its cultural, socio-economic and political contexts. Poverty reduction and under-five mortality rates have improved in Asia between 1990 and 2013. The region has seen an increase in the average number of years children stay in school and most economies have improved gender parity in primary education. However, gender parity in the labour force has deteriorated. Child mortality has been cut in half over the last two decades but progress on reducing the number of underweight children has been poor.²³

Most of Asia's large economies have shown rising income inequality since the 1990s, and rural poverty is outpacing urban poverty across much of the continent. If left unchecked, the consequences of this trend could be dire.²⁴ Rapid development over the past decade has not been matched by adequate investment in welfare systems and services and this has increased the gap in social inequalities. Whilst governments are increasingly investing in child protection system building, child-focused social welfare services continue to be underdeveloped in the region.

In countries where inequalities are widening, the poor are harder to reach. For example in Vietnam: "Vietnam's success has created new challenges. The remaining poor are harder to reach; they face difficult challenges—of isolation, limited assets, low levels of education, poor health status—and poverty reduction has become less responsive to economic growth".²⁵ There are vast numbers of children who are deprived of access to basic services and are excluded. Exclusion is often reinforced by discrimination on the grounds of gender, ethnicity, race or disability. Over the next decade, it is estimated that out of the 1.27 billion children in Asia, 600 million (or almost 50 percent) will be severely deprived of some of their basic rights, to food, water, health services, shelter, education and protection.²⁶

Urbanisation in Asia is the fastest in the world and the economic growth in Asia is centred in its cities. Inequitable and unplanned rapid urban growth has led to the emergence of highly vulnerable urban communities, particularly those living in informal settlements.²⁷ While children in urban areas often have increased access to higher standards of health, protection, education and sanitation, it is increasingly recognised that urban advances have been uneven, and significant numbers of children in marginalised urban settings confront the daily challenges and deprivations of their rights. With urbanisation there are increased numbers of street and working children, and child domestic workers. The most marginalised children are facing increased protection risks in urban centres, including the risks of economic and sexual exploitation, drug use and coming into conflict with the law. Rising youth unemployment and inequality increase youth's frustrations due to

²³ Asia Development Bank, document Framework of Inclusive Growth Indicators 2013.

²⁴ Asia Development Bank, Development Asia, April 2013.

²⁵ World Bank, Vietnam Poverty Assessment, 2012.

²⁶ Plan Asia Regional Office Child Protection Sub-Strategy: Outline of a Strategy in the Making. May 2012.

²⁷ Un Habitat, Asia-Pacific Issue Brief Series on Urbanization and Climate Change No. 1, Addressing Urban Poverty, inequality and vulnerability in a warming world, 2012, page 2.

the social divides. Such frustration can lead to increased violence, crime and drug use. In addition, many parents migrate to the cities for better work opportunities and leave their children behind with extended family members. Many of these children live in poverty under poor adult supervision. Neglect is common among left-behind children, whose parents have gone to cities and abroad to work and who live with grandparents or extended family members.²⁸

The increasing frequency and intensity of climate induced disasters, rising poverty, and vulnerability of the urban poor to these impacts is bringing about greater awareness by governments in the region of the need to sustainably address and adapt to climate change impacts in rural and urban areas.²⁹

Violence against children is found across the region in all settings – in families, schools, in communities, on the streets, in institutions of residential care, in the workplace and in prisons.³⁰ Much violence is still hidden, and most children are not able to report acts of violence for fear of retribution by their abusers and due to lack of independent, child friendly and safe reporting and response mechanisms. Legislation to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation has improved in many countries, yet its implementation still lags behind. Compounding this, in many cultures corporal punishment is still deemed a legitimate and justifiable form of disciplining a child and therefore not even perceived as an act of violence.³¹ As reported by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in General comment 13 on article 19 of the CRC, April 2011, “the extent and intensity of violence exerted on children is alarming. Measures to end violence must be massively strengthened and expanded in order to effectively put an end to these practices which jeopardize children’s development and societies’ potential non-violent solutions for conflict resolution.”³²

UNICEF’s 2014 report on Violence against Children, “Hidden in Plain Sight” reports that “over the last decade, recognition of the pervasive nature and impact of violence against children has grown. Still, the phenomenon remains largely undocumented and underreported. This can be attributed to a variety of reasons, including the fact that some forms of violence against children are socially accepted, tacitly condoned or not perceived as being abusive. Many victims are too young or too vulnerable to disclose their experience or to protect themselves. And all too often when victims do denounce an abuse, the legal system fails to respond and child protection services are unavailable. The lack of adequate data on the issue is likely compounding the problem by fuelling the misconception that violence remains a marginal phenomenon, affecting only certain categories of children and perpetrated solely by offenders with biological predispositions to violent behaviour.”³³

The above highlights the importance of Plan’s community-based child protection work, preventing and responding to violence against children and contributing to data collection and child protection system strengthening.

²⁸ All China Women’s Federation (2008), Research Report on Situation of Rural Left-behind Children.

²⁹ Un Habitat, Asia-Pacific Issue Brief Series on Urbanization and Climate Change No. 1, Addressing Urban Poverty, inequality and vulnerability in a warming world, 2012, page 11.

³⁰ Pinheiro, P. (2006) World Report on Violence Against Children, UN.

³¹ Plan Asia Regional Office Child Protection Sub-Strategy: Outline of a Strategy in the Making. May 2012.

³² UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment 13, April 2011.

³³ UNICEF, Hidden in Plain Site, a statistical analysis of violence against children, Sep 2014, page 6.

Overview of CBCPMs supported by Plan countries in Asia

As described in “Lessons for Protection”³⁴ Plan’s programming on child protection is relatively new in terms of its organisational work. Despite working in some countries in Asia for more than 30 years, Plan’s child protection programmes started between 2004 and 2006; and in many country programmes Plan’s CBCPM work started in the past three to six years.

Table 2:

year that Plan started CBCPM work in each country

2004	2006	2007	2009	2011	2013
Philippines	Bangladesh	Cambodia	China ³⁶	Pakistan	East Timor
Nepal ³⁵	Indonesia		India		Laos ³⁷
	Sri Lanka		Vietnam		
	Thailand				

Plan has thematic programmes and strategic objectives concerning child protection in their Country Strategic Plans in most countries in the region. Although in Cambodia child protection³⁸ has been mainstreamed into thematic programmes concerning: Early Childhood Care and Development; Improving Primary Education; and Youth and Development. In line with the Plan Asia regional sub-strategy for child protection,³⁹ child protection programme work in each country includes strategic sub-objectives with an explicit focus on CBCPMs.

Plan defines CBCPMs as “a network or group of individuals at community level who work in a coordinated manner towards protection of children from all forms of violence, in all settings. Such mechanisms can be indigenous or externally initiated and supported. They may be formal or informal in their structure and functioning. CBCPMs are linked and contribute to child protection systems.”⁴⁰

The Figure 3 shows the main locations and types of CBCPMs supported across countries in the Asia region where Plan works. As of September 2014 CBCPMs were being supported by Plan in more than 3,400 communities across 11 country programmes.⁴¹ In addition, over 5,000 children’s groups are being supported in child protection programming areas. The country programmes supporting CBCPMs in the highest number of communities are India, Cambodia, Nepal and the Philippines. Plan also supports efforts to establish school-based protection mechanisms across Asia. Furthermore, Plan’s programming and campaigning on ‘Learn Without Fear’⁴² ‘Because I am a Girl’ and ‘Universal Birth Registration’ also contribute to CBCPM work.

³⁴ Plan Asia Regional Office, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012.

³⁵ Some community-based child protection work was started as early as 1989 in Nepal.

³⁶ China piloted CBCPMs in Shaanxi Province from 2009 – 2013. Building upon the lessons learned from the Shaanxi province pilot, in October 2013 a new one year pilot CBCPM project was launched in Yunnan and Hunan provinces.

³⁷ Planning to support CBCPMs started in 2012.

³⁸ As well as child participation and DRR.

³⁹ Plan Asia Regional Office, Safe and Sound – Growing up with Protection: Regional Sub-Strategy Child Protection\ in Development, 2013.

⁴⁰ Plan Asia Regional Office, Advocating for Child Safe Communities in Asia Region: Mapping of Advocacy for Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms (CBCPMs), May 2014.

⁴¹ However, this number of communities includes some commune, VDC and Municipality level communities (from China, Nepal and Vietnam), thus the actual number of village communities reached will be more.

⁴² Now globally completed.

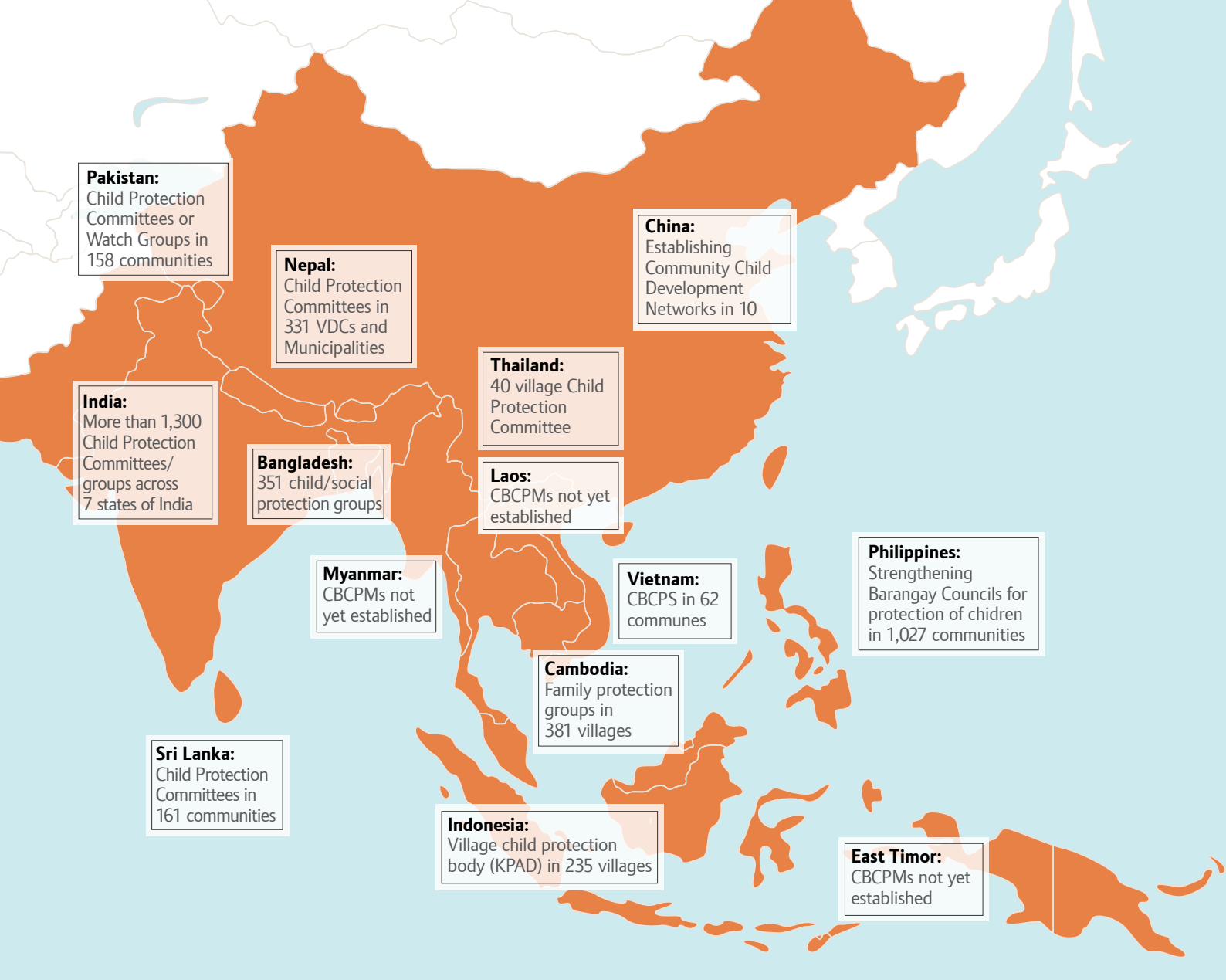


Figure 2:
Overview of CBCPMs
supported by Plan across
Asia region

The scope of CBCPMs supported by Plan in rural and urban communities

Score on KQE 5a: CBCPMs are piloted in urban and rural contexts.						
1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
		China	Bangladesh	Cambodia		
		Indonesia	Nepal	India		
		Sri Lanka	Pakistan			
			Thailand			
			Vietnam			

The locations where CBCPMs are supported are strategically selected in terms of their vulnerability, including work with ethnic minorities, rural and remote villages, and in the case of Sri Lanka in communities affected by armed conflict. Plan's child-centred community development (CCCD) approach guides all aspects of programme design, implementation and monitoring.

Overall, Plan country programmes support significantly more CBCPMs in rural communities, with limited numbers of CBCPMs established in urban or peri-urban communities. This reflects Plan's traditional focus and roots in CCCD in rural poor communities. 91 percent of CBCPMs supported by Plan in the region are in rural communities, with 6 percent in urban and 3 percent in periurban communities.⁴³ Factors that help and hinder the development of CBCPMs in urban contexts in the Asia region were highlighted in the earlier "Lessons for Protection" report.⁴⁴ Considering the trends towards urbanisation⁴⁵ and increased protection risks faced by children in urban poor areas it is imperative that increased efforts are made to pilot and scale up CBCPM efforts in urban and peri-urban settings, with particular efforts to reach the most marginalised children and families.

Table 3:

Overview of number of CBCPMs supported by Plan in urban and rural communities

Country	Number of CBCPMs supported by Plan		
	Rural communities	Urban communities	Peri-urban communities
Bangladesh	334	17	
Cambodia	373		8
China	9	1	
India	1131	130	39
Indonesia	235		
Nepal	285	23	23
Pakistan	147	11	
Philippines	1,027		
Sri Lanka	161		
Thailand	26		14
Vietnam	52	5	5
SUB TOTAL	3,780	187	89
TOTAL	4,056		

The majority of current CBCPMs are being supported as part of longer term development programming. However, as described in Chapter 4 there are increasing efforts to integrate disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness into child protection work; as well as some efforts to support CBCPMs to play a role in child protection during emergencies. However, more focused efforts are still needed to support CBCPMs in emergencies, and to better prepare existing CBCPMs to contribute to DRR and emergency preparedness.

⁴³ This percentage is based on data from the 10 countries where the evaluation was undertaken.

⁴⁴ Plan Asia Regional Office, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012.

⁴⁵ UNICEF, The State of the World's Children: Children in an Urban World, 2012.

As described in the “Lessons for Protection”⁴⁶ report, in some contexts Plan is working directly and/or through civil society partners to mobilise community involvement in CBCPMs. However, in most contexts Plan and their NGO partners also have an explicit focus on engaging with, sensitising and strengthening local government actors to fulfil roles and responsibilities for child protection, either directly or through government support to CBCPMs. Thus in 2012, the “Lessons for Protection” report included an updated version of the Behnam⁴⁷ typology of agency engagement with community-based child protection groups to include a fifth category that emphasises an agency’s engagement with local governments and their responsibilities for child protection, including support for CBCPMs.

Findings from child rights situation analysis inform planning; and strategic efforts are made by Plan to strengthen partnerships with the government to increase their accountability as duty bearers, to partner with civil society organisations, and to empower children and families to assert their rights to protection. Furthermore, an integrated focus on gender equality, often with specific work on girl’s rights and a focus on the most marginalised children is prominent in many of Plan’s programme plans.

Key findings on scope of CBCPMs (average regional score = 2.45, partially achieved)

- Plan’s child protection work in Asia is relevant to Asia’s children and the child protection issues they face. The strategic sub-objectives with an explicit focus on CBCPMs are an effective strategy to improve child protection system building and the protection of children within their communities.
- As of September 2014, Plan supports CBCPMs in 3,416 communities across Asia.⁴⁸
- The majority of Plan-supported CBCPMs (91 percent) are in rural communities; with only 6 percent in urban and 3 percent of CBCPMs in peri-urban settings. Thus, due to current trends in urbanisation and increased protection risks facing children in urban poor areas, increased efforts are needed by Plan to pilot and scale up CBCPMs in urban and periurban settings.
- Most CBCPMs are supported as part of longer term development programming. Integrating DRR and emergency preparedness into the CBCPM tasks to increase risk mitigation, and preparedness for child protection in emergencies is planned by many Plan offices, but requires further implementation.

⁴⁶ Plan Asia Regional Office, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012.

⁴⁷ Behnam, N ‘Agencies, communities and children: a report of the Inter-Agency Learning Initiative: Engaging communities for Children’s Well-being’, 2008 pp. 12-19.

⁴⁸ However, this number of communities includes some commune, VDC and municipality level communities (from China, Nepal, the Philippines and Vietnam), thus the actual number of village communities reached will be more.

A child is shown from the back, running on a grassy field and flying a kite. The kite is a diamond shape with a long tail, flying high in a blue sky with white clouds. The child is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. The overall scene is bright and cheerful, symbolizing achievement and progress.

PART B:

EVALUATION FINDINGS



EVALUATION FINDINGS

Key evaluation findings are shared in three main chapters relating to clusters of the key quality elements for CBCPMs namely:

- i) Evaluating building blocks for participatory involvement, ownership and awareness in CBCPMs;
- ii) Evaluating operational mechanisms and coordination to prevent and address violence against children through CBCPMs; and
- iii) Evaluating supporting strategies by Plan to support CBCPMs as part of child protection system building.

Each of these chapters has sub-headings to share more specific findings concerning the KQEs. Furthermore, concluding comments together with a spider diagram presenting relevant KQE scores from each country is provided at the end of each chapter.

Under each of these chapters we also ensure attention to, and analysis of, relevance; effectiveness; efficiency; outcomes; sustainability; gender perspectives; the role of civil society; the involvement of marginalised and vulnerable children; and children as social agents of change.



Figure 3:
CBCPM evaluation activity
involving children and
adults, Nepal and children
in Vietnam

CHAPTER 3

Evaluating "building blocks" for participatory involvement, ownership and awareness in CBCPMs

Community ownership and inclusive membership

Score on KQE 7: Community ownership for the community-based child protection structure and inclusive membership						
1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
	China	Bangladesh Pakistan	India Nepal Thailand	Cambodia Indonesia Sri Lanka Vietnam		

The importance of community ownership and inclusive membership for effective and sustainable CBCPMs has been emphasised in different reviews and evaluations concerning CBCPMs.⁴⁹ This evaluation also found that when interested community members have been mobilised to be part of CBCPMs and sensitisation on child protection had been internalised, the CBCPM members tend to have a strong sense of ownership and increased value of the relevance and importance of their CBCPM. They are more able to motivate other community members about the importance of protecting children.

Working with local government structures and sensitisation on child protection is critical to Plan's strategy to support the establishment and strengthening of effective and sustainable CBCPMs, which have a mandate to protect children. In many contexts Plan builds upon partnerships with existing local government structures to establish or strengthen CBCPMs. Furthermore, local administrative officials, as well as key local professionals (teachers, health workers, village policeman etc.) are often members of the CBCPMs.⁵⁰

Starting community-based protection work in Sri Lanka through collaboration of local authorities and community leaders⁵¹

In the Eastern region, Plan Sri Lanka shared information about child protection and CPCs with the Divisional Secretary and other key officials in each of the four Divisions to gain their permission for child protection project interventions. Together with the Grama Niladhari (village administrator) and CBO leaders they visited proposed project villages to introduce their plans and proposals to strengthen CPCs. In collaboration with the village leader Plan staff then selected community volunteers and collected village information

⁴⁹ Plan Asia Regional Office, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012; Behnam, N 'Agencies, communities and children: a report of the Inter- Agency Learning Initiative: Engaging communities for Children's Well-being', 2008; Save the Children et al, Wessells, M., What are we learning about protecting children in the community? An inter-agency review of evidence on community based child protection mechanisms. Executive Summary. 2009.

⁵⁰ Plan Asia Regional Office, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012.

⁵¹ Plan Sri Lanka, Progress Report, Eastern Region, 2013.

(population, total number of children, male, female, village map, etc.,) from selected villages. Plan provided training to community volunteers to improve their knowledge and skills related to child protection. Furthermore, the Government Child Rights Promotion Officers were encouraged to visit the 'project' villages to support communities to ensure communication for effective child protection reporting, referrals and response.

Importance of inclusive CBCPM membership to engage community members who are committed to children. While it is strategic and beneficial to engage local officials, village elders, religious elders, and local professionals (e.g. teachers, health workers) in the CBCPMs, their inclusion is often based on their government role or their profession, rather than their interest in or commitment to children. Thus, a challenge is that they may have limited time and/or interest to dedicate to child protection monitoring, prevention and response. To establish effective CBCPMs it is crucial to also engage community actors (women, men, boys and girls) who have interest and time to contribute to child protection initiatives. In some countries, such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam community volunteers who are interested in child protection are s/elected and provided with additional training to take on increased child protection roles and responsibilities.

Countries that score higher in community ownership and inclusive membership (including Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam) have found a good balance between involving government appointed members of CBCPMs; and locally s/elected members who are committed to engage in child protection voluntary work in their communities.⁵²

Adapting the CBCPM model to enable more inclusive membership of committed community members, Thailand⁵³

Plan Thailand and their NGO partners used to work with the existing village committees to encourage them to take on child protection as an extra role, with assistance from Plan and the NGO partner. Government rules define that the village chief presides over the village committee, whose other members include representatives from different families and professions, youth and women groups, selected by the village chief. However, in early 2013 Plan Thailand modified their model to support the establishment of separate child protection committees or 'working groups for children' that encourage and enable the participation of anyone in the community who is interested to work for child protection, without discrimination or obstruction. The new model is proving to be more effective as it enables those who are actively interested to join the Child Protection Committee/working group; and the interested members work more actively for child protection.

Community-based awareness raising on child protection and genuine community mobilisation processes are essential to support transparent s/election processes of community members from diverse sectors of the community who are interested to play an active role in child protection in their community. Applying Plan's CCCD approach contributes to establishing effective CBCPMs because the approach helps mobilise and sensitise community members to the needs and rights of children, and encourages them to identify and respond to children's concerns.⁵⁴

⁵² See ICPREC 2014 country evaluation reports for more details.

⁵³ ICPREC, Claire O'Kane, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Thailand, September 2014.

⁵⁴ Plan Asia Regional Office, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012.

Changing attitudes towards increased recognition of child protection concerns and the importance of protecting children, community, Vehari, Pakistan⁵⁵

When the NGO implementing partner Bedari started working in collaboration with Plan PU Vehari to establish CBCPMs in Pakistan they initially organised discussions with existing CBO members who were known to Plan through earlier community-based work. The CBO members helped reach out and organise meetings with women and men, including religious leaders, teachers, the midwife and other community members to share information about child protection and to see who would be interested to be members of a Child Protection Committee.

When the CPC was initially formed, nobody considered that child protection was itself an issue. Parents were more focused on children's education and requested allowances for children's education. They did not recognise that child labour or child marriage were child protection issues or concerns that needed to be addressed. However, after Plan and the implementing partner organised numerous meetings and discussions they were successful in changing the mind-set of the community members and the CPC members started to organise regular meetings. The CPCs meet on a monthly basis or when required to discuss and find ways to respond to child protection concerns including beating, domestic and other forms of child labour, and child marriage. All members of the CPC are active in settling issues, sometimes with the help of Plan and Bedari and other line departments when and where required. CPC members, especially the female members are more motivated to prevent and protect children from all forms of violence in different contexts, including addressing corporal punishment in schools and child marriage.

Despite increased efforts and some progress to support the establishment and strengthening of CBCPMs in Pakistan, concerns continue to be raised regarding weaknesses in the community mobilisation and information sharing in some communities. This contributes to insufficient community ownership, lack of understanding of child protection, and lack of representation and participation of women, marginalised groups and children.⁵⁶ China has also faced challenges in establishing CBCPMs with inclusive membership due to having to work with the Village Committee, which is the elected seat of the Communist Party. However, Plan China is piloting some new approaches to support more diverse participation in CBCPMs, including efforts to set up parents' committees involving fathers and mothers, children's committee including girls and boys, and linking with a teacher focal point from the school.

Power relations, socio political, cultural and economic issues, as well as gender dynamics influence stakeholder roles, relationships and interactions in the CBCPMs. While recognising that CBCPMs are often supported by Plan in marginalised communities, increased efforts are needed in each country to analyse power and gender dynamics within the community. Such analysis can be used to inform strategies for gender equality and more inclusive representation of marginalised women, men, girls and boys – including people with disabilities and members of the poorest families.

⁵⁵ ICPREC, Claire O'Kane, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Pakistan, September 2014.

⁵⁶ Plan Pakistan, Protection for All: Community Based Child Protection Mechanism Country Visit Report Pakistan by Hussain Ali Sina, July 2013.

While members of the most marginalised families are targeted and reached as part of ‘early intervention’ efforts by CBCPMs, **family members from the most marginalised families are not often members of the CBCPM** due to their priority focus on income generation activities and/or the lack of confidence due to low literacy. While impoverished marginalised families may find it difficult to dedicate time as a member of a community-based protection group due to their own livelihood struggles, sociocultural barriers also need to be overcome. It is also disconcerting that few children’s groups⁵⁷ (across the region) supported by Plan are actively reaching or involving children with disabilities and few countries monitor and record data regarding the inclusion of children with disabilities.

Plan’s Global Strategy One Plan One Goal⁵⁸ supports increased efforts to reach as many children as possible, particularly those who are excluded or marginalised, with high-quality programmes that deliver long-lasting benefits. With Plan’s strategic commitment to work with excluded and marginalised children, it recognises the importance of inclusion to ensure that Plan maximises its relevance and commits the organisation to ‘better mainstreaming of inclusion’.⁵⁹ Strategic and practical efforts to tackle exclusion within child protection and other programmes have been applied by Plan in Pakistan and Indonesia.⁶⁰

Gender dynamics in CBCPMs work are complex, and are influenced by socio-political, cultural and economic factors. In most countries Plan encourages equal representation of women and men in the CBCPMs. However, in many Asian contexts men tend to be overly represented as government officials, village elders/chiefs, or religious elders. Thus, in their official roles more men may be encouraged to be part of CBCPMs. In contrast, nominated community members who are interested in protecting children within their community are often female. In some countries such as India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Cambodia women tend to be more actively involved in CBCPMs, as the men often prioritise economic livelihood activities. Considering sociocultural practices and beliefs relating to gender discrimination in Pakistan, some communities have established both female and male Child Protection Committees (CPCs) within the same community. Initial documentation suggests that women are more vocal and active within female CPCs and are more effective in awareness raising and early interventions to prevent violence against girls and women. However, further monitoring is needed to explore whether this model is also effective in preventing and responding to violence against boys, as well as to girls. In all countries ongoing efforts are needed to encourage active engagement of community members with increasing attention to gender equality.

⁵⁷ Children’s groups may refer to child groups, child clubs, child forums, local children’s parliaments etc.

⁵⁸ Plan International, One Plan One Goal, Plan’s Strategy 2015.

⁵⁹ Plan International, One Goal One Plan, Plan’s Strategy to 2015 – Long Version pages 25-26.

⁶⁰ See ICPREC, 2014 country reports for more details.

Changing power relations between Women's Federation staff and male representatives from Government bureaus, China⁶¹

In China the Women's Federation is a GONGO⁶² that staffed almost wholly by women and is the primary organisation for the protection women and children. Meanwhile, representatives of government bureaus – particularly the more politically powerful Department of Justice and Public Security Bureau – are disproportionately staffed by men. Some insecurities were expressed by Women's Federation staff at the beginning of the CBCPM project, as they felt they were too 'weak' to coordinate the government bureaus.⁶³ However, during the CBCPM project in Shaanxi province many of the Women's Federation staff gained confidence which contributed to more effective CBCPMs.

Children's participation in the CBCPMs is pro-actively supported by Plan in most countries. This will be further discussed in the later section on children's participation.

In many countries, including Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal Sri Lanka, and Vietnam, Plan is supporting links between community-based and school-based Child Protection Committees or School Management Committees. Such efforts contributed to Plan's 'Learn without Fear' campaign.

"I am working as the Principal of a Junior school... I wanted to make all parents of the school aware of the important role they can play in ensuring the protection of their children. I called a special meeting with the School Development Society (SDS) and explained the importance of child protection to the office bearers and they agreed to give the message to all parents of our school. I invited officers who work for child protection in the area to visit the school to raise awareness of protection issues, what to do when they hear of an incident of child abuse, whom to talk to etc... Our Child Protection Committee has to work with a great responsibility... I must thank Plan Sri Lanka for working closely with villagers, officers and children to create greater awareness among the villagers on child protection."

School Principle, Sri Lanka

⁶¹ ICPREC, Claire O'Kane, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan China, September 2014.

⁶² Government associated non-governmental organisation.

⁶³ Plan China, Project narrative report to SNO. Child rights programme 2011-2013, 2013.

Key findings on community ownership and inclusive representation (average regional score = 2.5, more than partially achieved)

- While it is strategic to engage local government officials and village elders in CBCPMs, their multiple responsibilities may result in limited time and/or interest to dedicate to child protection work. Thus, it is crucial to also engage community actors who have the interest and commitment to contribute to child protection initiatives.
- Community-based awareness raising on child protection and genuine community mobilisation processes are effective to support transparent s/election processes of CBCPMs, and community ownership of CBCPMs. However, in some communities and countries more intensive community mobilisation and community awareness on child protection is required.
- The most marginalised women, men, girls and boys (including people from the poorest families and people with disabilities) are rarely included as CBCPM members. Increased efforts are needed to analyse power and gender dynamics and to use such analysis to inform practical strategies to actively involve representatives from the most marginalised families and children in CBCPMs.
- Increased efforts are needed by Plan in many countries to support gender equality through CBCPMs. While there tends to be a strong focus on girl's rights; increased efforts are needed to reach and engage men, fathers and boys.

Active participation of stakeholders and a clear mandate to protect children

Score on KQE 9: Active participation of stakeholders in the community-based child protection structure with a clear mandate to protect children						
1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
		Bangladesh	Cambodia	Indonesia		
		China	India	Vietnam		
		Pakistan	Nepal			
			Sri Lanka			
			Thailand			

In each country in the region, Plan and their partners are making systematic efforts to support the active participation of stakeholders in the CBCPMs, and to advocate with the concerned government authorities to increase the legal mandate of CBCPMs.

CBCPM's mandate from the local and national authorities to protect children is critical for the establishment of effective and sustainable CBCPMs with clear links and referral mechanisms to the formal child protection system. Members of mandated CBCPMs have increased power to intervene and prevent child protection violations (e.g. in people's homes, in schools or the community); and to report and make referrals to government authorities and other service providers. Recognition of CBCPMs by the local authorities also tends to increase opportunities for CBCPMs to access government funding.

In Indonesia and Vietnam, which score higher, the establishment of CBCPMs are encouraged by national policies and the CBCPMs are recognised by the local authorities. For example, in Indonesia 87 percent of the 235 KPADs (CBCPMs) supported by Plan Indonesia have a village decree from the local authorities, and the remaining 30 KPAD are in the process of obtaining a village decree. In Vietnam the Commune Child Protection Boards are established through close collaboration with the local authorities (the People's Committees at commune, district and provincial levels), and with the Department of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs. In other countries in the region (including Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand) there are some policy documents, guidelines or circulars that support the formation of CBCPMs. However, increased efforts are needed to ensure that the mandate of each CBCPM supported by Plan is recognised by the local authorities and by the community at the local level.⁶⁴

“Nothing is written down or officially recognised but people know their roles and are aware of them. In the future we want to have a ToR with official titles and roles and responsibilities which will make it easier to transfer cases, it will make it more official.”

CBCPM members, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Linking community-based Child Protection Committees with the Government Integrated Child Protection Scheme and the Panchayat System, India⁶⁵

In seven India's states, Plan's PUs are supporting the formation and strengthening of community-based child protection committees (CPCs) through partnerships with civil society organisations. Efforts are underway in each of the states to align the community-based CPCs with the Government Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS). For example, in Andhra Pradesh the Women and Child Development Department has issued a letter providing the mandate to CPCs established by Plan's PU partner CAP Foundation. In Uttar Pradesh the Government issued a government order in May 2013 for concerned district and block level officials to support the formation of Block and Panchayat level CPCs, outlining their roles and responsibilities. However, in other states such as Odisha the CPCs supported by Plan do not yet have an official mandate from the government.

It is important that CBCPM members have a clear understanding of child protection and that they are clear about their roles and responsibilities. CBCPM member's understanding of their roles and responsibilities varies within and across countries in the region. For example, in India CPC members in Hyderabad and Delhi had active members who are clear about their child protection roles and are meeting regularly to discuss and address a range of child protection concerns including child neglect, eve teasing⁶⁶ of girls, school dropout, child labour, child marriage and corporal punishment in schools. In contrast, some CPC members visited in rural Lucknow had a narrower understanding of child protection and their roles, and were primarily focusing on prevention of school dropout and retention in schools.

⁶⁴ See ICPREC 2014 country evaluation reports for more details.

⁶⁵ ICPREC, Claire O'Kane, Evaluating the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan India, September 2014.

⁶⁶ Eve teasing is a euphemism used in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and some other countries in South Asia to describe forms of public sexual harassment or molestation of girls or women by men or boys. It may refer to suggestive remarks, touching or groping.

Table 4:
Factors enabling and hindering active participation to CBCPMs

Factors enabling active participation	Factors hindering active participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commitment and interest of CBCPM members to improve children's situation and protection in communities; - Recognised mandate for the CBCPM from the local authorities; - Sensitisation, training and mentoring of CBCPM members on child protection prevention and response – they have a clear understanding of child protection and their roles and responsibilities as CBCPM members; - CBCPMs organise regular meetings (e.g. monthly meetings) and are prepared to organise ad-hoc meetings when the need arises; - CBCPM is recognised and valued by the community; - Strong links between the CBCPMs and children/ children's groups; - CBCPMs are established in line with the child protection system of the country; - Coordination and referral mechanism is established and functioning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insufficient time availability of CBCPM members for child protection activities due to busy lives and the need to prioritise own livelihood and family - Sociocultural or religious barriers to women or children's participation; - Lack of interest in child protection of some members, particularly those who were nominated to be part of CBCPM due to existing official/professional role; - CBCPM does not have a clear mandate; - CBCPM members do not have a good understanding of child protection, and are not clear about their roles - Irregular CBCPM meetings; - Community members are not aware of and/or do not appreciate CBCPM efforts; - CBCPMs do not have functional linkages with the local authorities; - Limited interactions between CBCPMs and children/ children's groups; - Coordination and referral mechanism is limited. - Lack of funds for CBCPMs.

Most CBCPM members are volunteers.⁶⁷ Thus, members often face challenges in dedicating regular time for voluntary work on child protection, when they also need to ensure time for their own livelihood and family responsibilities, especially during cultivation or harvesting periods in rural contexts. The priority focus on livelihoods is one of the main reasons why men are often less actively engaged in CBCPMs. Different ways to value the active participation of female and male members are needed, including publicising the list of CBCPM members in the local authority offices, and advocating with the concerned authorities to issue identity cards to CBCPM members and/or exploring other ways to recognise and reward the volunteers for their contributions.

Challenges in mobilising active CBCPM members, China⁶⁸

In China particular challenges are faced in mobilising active women and men to participate in the CBCPMs as there is a high migration of men, women and young people from the rural areas to urban settings for their livelihoods. Those left behind are often less confident to voice their opinions and to be actively involved in management of community-based projects. In addition, there are challenges relating to volunteerism, as community people expect to receive a payment if they are to be part of a long term child protection mechanism.

⁶⁷ Plan Asia Regional Office, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012.

⁶⁸ CPREC, Claire O'Kane, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan China, September 2014.

Sociocultural or religious barriers also influence women, men and children's participation. For example, in Muslim communities in eastern Sri Lanka, some female volunteers faced challenges in attending residential training and in entering people's homes in remote sections of the community. In addition, in India a few stakeholders commented that it can be easier for adults and children to speak up about child protection concerns in urban areas, compared with rural areas where the cultural traditions to maintain secrecy about abuse, especially within families are more pronounced.

Regular meetings tend to be organised when CBCPMs have active members. In most countries CBCPMs are organising regular monthly meetings, as well as ad-hoc meetings whenever required to prevent or address a child protection concern that has been identified in their community.

“We realise that children face issues in families, schools and communities. We want to protect children. As individuals we may have different views and ideas, if we come together we can share and learn from each other and find a solution.”

Female CPC member, urban area, Andhra Pradesh, India

CBCPM members organise community meetings and activities on child protection for women, men, girls and boys in the broader community when they are active. As discussed in Chapter 4, broad-based community awareness raising on child protection and the roles of the CBCPM is critical for effective prevention and early intervention efforts. In each country some forms of community meetings, as well as more specific gatherings for parents, children and/or youth are being organised by CBCPMs. However, increased efforts to meet with community members, parents, particularly with fathers and other caregivers (grandparents, uncles, aunts) are needed in most countries in the region.

Coordination and referral mechanisms are essential to effective CBCPMs and increase community value for the CBCPM. In many countries in the region CBCPMs are able to make referrals to a child protection structure at the district or provincial level. In most countries, Plan and their partners are involved in advocacy and programming efforts to strengthen the functioning of these sub-national child protection structures to strengthen the child protection system. However, increased efforts are required, especially in countries where the referral services are under-developed. Likewise, efforts are needed to map out available services and the service providers at the community, sub-district and district levels to ensure effectiveness of CBCPMs.

Key findings on active participation of stakeholders and a clear mandate to protect children (average regional score: 2.45, partially achieved)

- In most countries there are some policy documents, guidelines or circulars that support the formation of CBCPMs. However, increased advocacy efforts are needed by Plan in most countries to ensure that the mandate of each CBCPM supported by Plan is relevant and recognised by the local authorities and by the community.
- CBCPMs members require a clear understanding of child protection and their roles and responsibilities. There is variation within countries regarding such understanding.
- Most CBCPM members are volunteers who face challenges in dedicating regular time for voluntary work on child protection; thus efficient ways to engage volunteers' precious time need to be found.
- Increased ways to value the active participation of CBCPMs members are needed, including requests to the concerned authorities to issue identity cards to CBCPM members.
- Sociocultural and religious barriers influence women, men and children's participation; Plan and its partners need to review these barriers and find effective ways to overcome these.
- Broad-based community awareness raising on child protection, as well as community awareness on the existence and roles of the CBCPM is critical to prevention and early intervention efforts. Increased efforts to organise meetings with community members, especially fathers and other caregivers are needed to improve effectiveness.

Inclusive and meaningful participation of children in CBCPMs

Score on KQE 10: Inclusive and meaningful children's participation in community-based child protection efforts, and in broader child protection practice and policy developments affecting						
1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
		China India Pakistan Thailand	Bangladesh Cambodia Indonesia Nepal Sri Lanka Vietnam			

Plan's approach to children's participation. Recognising children as right holders and active citizens, and supporting children's participation is a key element of Plan's CCCD approach. Children and young people are empowered with knowledge on child rights and with skills and confidence to assert their rights. In most countries within the region there is collaborative programming between Plan staff and partners working on the impact areas concerning: 1) the right to protection from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence; and 2) the right to participate as citizens. In particular efforts to establish and strengthen children's groups, adolescent or youth groups are common to both.

“As an individual we may face challenges, as a group we can do something.”

Adolescent girl, rural community, Uttar Pradesh, India

Through Plan’s child protection programmes there are particular efforts to support the role of children’s groups in community and school-based protection work, and to empower girls and boys with knowledge, skills and the confidence to increase their self protection and the protection of their peers. Over 5,000 communit-based and/ or school-based children’s groups are actively supported through the child protection programme by Plan in the Asia region. These children’s groups have different names in different countries such as child groups, adolescent groups, child clubs, child forums, children’s parliaments.

Table 5:
Number of children’s groups involved in child protection

	Banglades	Cambodia	China	India	Indonesia	Nepal	Pakistan	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Vietnam	Total
Number of children’s groups involved in child protection	360	400	8	2,000	200	2,000	139	149	89	2	62	5,260



Figure 4:
Boys in India participating in body mapping

As described in Plan ARO’s 2012 “Lessons for Protection” report, children’s representatives are members of CBCPMs in many countries within the region. Such children’s representatives are often members of existing community or school-based children’s groups. In other countries the children’s groups work collaboratively with adults in CBCPMs, but the children are not actually members of the child protection structure.

In some locations in China, India, Pakistan, and Thailand increased efforts are needed to establish stronger linkages between the CBCPMs and children's groups. The extent to which children can contribute to CBCPMs varies depending on the strength of the children's groups, and on the level of acceptance for child participation amongst the CBCPM members.

Government guidance for children's representatives in village child protection committees, India⁶⁹

The Government guidance for the Integrated Child Protection System in India encourages inclusion of two children's representatives in the village Child Protection Committees. In many of Plan's project areas, children's representatives from the Child or Adolescent Groups are included in the CPCs. In other areas, the children are not directly represented in the CPCs, but the CPCs and Child Groups work together collaboratively. However, in some communities collaboration still needs to be strengthened between CPC, Child and Adolescent Groups, as despite girls and boys being aware of protection concerns in their communities, such concerns are not yet being acted upon by the CPC members.

In communities where Plan and/or their partners are supporting CBCPMs and children's groups, children's roles in child protection often include:

- Raising awareness in child rights and child protection among their peers, family members and community members (often through creative initiatives including drama, newspapers, magazines, films, wall painting, drawing, local media etc.);
- Mapping risks and vulnerabilities and contributing to efforts to reduce risks and vulnerability;
- Organising action to prevent or respond to child protection concerns (such as beating, child marriage, school dropout, bullying etc.) through early intervention home visits; peer education; and/or discussions and actions with other concerned stakeholders;
- Identifying and reporting child protection concerns; and
- Influencing practice and policy developments.

Children's participation in CBCPMs, Bangladesh⁷⁰

Out of the 350 CBCPMs supported by Plan in Bangladesh, 248 have children's representatives and efforts are underway to support children's representation in the remaining CBCPMs. The CBCPMs' child members are trained together with the other members on the mandate of the CBCPMs, child rights and child protection as well as the referral network. In many CBCPMs communities, Plan has established 360 children's clubs involving girls and boys aged 8-18 years. Children's club representatives come together in a sub-district Child Forums. The Child Forum meets on a quarterly basis with the CBCPMs, Women Affairs officers, Union Parishad Chairman and the police, enabling children to raise their concerns and discuss follow up strategies. In 2013, children reported concerns relating to drug addiction, eve teasing (specific form of gender-based violence prevalent mainly across South Asia), child marriage, and gambling. Children have written letters to district level Social Affairs representatives, and have started legal procedures to challenge laws and court decisions to increase duty bearer accountability to children. Ongoing sensitisation and advocacy is needed to ensure meaningful participation and accountability to children.

⁶⁹ ICPREC, Claire O'Kane, Evaluating the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan India, September 2014.

⁷⁰ ICPREC, Kunera Moore, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Bangladesh, September 2014.

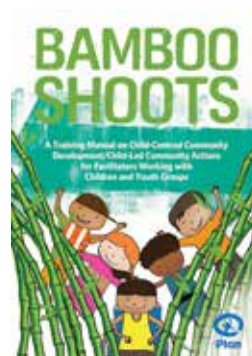
In many of Plan's programme areas, children and adolescents were supported to form and be part of groups, prior to the formation of CBCPMs. CBCPMs are more effective when they have close collaboration with children and young people who are able to share their experiences and their concerns, as well as their action and advocacy ideas to prevent and respond to child rights violations. Furthermore, the CBCPMs are crucial as adults have the primary responsibility to respond to child protection violations and to ensure appropriate responses and referrals in the best interests of the child. When there is no CBCPM, it can be harder and more risky for the children to make reports to the concerned authorities.

“Our Bal Panchayat (children’s parliament) have been organising programmes to raise awareness about child sexual abuse. We call resource people to train members of the women’s group and other groups. If we report such concerns we may be at risk. If we have a strong community protection group in our locality they will be able to take up these issues. The child protection group was formed in November 2013. They are not yet ready to act on protection concerns, but when they have more training they will be able to.”

Adolescent girl, Delhi, India

Capacity building of Plan staff and partners on children’s participation is important to enable them to have the skills, knowledge, values and confidence to support children’s participation. In most countries staff and partners have been provided with relevant training. However, in many countries, increased capacity building is needed to enable staff to apply basic requirements in children’s participation to ensure inclusive, safe and ethical participation of girls and boys in children’s groups; and to ensure more institutional links between children’s groups and CBCPMs. Regional resources including ‘Bamboo Shoots’⁷¹ and ‘Sticks and Stones’⁷² support children’s role in their own protection and are being effectively applied by Plan staff and partners within many countries in the region – initially as part of staff and partners training, and then as a resource for direct training with children and young people (see Chapter 5).

The importance of risk assessments concerning children’s participation and sensitisation of adults is emphasised in Plan Asia Regional Office’s forthcoming Resource Handbook for working with communities to enhance child protection. It is suggested that “the level and extent of participation should be based on children’s evolving capacities and understanding. The principle of ‘do no harm’ should always apply and support should be given to help children cope with their roles”.⁷³ During the evaluation process, potential or actual risks faced by children who are involved in CBCPM work were highlighted including:



⁷¹ Plan ARO, Bamboo Shoots - A training manual on child-centred community development/ Child-led community actions for facilitators working with children and youth groups; Plan Asia, Bangkok, 2011.

⁷² Plan ARO, Sticks and Stones: A training manual for facilitators on how to increase the involvement of children in their own protection: Plan Asia Regional Office, Bangkok, 2013.

⁷³ Raša Sekulović and Stephanie Delaney. Step by Step - Towards Child Safer Communities: Resource Handbook for Working with Communities to Enhance Child Protection – A guide for field practitioners. Plan Asia Regional Office, 2014.

- Threats from perpetrators to girls or boys who report child marriage, child sexual abuse, or labour exploitation cases to the concerned authorities, to the police, or to Plan and its partners; and
- Punishment from children's parents or caregivers for spending time in children's group activities (rather than spending time working or studying), if their parents/ caregivers have not been sufficiently sensitised about the value of children's participation.

“Girl Forum member’s personal security is questionable. In case of reporting any criminal case Girl Forum members become the target of the perpetrators.”

BNWLA staff member, Bangladesh⁷⁴



Awareness campaign on personal safety and child protection, Sri Lanka⁷⁵

Plan Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the government authorities and other agencies, has made significant efforts to develop child friendly communication materials on child protection prevention and reporting, which have been used as part of a country wide campaign on the personal safety and protection of children. Posters and other materials have been developed for sharing messages and engaging children in activities concerning body ownership; safe and unsafe touch; personal safety rules (*say no! get away and report*); life skills; and steps for creating safe environments.

In many countries in the region, children and young people are actively involved in [child-led media initiatives](#) producing their own newspapers, drama and other cultural forms of expression to raise awareness and action within their communities on corporal punishment, child marriage, alcohol and substance abuse, bullying, and other abuse and exploitation issues affecting them. Children and young people tend to be more effective in sharing information and messages on child protection among their peers, including information about reporting mechanisms, as well as available resources and services that children can access to ensure that they are better protected.

“Joining the children core group, I have learnt a lot of knowledge and skills to sensitise other people about child protection issues. I also feel empowered to protect myself and other children in my community.”

Female member of children core group, Quang Binh province, Vietnam

In some locations (including parts of Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Sri Lanka) [children’s representatives have opportunities to meet in network meetings, and to interact with officials from sub-national level child protection structures](#). Such opportunities increase chances for information-exchange, joint capacity building, collective advocacy and action to prevent and follow up on protection concerns

⁷⁴ ICPREC, Kunera Moore, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Bangladesh, September 2014.

⁷⁵ Plan Sri Lanka, Progress Report, 2013.

affecting girls and boys. In Nepal, Child Club members are also able to access and apply for government funds for child rights and child protection initiatives through the Village Development Committee. This is encouraging as children are becoming part of local government planning processes.

National Children's Forum, Vietnam⁷⁶

Plan supported the Children's Bureau in organising the National Children Forum in August 2013. Other government sectors and associations (such as Health, Education, Youth and Women's Union) as well as INGOs all joined hands in promoting the voice of vulnerable children. Numerous fora were organised at provincial and district levels before coming to the national forum. The forum focused on the consultation with children on law revision. Children brought their concerns over the issues of education, child participation, child protection and gender equity. Children at all Plan locations were actively facilitated and participated in discussions. Children's messages on the issues related were presented to government policy makers from commune to national levels.

There is increased value for children's participation in many of Plan's CBCPM project areas, but increased sensitisation of parents, caregivers, CBCPM members and government officials is still required. Traditionally girls and boys in Asia are not expected to express their views or ask questions. Thus, genuine support for children's participation in community-based protection work represents a transformation in perceived roles of children in society. In many communities ongoing sensitisation of adults regarding the value of children's participation is still needed, particularly to support participation of girls and boys from the most marginalised families. Furthermore, while children's representatives are included in CBCPMs in a number of countries, in contexts where only two children's representatives are included there are questions around the power of two children to influence adult dominated decision making processes. Thus, there is a need to advocate and support increased collaborative efforts between children's groups and CBCPMs and opportunities for at least four to five children's representatives in CBCPM structures. Likewise, efforts are needed to develop understanding and capacity of members of CBCPMs to work with children and/or promote the ethical participation of children.

“Some children do not give their views in the CPC meeting as they are shy. We also think about whether we are saying the right or wrong thing, and we think that someone might say bad words about us.”

Child and Adolescent Group members, rural location, Uttar Pradesh, India

Gender equality is being promoted through the child protection programme, and specific efforts to empower girls are being supported through 'Girl Power' and 'Because I am a Girl' projects in many countries in the region. Such projects are contributing to the increased awareness of child rights, non-discrimination, and the importance of preventing and responding to different forms of gender-based violence including child marriage and neglect. However, interestingly the evaluators observed that in many communities in different parts of the region girls are playing more active roles than boys in community-based and school-based children's groups and child protection work. Thus, increased efforts are needed to empower and engage boys in children's groups and CBCPMs.

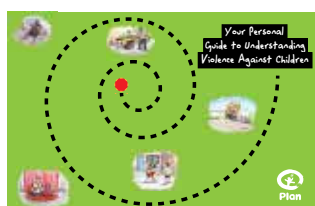
⁷⁶ ICPREC, Shikha Ghildyal, Evaluating the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Vietnam, September 2014.

BLOP groups to empower adolescent girls and boys to better protect themselves, Nepal⁷⁷

Plan Nepal is supporting Better Life Options Programme (BLOP) groups to empower adolescent girls and boys with life skills based education to enable them to protect themselves. In 2014, 599 BLOP centres – 571 for girls, 21 for boys, and seven for both girls and boys were supported. More than 465 children (439 girls and 26 boys) who had been out of school enrolled after participating in BLOP classes and 81 adolescents who were unable to join formal schools were linked to livelihood opportunities. The BLOP modules incorporate issues such as child protection, gender inequality, efforts to end child trafficking and child labour. They have been revised to add sessions from ‘Sticks and Stones’, a module on children’s participation in their own protection, and sessions on sexual and reproductive health.

The evaluator met with members of a BLOP group in VDC in Makwanpur district. The adolescents shared their views regarding protection concerns in their community including child neglect, difficulties faced by children living with step parents and by children living with parents who are addicted to drugs or alcohol, the sale and trafficking of children, and other forms of child exploitation. Girls are sometimes forced to work beyond their capacity, and they face gender-based discrimination and violence including eve-teasing, child marriage, and school dropout. The girls were able to analyse and describe reasons which increase risks to children including poverty in the family, polygamy and family breakdown, gender discrimination, traditional beliefs, customs, illiteracy of parents. Focusing on the increasing trend of adolescents eloping to get married the members of BLOP groups cited lack of awareness and knowledge, as well as the inability of adolescents to make the right decision as some of the causes.

Across every country programme **increased efforts are needed by Plan and their partners to reach and engage the most marginalised children** (children with disabilities, out of school working children, child domestic workers, indigenous children, etc.) in children’s groups and in CBCPMs. Efforts to “systematically apply basic requirements in children’s participation; including increased efforts to reach and empower the most marginalised children” were prioritised by Plan child protection focal points from Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam in a 2013 regional child protection network meeting.⁷⁸



A set of child-friendly resources on child protection had been developed in late 2012 by Plan ARO, with the involvement and inputs by children’s groups from Cambodia, Nepal and Pakistan. “Your Personal Guide to Understanding Violence against Children” was designed to raise awareness among different age groups of children of a range of information on different forms of VAC and is providing practical advice as to how to avoid it and where to report it. It is complemented with “Violence against Children Action Booklet”, which provides suggestions and invites and stimulates ideas for children’s collective actions to prevent and address violence at the community level. These resources have been translated into most of the local languages and have been used for training and awareness raising purposes with children’s groups.

⁷⁷ ICPREC, Chandrika Khatiwada, Evaluating the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Nepal, September 2014.

⁷⁸ Plan Asia Regional Office, Priority Recommendations of Lessons for Protection, Priority Ranking, 2013.

While the objectives of CBCPMs often include a specific focus on increasing the protection of the most vulnerable and marginalised children, many of these children continue to be beneficiaries rather than social actors in the community-based programmes. Plan's focus on establishing school-based children's groups, or nominating school going children to represent their peers in the CBCPMs in some countries also results in some of the most marginalised children being excluded. In Vietnam and China normative practices by teachers to select to the 'best students' also needs to be overcome to enable more inclusive practices. Moreover, across the region increased strategic and practical efforts are needed to enable the active participation of children with disabilities and out of school working children in children's groups and/or as CBCPM representatives.

Improvement in efforts to support more inclusive participation of children, China⁷⁹

At the outset, within the Shaanxi project there was a tendency to select only the 'best' students to be involved and little effort was put into the mobilisation of activities. At the time, Plan China staff responded quickly, using the opportunity to coach these facilitators about the importance of participation, particularly inclusive participation, and the groups were reformulated. A selection process among children and teachers was revised which involved a series of steps to encourage fairness and transparency in selecting a representative group.⁸⁰

Greater efforts are also needed to support the involvement and capacity building of younger children so that children's groups are continuously renewed when older children leave. Opportunities for male and female youth over 18 years to graduate into 'youth groups', while also mentoring younger children could also be more strategically supported.

“There are changes in attitudes towards children. Traditionally it was believed that children should be seen and not heard, but now we encourage children to speak and to participate... We have Child Council and Youth Group representatives in our CPC. It is important as children are more likely to share their concerns with their peers.”

Female CPC member, urban area, Andhra Pradesh, India

Evaluation findings provide further evidence regarding the advantages of children's participation in community-based child protection initiatives, which were highlighted in the “Lessons for Protection” report.⁸¹ Through their participation children:

⁷⁹ ICPREC, Claire O'Kane, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan China, September 2014.

⁸⁰ Plan China, Evaluation Report of Shaanxi Province Child Protection System Development Project – for internal communication. Nankai University, 2013.

⁸¹ Plan Asia Regional Office, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012. Compared to two years ago many of the benefits identified during the comparative analysis have also now been observed among children in some of the CBCPM communities in China and Pakistan.

- Are more visible in the community and there is increased value in listening to children;
- Have access to more information about child protection;
- Have increased confidence, improved communication, negotiation and problem solving skills;
- Are more able to defend their rights and their own self-protection; and have contributed to improved protection of other children;
- Have played a role in reducing school dropout; preventing child marriage; and preventing the beating of other children;
- Are contributing to the media and/or theatre initiatives and increase awareness and action on protection issues affecting them;
- Have increased awareness and action on issues concerning girls and boys in their community; and ensured more attention to children's needs and priorities;
- Have increased opportunities to influence community and/or school decision making and planning processes; and children in some countries have been able to influence national level child rights monitoring and national policy developments.

Key findings on children's participation in CBCPMs (average regional score = 2.3, partially achieved)

- Many CBCPMs include child representatives; and many CBCPMs work collaboratively with children's groups. Close collaboration between children's groups and CBCPMs are mutually reinforcing and contribute to more effective CBCPMs.
- Children and young people's roles in awareness raising, identification and reporting of child protection concerns, mapping of risks, and organising action to prevent or respond to child protection concerns (such as beating, child marriage, bullying etc.) increase the CBCPMs relevance and effectiveness.
- Regional resources including "Bamboo Shoots" and "Sticks and Stones" are being translated and applied in the region to strengthen children's participation in their own protection. These materials are most effective when adapted and translated into local languages.
- Ongoing and increased efforts are needed by Plan and their partners to analyse and mitigate risks to ensure that girls and boys do not face increased risks through their child protection initiatives. Adults have the primary responsibility to protect children.
- CBCPMs have effectively contributed to increased value for children's participation in many CBCPM project areas. However, ongoing efforts are needed to sensitise adults (parents, caregivers, officials etc.) regarding the importance on children's participation.
- In many communities in different parts of the region girls are playing more active roles than boys in community-based and school-based children's groups and child protection work. Thus, increased efforts are needed to empower and engage boys in children's groups and CBCPMs.
- More systematic efforts are needed by Plan and their partners to effectively reach and engage the most marginalised children (children with disabilities, indigenous children, out of school working children, child domestic workers etc.) in children's groups and in CBCPMs.
- Children would like increased opportunities to network with other children's groups to enhance their action and advocacy initiatives on child protection.

Building upon positive traditional practices and increasing awareness of child rights to transform harmful practices⁸²

Score on KQE 8: Positive traditional practices towards the care and protection of children are built upon; and harmful practices are transformed						
1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
		India Nepal Pakistan	China	Bangladesh Cambodia Sri Lanka Thailand Vietnam	Indonesia	

To establish effective CBCPMs it is important to identify and build upon traditional practices and beliefs that support children's care and protection while also being prepared to identify and transform traditional practices that are harmful to children. In all countries in the region, Plan and their partners are supporting efforts to transform harmful traditional practices to children, such as child marriage, corporal punishment to discipline children, gender discrimination, and child labour. Furthermore, some countries (including Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) have also made systematic efforts to identify and build upon positive traditional practices that enhance the care and protection of children.



Supporting children living with relatives, Plan China⁸³

A crucial finding from research undertaken by Plan in rural communities in China is that close relationships with family, friends or neighbours are the single most important factor facilitating child protection in communities.⁸⁴ The research also identified that a growing number of children are being 'left behind' in the care of grandparents or other relatives as their parents are migrating to urban settings for work. Good efforts are being made by Plan China to support 'left behind children' through their CBCPM

⁸² Note that KQE 11 is also relevant: KQE 11: Female and male community members are aware of children's rights, child protection and positive discipline and have changed their behaviour to care and protect children in families and communities.

⁸³ ICPREC, Claire O'Kane, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan China, September 2014.

⁸⁴ K.E. on behalf of Plan China, Recommendations for the Adaptation of International Best Practices in CBCPMs to the local context in North West China, 2013.

work through various social protection and other neighbourhood support initiatives. Such good practices should be built upon, and increased efforts should be made across the region to ensure that CBCPMs monitor and better support the care and protection of children living with relative caregivers (grandparents, aunts, uncles etc.). Ongoing programming and advocacy efforts are needed to prevent parental separation.

Positive traditional practices supporting the care and protection of children include:

- Recognition and support for the role of the extended family system where-by grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts and uncles play a role in child rearing, care and the protection of children, in addition to (or as alternatives to) parents. In some socio cultural contexts in the region, grandmothers play a particularly important role in caring for babies and young children.
- Care of children by their relatives (kinship care) when children have been orphaned or separated from their parents (including situations when parents migrate for work).
- The social cohesion and support networks that are provided by neighbours, community members (particularly in rural communities) and existing CBOs which are built upon through Plan's efforts to establish community level forums bringing together children/youth/women/men in communities.
- The role of the community chief/elder as a person who community members report concerns to. Thus, village elders/chiefs are actively encouraged to be part of the CBCPMs.
- The influence of religious elders in informing parenting practices. Thus in many countries Plan has encouraged the engagement of religious leaders in CBCPMs to help promote children's protection and care.⁸⁵



Involving youth and community members in Child Right Situation Analysis (CRSA) in ethnic minority communities, Chiang Mai, Thailand⁸⁶

In ethnic minority hill communities in Chiang Mai where Plan supports CBCPMs, Plan's NGO partner Highlander People's Task Force Thailand has made interesting efforts to support participatory child rights situation analysis involving youth, mother volunteers, and village heads. These participatory CRSAs enable increased understanding and response to traditional beliefs, attitudes and practices concerning children, families and child protection in the ethnic minority communities. Youth, mother volunteers, and village heads were trained by Plan's NGO partner on child rights, child protection, data collection, analysis and report writing. The research methods included focus group discussions, key informant interviews and observation.

Plan Thailand has also supported interesting **research exploring bullying in schools experienced by lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) students** in order to better understand the impact of bullying and to document the availability of existing prevention and support interventions. Out of 2,070 survey participants, 246 (11.9 percent) self-identified with being part of the LGBT community and 137 (55.7 percent) experienced bullying in the past month.⁸⁷ However, two thirds never reported these incidents. The findings from this study are being used to inform child protection prevention and response efforts, including future possibilities to establish child protection committees in schools.

⁸⁵ See Plan Asia Regional Office, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012.

⁸⁶ Plan Thailand, Powerpoint Presentation on Child Protection Programme Initiatives and Best Practice, 2014.

⁸⁷ Mahidol, Plan International Thailand, UNESCO Bangkok (2014) Bullying targeting secondary school students who are perceived to be transgender or same sex attracted.

Although parents and caregivers tend to be aware of children's needs for safety and protection from diseases, fire, and traffic accidents, prior to specific awareness raising initiatives on child protection there is often a lack of awareness or acceptance among parents and caregivers about abuse, violence and exploitation issues. Discrimination based on gender, caste, religion, wealth, disability, and other factors further influence social norms and acceptance regarding the way certain girls and boys are treated or mistreated. Thus, ongoing sensitisation and community mobilisation on child protection and non-discrimination issues is required.

Parenting groups, as well as broader community engagement with women, men, youth and children on child rights supports the development of knowledge, attitudes and practices to enhance child protection, care and positive parenting. Across Asia it has been a social norm for parents and caregivers to beat children as a means of disciplining them. Thus, significant efforts are needed to provide parents, caregivers and teachers with alternative methods to guide and discipline children in homes, schools and communities without resorting to violence or humiliation. Parenting education materials developed by Plan Vietnam have been effectively applied in Vietnam and adapted by Plan in other countries in the region.

Positive Discipline Training Manual developed by Plan Vietnam⁸⁸

Plan Vietnam developed and published a Positive Discipline Training Manual in 2009 which has been effectively applied to enhance parents' knowledge, attitudes and skills for positive discipline. Good parenting forums and positive discipline training with mothers, fathers and caregivers has improved communication and understanding among children and their parents; and has helped create a more conducive environment for broader community-based work on child protection in Vietnam. The training manual has also been adapted and applied by other Plan country programmes and organisations in other countries in the region.

However, in most countries the parenting sessions focus on mothers. Thus, increased efforts are needed to reach and actively involve fathers, grandparents, uncles and aunts in parenting sessions. Good practices from the Philippines for involving men in the prevention and response to violence against women and children⁸⁹ should be adapted and replicated in other countries in the region.

Research on harmful traditional practices, particularly on child marriage, has been conducted in a number of countries (including Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Pakistan). Findings from such research are being used to inform the CBCPM programmes, as well as Plan's broader work on gender equality.

⁸⁸ Plan Vietnam, Positive Discipline Training Manual, 2009.

⁸⁹ See Plan Asia Regional Office, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012.

Asia Child Marriage Initiative⁹⁰

Plan Asia Regional Office supported research on child marriage in Bangladesh, India and Nepal to explore the perceptions of different stakeholders about the causes and consequences of child marriage and the efficacy of Plan's programming in addressing these factors. The research was undertaken by the International Centre for Research on Women. Child marriage of girls is a harmful traditional practice which has been acceptable in many communities in countries across Asia, even when laws are in place for its prohibition. The study brings out the influence and interplay of gender norms, household economy, and aspirations of girls and their families concerning education, family honour, security and protection. The study reveals the valuable role community-based institutions and children's groups in preventing and responding to child marriage. Some emerging trends, like child-initiated marriages were also identified which require further investigation.

Across the region, significant efforts are being made by CBCPMs and children's groups to **prevent, report and stop child marriages.**

Tackling child marriages, Plan Bangladesh⁹¹

Plan Bangladesh is making systematic efforts to prevent child marriage through its CBCPM programme and advocacy work. In Bangladesh, 64 percent of women get married before the age of 18 years; in Plan intervention areas this number currently stands at 57 percent. Programme Units have an objective to increase the mean age of girls at marriage from 15 to 18 years in all Plan programme areas by 2015. Members of Children's Forums and CBCPMs are empowered with knowledge concerning the law, and enhanced life skills to communicate and negotiate with parents to prevent child marriage. The CBCPM members are working with parents and community members to raise their awareness about the negative consequences of child marriage on a girl's physical health, educational status, and economic situation, whilst also informing parents that it is against the law to marry children before 18 years. Plan is also advocating with duty bearers at local, district and national levels to take initiatives that increase law enforcement of the law against child marriage, including promoting birth registration and requesting administrative officers to always request official birth certificates before conducting marriages. In addition, Plan has trained journalists on positive reporting on child rights and protection issues, including child marriage, eve teasing, and other forms of violence.

⁹⁰ Plan Asia Regional Office, Asia Child Marriage Initiative: Summary of Research in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, 2013.

⁹¹ ICPREC, Kunera Moore, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Bangladesh, September 2014.

“Because I am a Girl” – a testimony of a girl in Vietnam

I am a 7th grade student. I live in Lung Phua village, in Hà Giang province. My village is very poor. Some girls of my age are already forced to get married. I’m scared that tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, I will have an arranged marriage and can no longer go to school... Last year, my school, supported by Plan’s “Because I am a Girl” project, set up a girl group. Every month, we girls gather to play games and talk. At first, I was very shy. I sat in the far corner and only shook my head whenever my teacher asked me anything. But slowly, getting involved in the games, I became relaxed and opened up. During the discussions, our teacher helped us to know more about early marriage. We organised interactive theatrical play to explore solutions for child marriage. Besides the school performance, I also joined the school’s communication team to sensitise people about child marriage. Now my friends and I know how to explain to our parents the bad consequences of child marriage. We also know that we can seek help from our teachers or village leaders if we are forced to get married. After one year in the “Because I am a Girl” group, my fear has eased. I am much more confident now. If someday my parents talk me into marriage, I would stand up and say: “I don’t want to commit an illegal act. I want to go to school!”

In many communities across the region sociocultural norms concerning the ‘privacy’ of the family and ‘family honour’ contribute to the reluctance to report violence within families, and hesitance by CBCPMs to intervene in situations where a child is neglected, abused or exploited within the family (see also Chapter 4). Fears regarding ‘loss of family honour’ are particularly pertinent in cases of child sexual abuse. Thus, ongoing efforts are needed to encourage reporting and to ensure a sensitive response to violence against children, particularly to cases of child sexual abuse. In many contexts CBCPMs themselves are using traditional justice systems to settle child protection cases, rather than reporting cases to the police and the formal justice system. Such practices are often guided more by the principle of ‘family honour’ rather than the child’s best interests. Different forms of corruption and misuse of power also need to be overcome to ensure justice and support to child survivors in their best interests, rather than cases being ignored or resolved through informal justice systems focusing on financial compensation.⁹²

CBCPMs use of traditional justice systems to settle child protection cases, Indonesia⁹³

In Indonesia it has been reported that “Affinity and kinship (*kekeluargaan*) are Indonesian values that are commonly used by parents in handling cases on violence against children. Only when such approaches do not bring success, will parent bring the case to NGOs or the police”.⁹⁴ During the evaluation field visits with KPADs (CBCPMs) in both Rembang and Kefamenanu, CBCPM members reported use of traditional justice systems as a positive practice to deal with child protection cases. This included financial settlements between the families of victims and perpetrators. However, in such situations the child victim will continue to see the perpetrator walk freely in the community without being charged by the police or found guilty by a court.

⁹² See Plan Asia Regional Office, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012.

⁹³ ICPREC, Kunera Moore, Evaluating the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Indonesia, September 2014.

⁹⁴ Plan Indonesia, 2013 Q1 progress report from Grobogan reported in ICPREC, Kunera Moore, Evaluating the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Indonesia, September 2014.

Use of corporal punishment to discipline a child has been embedded as a traditional practice in many cultures across Asia. Thus, gradual and sustained awareness raising efforts as part of CBCPM efforts are being encouraged by Plan and their partners in many countries in the region to encourage adults to recognise the negative impact of beating children, and to provide alternative positive parenting skills, as well as positive discipline techniques for teachers. Plan's earlier "Learn without Fear" campaigning also contributed to efforts to end use of corporal punishment in schools.

In a few countries, including Vietnam, India and Thailand some CBCPMs are supporting community engagement in efforts to develop and follow village rules (or codes of conduct) which build upon positive traditional practices and help transform harmful practices to increase children's care and protection.⁹⁵ Such good practice initiatives should be scaled up and replicated in other communities across the region.

"Plan supported us to build a village code which strengthens the CBCPM. This was a good model and the change was that it was built through a participatory process and was bottom up, not top down. Local people discussed and agreed before writing up the village code. They then submitted it to the District level for review and approval. This has resulted in people following it and better monitoring."

Vice Director, Department of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs, Vietnam

More systematic efforts are needed to ensure that all CBCPM members are aware of and have signed 'codes of conduct' to ensure that their behaviour is respectful of children's rights to protection and child safeguarding policies. It is important that CBCPM members are good role models and mentors to other community members on child protection and non-discrimination, including efforts to use positive discipline alternatives.

Key findings on building upon positive traditional practices and increasing the awareness of child rights to transform harmful practices (average regional score = 2.7, more than partially achieved)

- In all countries in the region, Plan and their partners' efforts to transform harmful practices to children, such as child marriage, corporal punishment, and gender discrimination are relevant and effective. Some countries have made systematic efforts to identify and build upon positive traditional practices that enhance the care and protection of children. However, increased participatory research on positive traditional practices, as well as harmful practices would further inform effective project planning, design and implementation of CBCPMs in many countries.
- Plan's parenting education is relevant and partly effective. It supports the development of knowledge, attitudes and practices to enhance child protection, care and positive parenting. However, increased efforts are needed to reach and actively involve fathers, grandparents, uncles and aunts in parenting sessions.

⁹⁵ See ICPREC, Shikha Ghildyal, Evaluating the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Vietnam, September 2014.

- In many communities across the region sociocultural norms concerning the privacy of the family and ‘family honour’ contribute to reluctance to report violence within families, and hesitancy by CBCPMs to intervene in situations where a child is neglected, abused or exploited within the family.
- Village rules are an effective way to mobilise community involvement and improve child protection and should be scaled up. Furthermore, all CBCPM members should sign and follow a ‘code of conduct’ to ensure child safeguarding.

Concluding comments on building blocks

Significant efforts are being made by Plan and their partners in the Asia region to strengthen building blocks which enable the formation of inclusive CBCPMs which are recognised and valued in their communities and mandated by government authorities to prevent and respond to child protection concerns. There are sincere efforts to support children’s participation in CBCPMs. However, increased efforts are needed to reach and involve the most marginalised girls, boys, men and women in CBCPMs, and to raise awareness on child protection among all sectors of the community. Ongoing and increased efforts are also needed to understand and to build upon existing traditional practices which enhance the care and protection of children.

Figure 5:

An overview of country
KQE scores on
building blocks

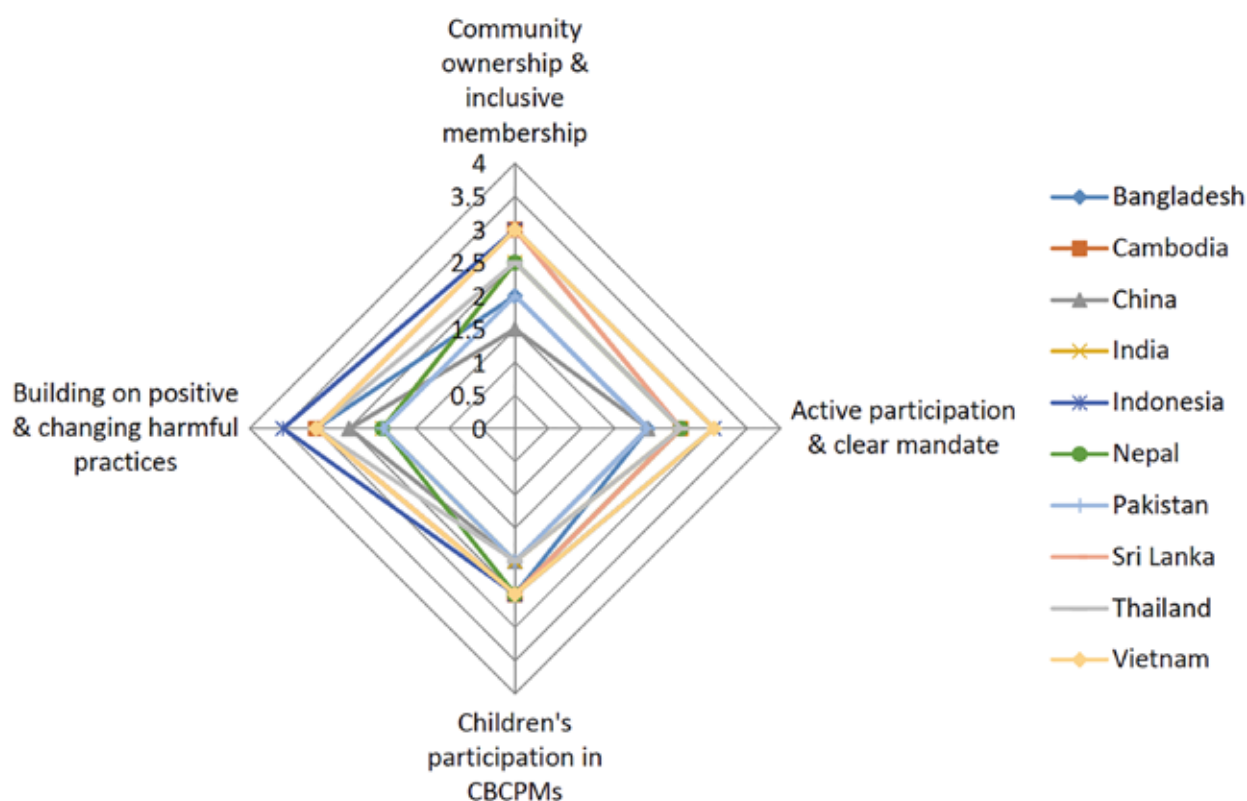




Figure 6:
Evaluation activity with
children, Vietnam



CHAPTER 4

Evaluating operational mechanisms and coordination to prevent and address violence against children through CBCPMs

A Cycle of Protection involving CBCPMs is outlined in Plan ARO’s Resource Handbook for working with communities to enhance child protection.⁹⁶ The handbook outlines different phases of work and the role that CBCPMs play, especially in terms of prevention, early detection and identification. The resource handbook emphasises that “Community-based child protection mechanisms typically primarily focus on prevention work through awareness raising and early intervention but – especially in remote and rural areas or where there are few services and limited reach of formal services – they can also play a key role in identifying and referring/responding children who have been/who are being abused and mistreated.”

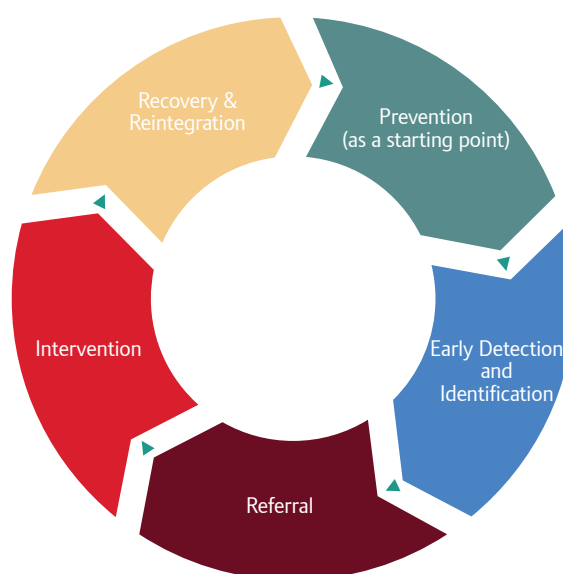


Figure 7:
Cycle of protection

Table 6:
Outlining Plan ARO resource book recommendations for CBCPM’s case management

Plan ARO CBCPM Resource Handbook Guidance ⁹⁷	
In general CPCPMs should	In general CPCPMs should not
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness within the community • Implement prevention activities, including education and information sessions • Identify and refer children to appropriate services who have been abused or where there is high risk • Provide support to children and families in the community who are at risk • Assist formal services in supporting and working with families as part of care plans • Monitoring and follow up of cases in collaboration with formal services • Advocacy for and lobby for improvements in services, and in law and policy changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate potential criminal offences • Undertake investigations of allegations of abuse • Work unsupported with children who have been abused – CPCPMs should be considered a complimentary part of the national child protection system, not a replacement for it

⁹⁶ Raša Sekulović and Stephanie Delaney. Step by Step - Towards Child Safer Communities: Resource Handbook for Working with Communities to Enhance Child Protection – A guide for field practitioners. Plan Asia Regional Office, 2014.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

Prevention and early interventions to increase children's protection from abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation

Score on KQE 12: CBCPMs members are actively involved in prevention and early interventions to increase children's protection from abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation						
1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
		Bangladesh China Pakistan Thailand	India Nepal	Cambodia Indonesia	Sri Lanka Vietnam	

CBCPMs supported by Plan across Asia have a key focus on prevention and early interventions to increase children's protection from different forms of violence, with particularly strong prevention and early intervention initiatives in Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia that can be adapted and replicated in other countries in the region. The main approaches to prevention and early intervention include:

- Awareness raising of community members on child rights, child protection (protection of children from different forms of abuse, corporal punishment, child marriage, child labour, safe migration, alcohol and drug use, bullying), birth registration, positive discipline, the importance of education, gender discrimination;
- Sharing information and key messages on child protection through IEC and creative media, including child-led media initiatives;
- Encouraging birth registration;
- Parenting education initiatives to promote positive discipline, school attendance and healthy child development;
- Encouraging community members (neighbours, parents, children, teachers etc.) to monitor and report on violence against children, child marriage, school dropout, care issues so that early interventions can be taken to try to resolve the concern; in addition to setting up complaints box and response in some schools;
- Undertaking community-based risk mapping to identify and respond to vulnerable children and families and risks in the communities;
- Identifying vulnerable children and their families and making referrals to increase their access to services (including support for children with disabilities, children living with grandparents etc);
- Developing and resourcing action plans for these various community-based child protection initiatives.

“We played an active role to reduce gender-based violence especially to stop child marriage, to reduce threats and corporal punishment to children, and to encourage schooling. Community people started to pay respect to the opinions of their children, corporal punishment and threats have started to reduce. Children’s issues are included in school and upazila plans. The community people also started to think that girls have rights equal to boys. A change in the mindset of the community people has been started, which may create a child-friendly society in course of time.”

CBCPM member, Nilphamari District, Bangladesh

Awareness raising of community members on child protection related issues through community meetings, informal gatherings, or during other planned events (e.g. traditional gatherings, National Children’s Day) is the most common form of prevention work undertaken by many CBCPMs across the region. For example, in Indonesia KPAD (CBCPM) members have encouraged discussion on child protection messages during: women’s gatherings to discuss the Quran; Sunday masses at church; in school committee meetings; in health posts; and in children’s events. Awareness raising on child rights and protection issues is often undertaken in collaboration by CBCPM members and children’s group members.

Awareness raising of community members in Sri Lanka⁹⁸

In Sri Lanka CPC members, children’s groups and community volunteers have been involved in awareness raising and campaigns on birth registration, domestic violence, positive discipline, the harm caused by alcohol abuse, and the safety and protection of the children in migrant families. There are also increasing efforts to raise awareness to prevent mothers from migrating and leaving their children. CPC members and child/youth group members have raised awareness on child protection through community meetings, drama, rallies and door to door meetings.

Sharing information and key messages on child protection through IEC and creative media, including child-led media initiatives is supported through CBCPMs and children’s groups in many countries to create awareness and to promote positive behaviour change amongst adults, youth and children. In different contexts child protection messages in local languages have been shared through leaflets, posters, wall paintings, billboards, theatre, traditional performances (music, puppets, song), radio programmes, loudspeaker announcements, and calendars.

⁹⁸ ICPREC, Claire O’Kane, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Sri Lanka, September 2014.

Child protection posters disseminated in Eastern territories of Indonesia



Many CBCPMs supported by Plan in the region are also raising awareness about the importance of [birth registration](#), and are supporting birth registration processes. Access to birth registration documents increases children's access to basic services, reduces vulnerability and enhances future protection from child marriage, labour, or recruitment into fighting forces.

Figure 8: Materials developed for child protection awareness by Plan Indonesia

Birth registration of all children under the age of 14 years, Bikaner, Rajasthan, India⁹⁹

Through Plan's community-based child protection programme an intensive exercise was undertaken in 21 *panchayats* in the Kolayat block during 2013 to identify all children up to the age of 14 years who did not have birth registration certificates. Following this, 19,081 children (51 percent girls, 49 percent boys) were then registered and birth certificates were provided to them.

Some CBCPMs in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka are sharing information about safe touch to prevent child sexual abuse. However, in many counties and communities increased efforts are needed to raise awareness about sensitive issues including child sexual abuse, unwanted pregnancies, alcohol and drug abuse by young people or family members, and online safety. Furthermore, increased efforts are needed to raise awareness on positive parenting, with increased efforts to engaging more fathers and male caregivers. Greater efforts are also needed to organise awareness raising initiatives at times where members of the most marginalised families are available to participate.

[Parenting education initiatives](#) to promote positive discipline, gender equality, school attendance and healthy child development are actively supported by CBCPMs in some countries in the region (including Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam), but more systematic parenting education initiatives are needed in many countries.

⁹⁹ Plan India, APPR 2013 report, Rajasthan, 2014.

“We do not do any awareness raising on beating. Parents may still shout at and beat their children. Even parents are not aware of child protection. They should be with us. We need more parental sessions to move ahead.”

Female CPC member, Andhra Pradesh, India

Parenting groups can support regular opportunities for information and experience sharing among mothers, fathers and other caregivers who enable positive changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices towards children. In particular parents and caregivers need to be equipped with positive alternatives to discipline their children without resorting to physical or emotional violence. In Cambodia, systematic and innovative use of ‘closed groups’ is used to address domestic violence in families. This approach can be adapted and replicated in other countries in the region.

Parenting groups and closed groups to reduce domestic violence, Cambodia¹⁰⁰

When cases of domestic violence are reported and confirmed, the Family Protection Network (CBCPMs supported by Plan in Cambodia) ask parents to participate in parenting groups or in closed groups. The closed groups have the clear goal of preventing further domestic violence and helping families live together without disputes. If abusive men are not willing to participate in the closed groups, they are reported to the police. People are usually invited to join the closed group by the village or commune chief (who is a member of the FPN). The closed groups meet within the communes, sometimes men and women together and sometimes genders are segregated to optimize levels of intimacy to share issues. The interventions include awarenessraising using specific trainings on protection and rights issues, anger management and behaviour control, and the impact of violence on families and children. The implementing NGOs are leading these trainings, though village and commune officials also participate. The closed groups are very successful; ranging from 75 percent success of stopping domestic violence to 52 percent. Even though alcohol abuse is not the focus of the closed groups, all root causes are discussed, including alcohol abuse, jealousy, being unable to provide for one’s family etc.

CBCPM members encourage monitoring and reporting on violence against children, child marriage, school dropout, child labour, care and discrimination issues so that early interventions can be taken by CBCPMs and other concerned stakeholders to try to resolve the concern. Children, as well as parents and neighbours are encouraged to report any concerns that they face or observe in their families, schools or communities. In many countries children’s group members are also encouraged to share their concerns as part of their group meetings and to report any concerns to CBCPM members, so that such concerns can be promptly addressed.

¹⁰⁰ ICPREC, Kunera Moore, Evaluating the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Cambodia, September 2014.

Story of change recounted by a village chairman from Hanying County, China¹⁰¹

Our village had a woman who was depressed because her child had special needs. She felt that her situation was quite hopeless. She would constantly beat and curse her own child, really out of exhaustion. Through this project, we were doing constant public awareness and training, and this mother has started to believe that she should treat her child differently, because children with special needs have emotional needs too. She no longer beats or curses, and she is much more loving toward the child than she was before. Also, the neighbours have started to show more concern for this family.

In a number of countries (including Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam) [reporting mechanisms on child protection are also being supported by Plan in schools through the School Management Committees \(SMC\)](#); the establishment of Child Protection Committees within schools; links to existing hotlines; and/or use of complaint or opinion boxes. Prompt reporting enables early interventions by the school authorities in collaboration with child protection stakeholders on a range of protection issues affecting girls and boys in schools including corporal punishment, bullying, child sexual abuse, discrimination or other forms of mistreatment. Such efforts build upon contributed Plan's "Learn without Fear" campaign (now completed globally) and contribute to the establishment of child friendly schools which are more safe and inclusive.

[Risk and resource mapping](#) exercises to identify risks, and the most vulnerable children and families in their community are being undertaken by CBCPM and children's group members in a number of countries including Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. In Sri Lanka, the community volunteers conduct community awareness sessions, family visits, and interactions with children who are identified as vulnerable or at risk. In Thailand and Pakistan the mapping information is used to inform more collective initiatives to reduce risks and vulnerability, including the establishment of village rules or efforts to better protect open wells. However, challenges are faced if resources are needed to mitigate the risks, as the CPCs often do not have funds or resources to directly respond to children. Child protection concerns such as neglect or children's engagement in work which may be rooted in poverty are also harder for CBCPMs to solve unless there are relevant social protection or livelihood schemes that they can refer vulnerable families to. In addition, when referrals are made there are often delays in getting a response from the concerned government authorities.

[Identifying vulnerable children/families and increasing their access to services](#) is supported by some CBCPMs in most countries in the region. Lists of vulnerable children/families are sometimes created through door to door visits to households by CBCPM members in their community. However, more systematic efforts are needed to encourage all CBCPMs to identify vulnerable children and families and to ensure follow up with the concerned authorities so that children/families are able to access basic services, social protection schemes and other services that they may be entitled to.

¹⁰¹ Plan China (2013) Evaluation Report of Shaanxi Province Child Protection System Development Project – for internal communication. Nankai University.

Responding to vulnerable children, eastern region, Sri Lanka¹⁰²

In the eastern region of Sri Lanka, during a six month period from July to December 2013, 130 children were supported through targeted interventions by community volunteers and divisional child protection officers including interventions to support 21 children with disabilities; interventions to send 63 children who had dropped out due to household chores back to school, child labour or child marriage; and vocational support for 46 children who were over the age of 14 years and had been out of school for more than one year. Community volunteers are continuing to monitor and follow up with children and families to ensure outcomes in their best interests. To reduce the number of child marriages, volunteers are also visiting and negotiating with parents, and ensuring that children have proper identification (e.g. birth registration) for proof of age.

In China, CBCPM members in the Shaanxi province collaborated with the government and school authorities to ensure that ‘left behind children’ (children living with their grandparents or relatives), the poorest children, and children with disabilities were able to access education, health, care, protection, and social protection services. Innovative schemes including a ‘care bank card’ have also been supported in Hanyin County as a service exchange method to increase care of children living with grandparents or relatives when their parents have migrated for work.¹⁰³

In most countries increased efforts are needed by CBCPMs to address changing risks to children and young people in rural and urban contexts that are being brought about through increased access to the Internet, social media and modern practices. Increasing numbers of children in Asia are accessing the Internet, particularly through mobile phones. While some CBCPMs in Vietnam are preventing young people’s excessive use of computer games, few CBCPMs are addressing online safety. Furthermore, during the evaluation young people in a number of countries (including Indonesia, Nepal, India and Cambodia) raised concerns regarding child elopement and/or unwanted pregnancies among young people. Thus, increased collaborations are needed between CBCPMs and children’s groups to prevent and respond to such concerns.

Addressing changing risks to children brought about by modern practices, Indonesia¹⁰⁴

Adult CBCPM members worried about children hanging out with friends later than before and the closer relationship between boys and girls as negative modern practices. Boys and girls also reported alcohol and drug abuse as modern problems. The most pressing modern problem identified was unwanted pregnancies often as a result of sexual relationships between children under the age of 18. To address such concerns, children and KPAD members have cooperated in developing community regulations for coffee shops, where children hang out and sometimes drink alcohol. In 16 villages in Rembang, KPADs designed, and the local authorities approved regulations for coffee shops operational hours, so that children do not hang out all night to drink alcohol and skip classes in the morning. This was also seen as an action to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Though increased efforts to share information about sexual and reproductive health are also needed. Furthermore, while KPADs and children’s forums actively share information about child trafficking, commercial and sexual exploitation, no information is being shared with or by children about safe Internet practices and safe online networking.

¹⁰² CPREC 2014 Sri Lanka report.

¹⁰³ See ICPREC 2014 China report.

¹⁰⁴ ICPREC, Kunera Moore, Evaluating the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Indonesia, September 2014.

Developing action plans and identifying sources of funding for community-based child protection prevention and early intervention initiatives by CBCPMs increase the likelihood of systematic efforts. Furthermore, when action plans are based on local assessments, risk mapping findings and/or consultations with children they tend to be more contextualised and relevant to local needs. However, a number of CBCPMs do not develop action plans or budgets, thus limiting their prevention and early interventions. Furthermore, some CBCPMs are struggling to mobilise sufficient human or material resources to support the implementation of their action plans.

Key findings on prevention and early intervention (average regional score = 2.6, more than partially achieved)

- There is an increasingly strong and effective focus by Plan and its partners to support CBCPMs and children's groups in undertaking relevant prevention and early intervention efforts in families, schools and communities. Such efforts contribute to the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of community-based protection efforts.
- Community-based awareness raising and media initiatives are increasing community members' (particularly women and children's) awareness on child rights and protection issues which is contributing to a reduction in child marriage, corporal punishment, and school dropout. However, increased efforts are needed to engage men, fathers, and other caregivers.
- Parenting groups and 'closed groups' are effective and relevant methods to address different forms of domestic violence and to promote positive parenting. Good practices from Cambodia should be adapted and replicated in other countries in the region.
- Community risk maps to identify and respond to vulnerable children and families and risks in the communities are efficient when they lead to individual case follow up and referrals, and to action to reduce risks in the community. However, challenges are faced by CBCPMs when funds, resources or responsive referral mechanisms and services are not in place to respond to identified risks and vulnerabilities.
- Some CBCPMs are undertaking effective efforts to identify vulnerable children and their families and are making referrals to increase their access to services. Such initiatives need to be more systematically implemented by CBCPMs across the region.
- CBCPM's effectiveness and efficiency can be increased by developing action plans and by negotiating with concerned authorities and agencies to provide human resources and budget support for their implementation.

Community-based reporting and response mechanisms on child protection

Score on KQE 13: Community-based **reporting mechanisms on child protection** are clear. Community members (parents, caregivers, children) know who to report to if they have any concerns.

1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
		Bangladesh China Nepal Pakistan Thailand	India Sri Lanka	Indonesia	Cambodia Vietnam	

Plan International has zero tolerance for violence against children.¹⁰⁵ The importance of zero tolerance is reinforced by this statement from the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child: “All forms of violence against children, however light, are unacceptable. [...] Frequency, severity of harm and intent to harm are not prerequisites for the definitions of violence. States parties may refer to such factors in intervention strategies in order to allow proportional responses in the best interests of the child, but definitions must in no way erode the child’s absolute right to human dignity and physical and psychological integrity by describing some forms of violence as legally and/or socially acceptable.”¹⁰⁶ Ongoing awareness raising is required within communities, schools, families and other care settings to ensure that all members of the general public and professionals have attitudes and behaviours which do not tolerate any form of violence against a child. Furthermore, increased efforts are needed to establish child friendly reporting and response mechanisms to better address child protection concerns.

There are a number of elements and components that must be in place for an effective child friendly community-based reporting and response mechanism on child protection. For example, it is necessary that:

- Children and/or adults have sufficient awareness to recognise that certain practices and experiences are child protection concerns (e.g. child marriage, child labour, corporal punishment, child sexual abuse etc.);
- Children and adults know where to report child protection concerns to, and such reporting mechanisms are accessible to them;
- Children and adults have enough confidence to make reports – in terms of confidence to raise their concerns, confidence that they will be heard and taken seriously, and confidence that those who they report to have sufficient competency to respond sensitively and effectively, taking into consideration the dignity and privacy of the affected party(ies);
- Members of CBCPMs are prepared to receive reports and have sufficient competency and collective decision making mechanisms in place to assess which types of issues they can attempt to respond to within the community, and which types of issues they need to refer to the relevant government authorities or other key duty bearers;
- Referral and response mechanisms with concerned duty bearers are in place. Members of CBCPMs need to have sufficient knowledge and contact details of concerned duty bearers, and confidence to make the referrals;
- Concerned duty bearers need to respond in a timely and effective manner, acting in the best interests of the child.

¹⁰⁵ Plan International, No More Excuses: Ending Violence Against Children, 2008.

¹⁰⁶ United Nations CRC/C/GC/13 Convention on the Rights of the Child 18 April 2011, Committee on the Rights of the Child General comment No. 13, 2011.

Developing child friendly reporting mechanisms and the dilemmas regarding the extent to which CBCPM members should be involved in responding to child abuse¹⁰⁷

Plan ARO's draft resource handbook for working with communities on child protection emphasises the importance of establishing 'Child Friendly Reporting Mechanisms' with clearly communicated steps for reporting concerns, and for steps to be taken by CBCPMs once reports are received. The handbook also highlights dilemmas regarding the extent to which CBCPM members should be involved in responding to child abuse cases: "The extent of the involvement of the CBCPM will depend on the specifics and location of the CBCPM but is likely to raise a number of issues and dilemmas... It should be noted that the involvement of CBCPMs needs to be very carefully considered, and kept to a minimum. This is not to say that CBCPMs do not have a significant role to play – such as helping to provide support in the community, participating in assessments or implementing care plans and in monitoring/follow up. However, complex child abuse situations, especially where there are high levels of risk are likely to require specific skills and expertise that go beyond CBCPM capacities.... serious consideration must be given to the risk to members. It may place members of the community in danger or in difficult positions in terms of their relationships with other community members if they are asked to take on a more proactive role".¹⁰⁸ However, it is also recognised that "in emergencies or where there is an absence of formal services there can be an expectation that CBCPMs take responsibility for intervening and managing cases of abuse. This should be limited, and only introduced with caution as it is unlikely that without significant on-going support a CBCPM will have the necessary skills to be able to offer such intensive work required – and the effect could be that children are left unprotected."

There are increased reports on child protection concerns being made to CBCPMs in many communities where CBCPMs have been established, particularly in communities where CBCPM and children's group members have been raising awareness about child protection and the existence of the CBCPMs. Practices which may have been considered normal such as beating children, child marriage or child labour are increasingly identified as protection concerns. The main protection issues that are being identified and reported to CBCPMs include child abuse – neglect (leaving children unsupervised), beating and scolding (including corporal punishment in schools); school dropout; bullying; child marriage; and concerns relating to children's vulnerability and need for assistance (e.g. children with disabilities, children without birth registration etc.). In some communities CBCPMs are also receiving reports concerning child sexual abuse, child trafficking, teenage pregnancy, child labour, migration of family members or children, substance abuse or addiction by family members or young people.

Child protection concerns are reported to CBCPMs through different channels including direct reports from child victims to CBCPM members or to children's group members; discussions with children's group members; reports from concerned parents/neighbours/village chief/teachers/other stakeholders; and/or direct observation by CBCPM members. In communities where CBCPMs are more weakly established children may not share their concerns at all, or they may share concerns with their parents, peers or with other trusted

¹⁰⁷ Raša Sekulović and Stephanie Delaney. Step by Step - Towards Child Safer Communities: Resource Handbook for Working with Communities to Enhance Child Protection – A guide for field practitioners. Plan Asia Regional Office, 2014.

¹⁰⁸ There are also increased ethical concerns regarding the risks relating to children's participation in the response to child abuse cases. Thus, as highlighted in the report section on children's participation in CBCPMs risk assessment and mitigation strategies are essential to safe and ethical practices.

adults. Similarly their parents may or may not share their concerns with the CBCPM members depending on the level of trust they have in the CBCPM. In some communities children or adults report directly to the village chief or administrator, who may then involve other CBCPM members to determine what action should be taken; and/or may directly report the case to the concerned authorities.

In some communities CBCPMs share reports with Plan or the NGO partner who then make referrals, rather than making direct referrals to the concerned authorities themselves. This indicates a weakness in the child protection system, as it indicates either that the formal referral and response systems by the state are not accessible or effectively functioning and/or that CBCPM members do not have sufficient confidence to directly make referrals to the concerned authorities. For example, in Bangladesh and Pakistan CBCPMs members often refer complex child protection cases directly to the local Plan office, rather than to the concerned authorities due to their perceptions that there is not sufficient child protection expertise within the concerned government departments. Furthermore, in some CBCPMs in Thailand and India the CBCPM members lack confidence to communicate directly with the government authorities, and thus tend to share concerns with the NGO partner who may either support a response directly and/or make referrals to the concerned authorities. In some contexts, frustrations have arisen in CBCPM communities when child protection cases which have been referred either to INGOs, NGOs or to the government authorities have not received a timely or adequate response. In responding to child sexual abuse there are often delays in legal procedures for prosecutions, and such delays may sometimes affect the credibility of existing CBCPMs as community members find the response inefficient and ineffective.

Lack of response led to a non-functioning CBCPM, Islamabad, Pakistan¹⁰⁹

In one community a CBCPM had stopped functioning as they had reported three cases to Plan, but did not receive any support. A former CBCPM member explained, “As a member we reported cases to Plan UPU but no assistance was provided to us. Two rape incidents occurred in our community and victims’ families reported these cases to our watch group. We went to the police station and introduced ourselves as Watch Group members from Plan. We were very confident that Plan would provide assistance to the victims. We contacted the concerned community development facilitator for our community but he told us that Plan will not provide any legal assistance. Plan referred us to an NGO, it also refused to provide any legal assistance. This was a turning point for us and we felt that if it is only reporting, then why we should report.”

In most contexts sincere efforts are underway by Plan and their partners to strengthen community-based reporting, response and referral mechanisms which are relevant and appropriate. Finalisation and dissemination of the regional handbook¹¹⁰ will further support such efforts. In a number of countries (including Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam) guidance is available encouraging CBCPM members to make an assessment relating to the low/medium/high complexity of the case which informs their decisions to report to the case to the concerned government authorities, or to try to resolve the concern within their community.

¹⁰⁹ ICPREC, Claire O’Kane, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Pakistan, September 2014.

¹¹⁰ Raša Sekulović and Stephanie Delaney. Step by Step - Towards Child Safer Communities: Resource Handbook for Working with Communities to Enhance Child Protection – A guide for field practitioners. Plan Asia Regional Office, 2014.

Referrals of significant child abuse concerns to One Stop Crisis Centre, Thailand¹¹¹

In Thailand CBCPM members are not expected to respond to significant child abuse concerns. Rather their role is to make referrals to the concerned government authorities or to other relevant agencies who can respond in a sensitive manner. When reports are received the Child Protection Committee/Working Group members either share the concerns with the village chief or they refer the concerns to the NGO partner who refers to the concerned government authorities. The village chief tends to refer cases to the One Stop Crisis Centres (OSCCs) that have been established at district/sub-district level in the respective districts where Plan works. The OSCC staff will decide whether to report a case to the police or not; and they may refer cases on to the provincial level Child Protection Committee.

‘Low complexity’ cases which CBCPMs often try to resolve within their community include efforts to counsel, guide and negotiate with parents, caregivers, teachers or children concerning neglect, scolding, beating, bullying, and school dropout. For example, in situations where a child has been left at home alone, CBCPM members encourage and support the parents to identify safe practices for taking care of their children while they are working away from their homes or communities. In situations where a child has dropped out of school, the CBCPM members discuss with the parents and child to find out why and raise awareness about the importance of a child’s education. If required, a few of the CBCPM members unite and/or the village chief/leader is involved to influence a positive response from the concerned perpetrator.

“A child in the village suffered physical and emotional abuse from his parents: the child didn’t want to go to school and he was also beating other children. Neighbours reported the case to the KPAD. KPAD then talked to the family, lobbying them to treat their children better. The family stopped beating the child. They were given information about children’s rights and child protection. The KPAD afterwards met with the family two or three times because it takes time to change behaviour.”

CBCPM member, Indonesia

‘Medium complexity’ cases which some CBCPMs may attempt to resolve, but which often require external referrals and support include cases concerning vulnerable children or their families (including working children from the poorest families; children with disabilities; children without appropriate care etc.); child marriage; and some cases concerning repeated use of corporal punishment. Where child protection concerns are rooted in financial concerns of families (e.g. sending a child to earn a living rather than to school) in addition to sensitisation on child protection, interventions and/or referrals

¹¹¹ ICPREC, Claire O’Kane, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Thailand, September 2014.

to relevant social protection schemes, livelihood or income generation opportunities for family members are usually needed. In addition, children with disabilities often require referrals to services and support. Furthermore, as described in the earlier section in many communities CBCPM and children's group members are also intervening to prevent and protect children from child marriage. However, if reports of imminent child marriage ceremonies are received by CBCPM members, then the concerned authorities, including the police and relevant government officials may be actively involved.

'High complexity' cases which CBCPMs should be referring to the concerned authorities include cases with legal implications including child sexual abuse, child trafficking, economic or sexual exploitation, child marriage, as well as mistreatment or abuse of children by teachers, parents or caregivers. In Indonesia for example, 'high complexity' cases are reported to the police who may make referrals to the district level OSCC for legal, medical and psychosocial assistance. Cases in which both the victim and the perpetrator are under 18 years old also create complexities which are difficult for CBCPM members to respond to, especially in terms of efforts to consider and apply the principle of 'best interest of the child' to both parties. Interesting efforts by Plan Indonesia are underway to provide training to KPADs (CBCPMs) in restorative justice methodologies enabling child perpetrators to continue to live in the community and be monitored there, rather than entering the formal justice system.

Village CPC response to a rape case, Jharkhand, India¹¹²

In a small village a 10-year-old girl was raped by a 17 year old village boy. After the incident the girl was found unconscious and her parents rushed her to the hospital, and also informed the nearby police and village CPC to work on the case. Village level Child Protection Committee members consulted with the police and encouraged them to contact the Child Welfare Committee and the Juvenile Justice Board as per statutory child protection procedures both for the child perpetrator and the child victim. The village CPC members also visited the victim's family to provide support and information. As the perpetrator was also a child (under 18 years), they also visited the boy's house and assured his parents that rather than sending the boy to jail, the child would be sent to an observation home and a different procedure would be followed for the case by the district Juvenile Justice Board members. The boy's family did not initially trust their words. However, when they visited their son in the observation home they were relieved as they saw he was getting proper food and was reading, and they had more faith that his case was being processed by the Juvenile Justice Board. This incident demonstrates that through the initiative of the village CPC members were able to identify and respond to a complex child protection case, even though their committee had only been established for 10 months.

In reality, barriers to reporting and response are complex, contributing to low reporting on significant concerns such as child sexual abuse; and use of informal traditional justice mechanisms by some CBCPMs as alternatives to reporting to the police and concerned government authorities.

¹¹² Information shared by Plan staff, May 2014.

“Child abuse practices are still concealed as secret issues within the community, and the abuse cases are intimately handled among the community members, so the abused children are not systematically rescued in accordance with Thai law or the child protection mechanisms.”

Plan project officer, Chiang Mai, Thailand

“Many child protection cases go unregistered owing to interference/pressure by influential persons of community.”

Plan India staff member, Rajasthan, India¹¹³

As described in the ‘Lessons for Protection’ report, local settlement of rape/sexual abuse cases occurs in many communities with an active CBCPM across Asia. The perpetrator often pays financial compensation to the family, rather than the case being taken to court (due to the lengthy time of proceedings, costs of proceedings, corruption and cultural beliefs concerning honour and privacy).¹¹⁴ Harmful practices in Asia which have been condoned by some CBCPMs, but are being increasingly challenged by CBCPMs including arrangements such as marrying the child to the perpetrator who sexually abused them.

“The most difficult case faced by KPAD is when the police handle rape cases and brings it back to the family and relatives of both parties. They then agree to even marry victims and perpetrators.”

CBCPM members, West Timor, Indonesia

¹¹³ ICPREC (2014) Mapping and results of Pots and Stones, H assessment and Stories of Most Significant Change.

¹¹⁴ see Plan Asia Regional Office, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012.

Table 7:

Outlining barriers to reporting and response

Barriers to reporting	Barriers to response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of awareness: Some people do not know what abuse is, and whom to report to. Citizens and officials also may not be aware of relevant government laws and policies on child protection. • Sociocultural beliefs and acceptance relating to some forms of abuse, such as beating or scolding children, child labour, early child marriage. • Notions of privacy regarding violence within the family that should not be shared with others; or reported on by people outside the family. • Secrecy regarding child sexual abuse and fears of 'family dishonour' if such abuse were revealed. • Fear that reporting may have a negative impact on social relations within the community or family; fear of reporting, especially if the abuser is a powerful person, or if the abuser provides the main source of income to the family; fear that family honour will be harmed; fear that reporting will have negative long term effects on the child/family (e.g. may reduce future marriage opportunities of the child); • Poverty and insufficient money that may be needed for court cases, travel and other related costs (including fear of 'corruption' payments). • Delays and lack of trust in the legal reporting process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corruption and power of the perpetrator: When the perpetrator has power and high status people do not dare intervene and/or when corruption is used to prevent a legal case. • Discrimination: Discrimination by police or government officials. • Insufficient witness or evidence: There is no witness or the witness is not willing to cooperate (sometimes due to fear). • Poor implementation of existing child protection laws and policies. • Lack of infrastructure and insufficient human and financial resources in concerned police and child protection authorities: Insufficient numbers of child protection officials; lack of relevant training; lack of technical support, services or resources to systematically follow up the case. • Insufficient coordination among concerned duty bearers, which is further compromised in countries where there are regular transfers of government officials. • Delays in the legal system. • Preference to use traditional informal justice mechanisms, often relying on financial compensation between the perpetrator and a child's family. • Insufficient focus on the principle of the 'best interests of the child' (e.g. children in need of care and protection may be sent to an institution as a first, rather than as a last resort). • Laws that are not supportive of or in the best interests of the child victim.

CBCPM members would benefit from increased training on reporting, confidentiality and applying the principle of 'do no harm' during community-based child protection work. When child protection concerns are discussed within the community it can affect the dignity, privacy and security of parties involved. Furthermore, fear and threats associated with community-based reporting and response mechanisms were highlighted by CBCPM members and children in diverse contexts. Thus, increased systematic and sensitive efforts are needed to identify and minimise risks faced by CBCPM and children's group members. Complex protection cases should be referred to the concerned authorities and qualified professionals who are trained to respond to sensitive protection issues. In many contexts it may be relevant for Plan to strengthen efforts to sensitise and build capacity of the local police and concerned local government officials (see Chapter 5) to help ensure child protection cases are safely and sensitively addressed with more consideration for the 'best interests of the child'.

“We need to establish Child Rights/Protection desk for strengthening CBCPMs referral system in police stations to provide a friendly environment, free legal support, medical and psychological aid to the children and their parents.”

Male staff member, Plan Pakistan

Changing attitudes and practices towards reporting on child sexual abuse, Uttar Pradesh, India¹¹⁵

During the inception of the child protection project intervention the community members were not aware about child rights and issues of protection. Illiteracy and school dropout rates of children after Grade 5 were quite high; and male members of the community were often engaged in card playing and drinking alcohol. During this period, a case of child sexual abuse was reported. A 13-year-old had come to stay at her maternal uncle's home for a function in the village. While out in the fields with her female companion, the 13-year-old girl was raped by a gang of boys from the same village. Community members were aware of what had happened, but were not ready to respond. The family of the girl faced pressure to keep quiet and not to report the matter. No support was initially given to victim's family and people were blaming the child victim. No charge was filed against the culprits.

The NGO intervened and supported the family to report the case and to seek support for the child and her family. Taking the case as a reference a community meeting was called to condemn such a crime and to initiate the formation of a Child Protection Committee that could act in solidarity with concerned children and their families and increase child protection in their community. Initially the community was divided into two groups, one for and against the formation of a CPC. However, further community discussions built consensus about the seriousness of the protection of children and a Child Protection Committee was formed in the village.

Within a year another case of child sexual abuse was reported in the village. The CPC members supported the victim's family and helped them lodge a complaint against the culprit with the police. The accused was jailed. The CPC also organised more regular meetings with community members about child rights and women's rights, with a particular emphasis on educating boy's to respect girls and their rights. Parents were also encouraged to send their girls to school, and to prevent dropout of girls and boys.

Key findings on community-based reporting and response (average score for the region = 2.5, more than partially achieved)

- The main protection issues identified and reported to CBCPMs include child abuse – neglect, beating, scolding; school dropout; bullying; child marriage; and concerns relating to children's vulnerability and need for assistance. In some communities CBCPMs are also receiving reports concerning child sexual abuse, child trafficking, and child labour.

¹¹⁵ Story shared by Plan and partner field staff, May 2014.

- There are dilemmas regarding the extent to which CBCPM members should be involved in responding to child abuse. ‘High complexity’ child protection cases require specific skills and expertise that go beyond CBCPM capacities. Thus CBCPMs make referrals to the concerned government authorities and/or other relevant expert agencies.
- In some communities CBCPMs depend on Plan or the NGO partner for case follow up/referral. This indicates an inefficient and weak child protection system, as it indicates either that the formal referral and response systems by the state are not accessible or effectively functioning; and/or that CBCPM members do not have sufficient confidence to directly make referrals to the concerned authorities.
- There are significant multi-faceted barriers to reporting and response which contribute to low reporting on significant concerns (especially child sexual abuse cases); and the use of informal traditional justice mechanisms by some CBCPMs as alternatives to reporting to the police and concerned government authorities.
- In most countries CBCPM members would benefit from increased training on reporting, confidentiality and the principle of ‘do no harm’.

Coordination and referral mechanisms to government statutory child protection bodies and other agencies

Score on KQE 14: CBCPMs are able to coordinate with and make referrals to government statutory child protection bodies to ensure an effective child protection response and necessary referrals for psychosocial, legal, medical, social protection and other relevant services.						
1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
		Bangladesh China Nepal Pakistan Thailand Vietnam	Cambodia Indonesia Nepal	Sri Lanka		

Established referral mechanisms are essential to ensure that CBCPMs are strongly linked to the formal child protection system. CBCPMs need to be able to make referrals that result in the provision of a response and access to services for survivors of child abuse, and for the most vulnerable children and families.

Across each country in the Asia region [Plan’s child protection programming and advocacy efforts are supporting efforts to strengthen referral and response mechanisms](#) at community, district, provincial and national levels. Close linkages between CBCPMs and the local administration are fostered. In most countries local officials from concerned departments (child/social welfare, women’s affairs, education, health, security etc.) and the police are encouraged to engage with and support CBCPMs.

Linking village Child Protection Committees with other relevant departments, Nepal¹¹⁶

In Nepal the Village Child Protection and Promotion Sub-Committees (VCPCs) have linkages and coordination with VDC, health post, schools, and police stations; and each of these institutions has representation in the structure of the VCPC. Furthermore, in all the PUs, Plan Nepal and its partners have supported the VCPCs to establish links with existing self-help groups and CBOs; as well as with the key government offices at the district level that are responsible for child welfare, women and children, education, public health, and development.

In many countries Plan is providing technical, material and/or financial assistance to strengthen district, state and/or provincial level child protection structures, multi-discipline OSCC, and/or child friendly police units. For example, Plan Sri Lanka has influenced proactive coordination and functionality of the Divisional level CPCs, and has supported the establishment of Child Protection Units, and Women and Children Police Desks. In project areas Plan is also encouraging regular communication and coordination between the community volunteers and the government child protection officers which enhances relationships, referrals and response.

Ongoing efforts to encourage and support coordination among different government departments, civil society organisations and other stakeholders is required to ensure effective referrals and response in the best interests of the child. As part of such efforts in some countries Plan is encouraging concerned stakeholders to develop resource maps and local directories of available services and agencies (governmental, NGO and private) that may be referred to as per children/families educational, legal, social, psychosocial, or economic needs.

Child protection directory, Vehari, Pakistan¹¹⁷

In Vehari a child protection directory includes descriptions and contact details of the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau (and a helpline that they run: 1121); social welfare department focal points; District Department Offices (education, health, labour etc. which can receive and act on complaints), legal support, and local police stations.

In many countries in the region links between CBCPMs and telephone helplines are also being encouraged and strengthened to support reporting and referral mechanisms.

Networking among CBCPMs (and among children's groups) within a district is supported in some countries to enhance networking, joint problem solving and information sharing on available resources and responses. Furthermore, in some countries including Sri Lanka children's representatives and CBCPM representatives are being included in district and divisional level Child Protection Committee meetings. Such interactions lead to strong relationships, communication, coordination and referrals between the CBCPMs and the government authorities; and increases downward accountability.

¹¹⁶ ICPREC, Chandrika Khatiwada, Evaluating the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Nepal, September 2014.

¹¹⁷ Plan International Pakistan, Child protection mechanism Assessment in Plan Partner Communities, December 2013.

Figure 9:

Advertisement for child helpline India



However, despite these strategic and practical efforts in many countries the referral mechanisms to respond to child protection concerns remain weak, particularly in rural districts where services, human and financial resources are particularly insufficient. Furthermore, in contexts where the formal child protection systems and referral mechanisms are either under-developed or overly reliant on institutional care responses to protection and care concerns then referrals may lead to increased risks to children.

“We are encouraging children and communities members to report child protection concerns and we are explaining about the mechanisms that are in place such as the District Child Policy Unit, Child Welfare Committee, Juvenile Justice Board, and Childline 1098. We are also trying to strengthen the capacity of various actors within this system. However, if the response is not adequate we may be putting the child at more risk.... For example, if there is a child protection concern within the family the CWC may send the child to a ‘State Home’ – this may create more challenges in terms of the child’s protection.”

Plan India staff member

In most countries **child friendly protection services are under-developed**, and child sensitive social protection schemes and free legal advice are limited. In some countries psychosocial services are provided by NGOs or private agencies, however they also tend to be limited and are predominately located in large urban cities. In rural locations increased efforts are needed to strengthen sub-district level child protection mechanisms so that coordination and referral mechanisms are more accessible to CBCPMs in rural and remote locations. Furthermore, increased efforts are need to **strengthen the confidence of CBCPM members to make direct referrals to concerned government agencies**.

Key findings on coordination and referral mechanisms (average score in the region = 2.25, partially achieved)

- Plan is providing technical, material and/or financial assistance to strengthen district, state and/or provincial level child protection structures, multi-discipline OSCC, and/or child friendly police units.
- Increased inter-government and inter-agency efforts are needed to increase effectiveness of the referral mechanisms, as referral mechanisms remain weak in many countries, particularly in rural and remote areas.
- Increasing efforts are needed to support networking among CBCPMs (and among children's groups) and CBCPM and child representation in sub-district or district level child protection structures to enhance learning, joint advocacy, referrals and response to child protection concerns.

Child protection case management

Score on KQE 15: Child protection social workers are accessible to CBCPMs and have the capacity to undertake child protection case management to resolve cases in the best interests of the child.						
1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
	Pakistan ¹¹⁸	Bangladesh Cambodia China India Nepal Thailand Vietnam	Indonesia	Sri Lanka		

As part of government efforts to strengthen child protection systems it is crucial that national and local authorities budget for and recruit a sufficient number of trained social workers. Social workers with the competencies to undertake child protection case management need to be accessible to CBCPMs in order to systematically and sensitively respond to child abuse referrals.

¹¹⁸ In the country evaluation report Pakistan had a score of 1. However, in comparing the findings and evidence from Pakistan to findings from other countries in the region the score was increased to 1.5.

Plan ARO Resource Handbook guidance concerning case management and CBCPMs¹¹⁹

Case management is a process or a set of procedures which are established to ensure that cases, including cases of abuse, are handled in a systematic and timely manner. Increasing interest is being placed on the introduction of case management practice within child protection as a way of ensuring quality and access to services, and that the way cases are handled meets children's needs.

While CBCPMs can participate in the case management process – for example by providing support in the village and monitoring the situation for the child, it is generally not acceptable for CBCPMs to be accepted to manage cases. This is because this requires substantial skills, which are unlikely to be available, and because the ultimate responsibility for the protection of children must remain with the state (in line with the UNCRC).

Case management approaches vary for different countries in the Asia region where Plan is supporting child protection system strengthening. Some countries have started to formalise their case management approach, most notably Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand¹²⁰ where multi-disciplinary government teams at district level assess the case and the types of referrals that are needed to assist survivors of child abuse. Plan Sri Lanka has worked with the medical authorities, practitioners and communities to develop disseminate and implement guidelines for the management of child abuse and neglect supporting children's recovery and reintegration in families and communities. In Indonesia the KPADs refer cases to the local village leader. Cases that warrant medical or psychosocial assistance are referred to the district police and the OSCCs, which are being run by the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection at the district level. These centres have social workers, medical staff and lawyers to assist victims. However, some districts do not yet have OSSCs or social workers.

One Stop Crisis Centres, Thailand¹²¹

In Thailand OSCCs are located in the district and provincial hospitals. The social workers within these OSCCs play an important role in case management and coordination with other professionals for a multi-disciplinary response (health, legal, educational, social welfare etc.). When child protection cases are referred to the OSCCs and/or to CPCs at the district or provincial level, basic case records are maintained and updated by the government agencies. The reported caseload of the government authorities include physical abuse; sexual abuse; commercial sexual exploitation of children; child trafficking; child neglect, mostly related to orphans and children whose parents are labour migrants; violence against children in schools; and cases relating to birth registration, which helps children with accessing education and health care. The OSCC social workers are the only social workers that are accessible to support child protection case management on cases identified by CBCPMs, and thus are insufficient in number.

¹¹⁹ Raša Sekulović and Stephanie Delaney. Step by Step - Towards Child Safer Communities: Resource Handbook for Working with Communities to Enhance Child Protection – A guide for field practitioners. Plan Asia Regional Office, 2014.

¹²⁰ As well as the Philippines – but Plan Philippines CBCPM work was not included in this evaluation due to their priority focus on the emergency Typhoon response in 2014.

¹²¹ ICPREC, Claire O'Kane, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Thailand, September 2014.

In India CBCPMs can refer cases to Child Welfare Committees which have appointed experts with a mandate to review and make decisions concerning children's care and protection; as well as making referrals to District Child Protection Units which are formed as part of the ICPS. Furthermore, efforts to strengthen the child protection case management system are underway in China. In Nepal there are a range of community-based structures, including paralegal committees, however, increased training on child protection case management is required.

Training Women's Federation staff on case management, China¹²²

Plan China has supported the development of operational guidelines for CBCPMs and case management for application by Women's Federation staff at the county and provincial levels. The Women's Federation members have taken part in relevant training on child protection, and their sensitivity to child protection and risk assessments has improved. At the county and provincial levels the Women's Federation refers cases to the concerned government departments who support the organisation of meetings and a case management approach, which is in line with the existing principles of the Programme for the Development of Chinese Children (PDCC). The Women's Federations take the lead in the system and coordinates each department to process the case after the report has been received.



In most countries, while referral mechanisms are being established to support legal, psychosocial and other forms of follow up to child protection cases at the local and/or district level, **there are often insufficient numbers of qualified social workers employed within formal child protection structures** (e.g. district child protection units) to systematically and sensitively undertake child protection case management. Thus, cases are often responded to on an ad-hoc basis by concerned government officials at the sub-district or district level and/or by NGOs.

In the absence of a systematic case management approach accessible to government or NGO social workers, some CBCPM members are getting involved in informal case management approaches to assess, plan and take action to try to improve the situation of the child and/or their family. However, without skilled people being responsible to undertake case management, many individual cases are not systematically assessed, followed up or monitored. In particular, there is a danger that CBCPM members are taking decisions that seem to be more lenient towards local culture and interests of the perpetrator, than towards the best interest of the child.

Recognising the lack of qualified government social workers, in the past two years **Plan has increased various initiatives to support training on child protection case management** for Plan's staff; partners' staff; and/or to relevant government social welfare officials. For example, Plan Vietnam has worked with the Children's Bureau to support child protection case management for members of the Commune Child Protection Boards.

¹²² ICPREC, Claire O'Kane, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan China, September 2014.

The need to increase training of social workers and child protection case management¹²³

In Cambodia there are two social workers for every 100,000 Cambodians. The FPN/commune women and child focal points have received some training on case management and psychosocial skills but are not trained professionals. In addition, implementing partner staff have received some training in child protection case management training to enhance identification, assessment, planning, implementation, referral and monitoring of cases taking into consideration the best interests of the child. Potential linkages with the new social work degree at Phnom Penh University could be sought to support professionalisation of the training for the women and child focal points.

It is not sustainable for child protection case management to be undertaken by staff of an international NGO. Thus, ongoing advocacy with the government and national civil society organisations is needed to strengthen the accessibility of social workers with appropriate qualifications and skills to undertake child protection case management.

Increased efforts are needed in countries across the region to support a sensitive and systematic response to child sexual abuse cases, to ensure that decisions are made in the best interests of the child. Thus, training on child protection case management for government social workers should include a focus on knowledge, skills and values both to support survivors of child sexual abuse, and to work with young people who are perpetrators of sexual violence against children.

Increased advocacy and programming efforts are also needed to ensure that institutional care is used as a ‘last resort’. Advocacy and capacity building may be needed with the concerned government authorities (social welfare officers, police at sub-national and national levels), as well as with CBCPM members. CBCPMs can support community-based prevention, monitoring and support to care and protection of children living in families (with parents or other relatives).

“Our Ministry’s volunteers at sub-district level look out for cases of neglected children; but they don’t have much funding to assist the families. Volunteers report to the district level and then they take the children and bring them to the social rehabilitation centre. The social worker only reports. The department then sends children to institutions if they live alone or with relatives, because when the family is also poor, it cannot take care of children. The volunteer reports to the district, and then the district takes responsibility to take children to an institution.”

Government representative, Indonesia

They can also play an important role in supporting community-based reintegration and rehabilitation of child survivors of abuse and exploitation.

¹²³ ICPREC, Kunera Moore, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Bangladesh, September 2014.

Increased efforts are needed to establish and implement protocols for child protection case management so that everyone including CBCPM members, teachers, community elders, local police, doctors, lawyers, social workers, government authorities at different levels etc. are aware of their specific roles and responsibilities. Furthermore, as mentioned earlier, Plan's efforts to support capacity building of child friendly police (see later section) could be scaled up.

Key findings on child protection case management (Average regional score = 2.1, partially achieved)

- Formalised case management approaches where multi-disciplinary government teams have been established in some districts of Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand are increasingly efficient in ensuring rapid and relevant care for child victims of violence.
- Due to insufficient numbers of qualified social workers employed within the formal child protection structures to systematically and sensitively undertake child protection case management, the system remains inefficient and ineffective in offering social care to children in need.
- Child protection referrals can increase the risks of harm to the child if the existing child protection system favours an 'institutional care' response.
- It is not sustainable for child protection case management to be undertaken by staff of an international NGO. Thus, ongoing advocacy with the government is needed to strengthen the accessibility of government social workers to CBCPMs.
- Plan's support training on child protection case management for Plan's staff, partners' staff, and/or to relevant government social welfare officials is relevant. However, increased efforts are needed to support governments to scale up a cadre of qualified social workers with skills to respond sensitively to child protection violations, including child sexual abuse.

Availability of child friendly protection services

Score on KQE 16: Child friendly protection services are available to support children's psychosocial recovery from different forms of violence against children.						
1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
	Bangladesh China	India Nepal Pakistan Thailand Vietnam		Cambodia Indonesia Sri Lanka		

In many Asian countries where Plan are supporting CBCPMs insufficient child friendly protection services are available to support children's psychosocial recovery from different forms of violence against children. Only a few governments have started to invest in developing child friendly protection services for survivors of abuse or after care services. In some of the big urban centres, child friendly protection services such as psychosocial support, counselling, legal support and family services may be available, especially through NGOs. However, such services are less available in rural areas.

In Sri Lanka, in addition to contributing to the establishment of child protection case management guidance, Plan Sri Lanka is also supporting development of child friendly protection services by supporting the development of child friendly police desks, and by supporting the development of a care unit in a hospital to support psychosocial rehabilitation and support to child survivors of abuse.

Laying the foundations for a ‘care house’ in Colombo Teaching Hospital, Sri Lanka¹²⁴

Girls and boys who have been subject to abuse have been examined and treated in hospital wards alongside adults, thus causing more embarrassment and harm to child survivors of abuse. To overcome such constraints Plan has supported the foundations for establishing a ‘care house’ within the Colombo Teaching Hospital in Ragama. This special care unit will be dedicated to provide psychosocial rehabilitation and support to child survivors of abuse.

In Thailand and Indonesia some child protection services are available in the OSCCs/ hospitalbased integrated service centres which have been established in some districts/ provinces. In Indonesia some CBCPMs are also supporting family reintegration and follow up support to child survivors. Furthermore, in Cambodia it has been reported that many CBCPMs are able to access legal, medical, health, and psychosocial services for child survivors of abuse through the Commune Committees for Women and Children, legal aid services and/or through health services. CBCPM members and parenting groups in some areas are also supporting the reintegration of children in their families and communities.

“In the case of domestic violence, we send victims to the hospital or health centre. After that we report to the authority at district level to intervene further (so first establish safety and then refer to authority at district level). We refer cases that require legal assistance to CCWC and ask Legal Aid to provide legal assistance during court. We also assist with reintegrating the victim into their family unit.”

CBCPM member, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

In most countries existing telephone helplines support reporting and referrals for child protection services. Furthermore, some efforts are made by Plan to support children’s increased access to counselling and guidance within schools. For example, Plan Vietnam has recently piloted a project to promote counselling rooms in 10 schools in Hanoi to provide counselling to both victims of bullying, as well as to the perpetrators.

¹²⁴ ICPREC, Claire O’Kane, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Sri Lanka, September 2014.

Helpline supports response to violence and abuse including gender-based violence, Pakistan¹²⁵

Madadgaar helpline has nationwide coverage through its Provincial Offices in all the provincial capitals of the country, and in addition to Karachi the helpline is now providing services in Peshawar, Quetta, and Lahore. The other helpline operating under the Girl Power Programme is based in Multan District. The helpline has:

- Received 50,000 crisis calls
- Provided telephone counselling and walk-in counselling and guidance to 10,000 girls and women who are survivors of violence, abuse and exploitation
- Provided counselling to 2,000 survivors through email correspondence
- Developed networks and directories of available services in target areas and built the capacity of 35-40 service providers
- Provided legal aid, advice, follow-up calls, and pursuance of cases until final resolution; and
- Coordinated with the police and other authorities for the provision of required support to victims.

However, many countries in the region lack sufficient child friendly protection services to support the recovery and reintegration of child survivors of child sexual abuse and other protection violations. Significantly more efforts are needed by Plan to advocate with the concerned government authorities to increase statutory investments in developing child friendly protection services, including social work services to enhance the prevention and protection of children from all forms of violence. Investments in family services, child sensitive social protection schemes, and child friendly protection services are required to enhance the care and protection of all children in families; and ensuring use of institutional care as a 'last resort'. Child friendly rehabilitation services for young people or family members with drug, alcohol or gambling addictions are also needed.¹²⁶

“A major challenge is ensuring sensitive interventions for rape victims/survivors. Plan should consider piloting multi-disciplinary crisis centres or One Stop Crisis Centre in hospitals. We also need to increase support for child friendly rehabilitation and post recovery.... [Also] there are not enough referral institutions available for drug abuse cases. Staff feel challenged while identifying and referring youth and children to some technical agency.”

Plan India staff members

Increased efforts by Plan are also needed to support capacity building of CBCPM members to support family and community-based reintegration of child survivors of abuse. In addition increased efforts are needed by CBCPMs to monitor and provide support to elderly grandparents (or other relatives) taking care of relatives' children.

¹²⁵ Plan Pakistan (undated) Best Practice: Helpline for survivors of gender based violence in Pakistan.

¹²⁶ There are institutions in Vietnam, Indonesia, Laos and Cambodia 'assisting' addicts, but they are closer in resemblance to prisons as people are locked up, abuse is rife and children are often abused by other addicts and by the people who are meant to protect them.

Key findings on child friendly protection services (Average regional score = 2.2, partially achieved)

- In many Asian countries where Plan supports CBCPMs, child friendly protection services are insufficient to support children's psychosocial recovery from different forms of violence against children.
- Government investments in child friendly protection services are insufficient. NGOs are providing some child friendly protection services, particularly in big urban centres. However, services tend to be less available in rural and remote areas.
- In some countries (including Cambodia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam) Plan is contributing to the development of child friendly protection services by supporting the development of child friendly police desks, OSCCs, telephone helplines, and/or a care unit in a Sri Lankan hospital to support psychosocial rehabilitation and support to child survivors of abuse.
- Plan should advocate for increased government and civil society investments in psychosocial and family support services, child sensitive social protection schemes and user friendly rehabilitation services for people with alcohol, drug or alcohol additions.
- Increased efforts are needed by Plan to support capacity building of CBCPM members to support family and community-based reintegration of child survivors of abuse will also be beneficial.

Linkages with other Plan sectors and programmes

Score on linkages between CBCPMs and other sector work supported by Plan						
1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
		China Bangladesh Vietnam Pakistan	Thailand Sri Lanka Nepal	Cambodia India	Indonesia	

Plan's work for children is firmly rooted in the community. Through its CCCD approach, children and their families are involved in their own development and contribute to programme development and implementation.

Plan works in eight impact areas which are themed on rights (to a healthy start in life; to sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention, treatment; to education; to economic security; to water and improved sanitation; to participate as an active citizen and to protection and assistance in emergencies. Especially in Plan Programme Units and in communities in which Plan implements its CCCD approach, the impact areas complement each other and are linked. In standalone programmes in areas out of Plan's PU areas, there is less referral or integration and programmes are less efficient.

Cross-sectoral foci for Plan's strategy 2011-15 include tackling exclusion, discrimination especially gender-based discrimination by promoting inclusion and gender equality in all Plan's work. Some of Plan's implementing partners are working both in child protection as well as other Plan impact areas. This provides opportunities for integration.

Linkages between ECCD, education and child protection continue to be effective, especially in messages against violence against children, positive parenting and disciplining. There also tends to be strong collaborative programming concerning 'children's rights as active citizens' and 'child protection'. The children's clubs and children's life skills trainings contribute to children accessing their citizenship rights. These clubs often work closely with the CBCPM and are a strong advocate for reporting and responding to child abuse cases. In some countries linkages between the children's groups and CBCPMs have been strengthened since 2012 leading to increased reporting and advocacy to respond to cases. Some child and youth groups also help spread messages about child protection and HIV.

Mainstreaming child protection in other thematic areas has been helped by the Child Protection Policy trainings for all Plan staff and partner organisations. However, to increase Plan's programme efficiency, increased efforts are needed to mainstream child protection in WASH, health, economic security, and DRR in many countries.

Table 8:

Overview of collaboration between child protection work and other Plan sectors

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

Key: ✓ collaboration, * very initial collaboration

Linkages between CBCPMs and the globally completed Learn Without Fear (LWF) campaign, as well as the Because I am a Girl (BIAAG) campaign have effectively and efficiently decreased violence and promoted non-discrimination, working towards the same goal in schools and at home. In addition, in some countries, most notably Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, the Girl Power Project and BIAAG projects have supported the establishment of CBCPMs which particularly focus on girls' issues and reporting and responding to violence against girls. Also in Indonesia, the CBCPMs (KPADs) are an essential element in the Plan Indonesia campaign against child marriage. More reporting mechanisms have been established in schools and more effective collaboration between school reporting mechanisms and CBCPMs exist now than two years ago.

Plan's Global 'Count every Child' birth registration campaign is effectively promoted by most CBCPMs in Asia. Out of all the children in South Asia 39 percent are not registered at birth, both in rural and urban areas.

Plan Country Offices are very aware of the contributions that cross-sectoral collaboration makes to cost and programme effectiveness. Many of the Country Strategic Plans stress cross-sectoral collaboration, and include re-orienting staff and partners to implement integrated programmes (Bangladesh). However, ensuring programmes are implemented in a timely manner, as per agreed programme strategy and within budget as per donor requirements is often a stronger priority. Donors require all implementing partners and Plan staff as well as local committees to be trained in the CPP, and this helps spread awareness on child protection and integrate messages on VAC in other programmes. Vietnam is reportedly particularly strong in synergising four to five different thematic interventions with CBCPMs in the communities, which could be replicated.¹²⁷

“Child protection is integrated in most programmes, especially through our longer term CCCD programme and through ‘Because I am a Girl’ projects. Some of Plan’s work, even if it is not overtly about protection, also contributes to child protection, such as supporting WASH in schools. As when girls have access to female toilets they have increased physical protection and face less eve teasing.”

Plan India senior manager

¹²⁷ Interview with Rasha Sekulovic, Plan ARO senior child protection advisor, March 2014.

Key findings on linkages (Average regional score = 2.5 (more than partially achieved))

- Strong linkages between the CBCP programmes and Plan's education programmes across the region effectively reinforce the programmes' messages. This is mostly through Plan's universal 'Learn without Fear' and 'Because I am a Girl' campaigns. In addition, strong linkages between CBCPMs and the ECCD programmes increase programme effectiveness by mutual reinforcement of child protection messages.
- More effective reporting mechanisms have been established in schools that have stronger collaboration with CBCPMs reporting mechanisms than two years ago.
- Strengthened children's clubs are increasingly effective in reporting violence against children through CBCPMs.
- There are increasing efforts by Plan to integrate disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness into all programme areas, including child protection. There is relatively little evidence of cross-sectoral cooperation on HIV/AIDS or on livelihoods, with the exception of India and Cambodia.
- It is recommended for Plan country offices to map out where cross-sectoral cooperation is strong and where programmes can be more cost-effective from stronger integration. This might be more effective than developing strategies for collaboration between each programme unit.

The role of CBCPMs in DRR and emergency preparedness, and emergencies

Score on KQE 6: Emergency preparedness and DRR is integrated into CBCPM activities, such that adults and children in communities have increased knowledge, skills and practices on emergency preparedness and the care and protection of children in emergencies.						
1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
		Indonesia Nepal Thailand Vietnam Bangladesh Cambodia Sri Lanka Pakistan India				

Note: Due to the emergency response to cyclone Haiyan, Plan Philippines has been unable to contribute to this evaluation. As such, it is not included in this analysis despite the fact that Plan Philippines is running a large child protection in emergencies programme.

The majority of the CBCPMs currently supported by Plan are engaged in long term development work, rather than emergency response. However, Plan Sri Lanka's response to the Tsunami in 2004 included the establishment of Community Development Councils and CPCs supporting family reunification, psychosocial interventions and child protection initiatives. Plan also supported child protection working groups in internally displaced persons camps during the 2006 conflict in East Timor. More recently Plan India supported CBCPM engagement in the flood response in Uttarakhand. In addition, in 2013, Plan Philippines responded to the cyclone Haiyan and has established CBCPMs in the disaster struck areas.

Examples of CBCPM engagement in DRR and CPiE, India¹²⁸

In Andhra Pradesh efforts have been made by Plan and their NGO partners to raise awareness on DRR among CPC members. Furthermore, following the flooding in Uttarakhand in 2013, some of the community-based CPC members in Uttarakhand have played roles to prevent and respond to child protection concerns in emergencies. Also in Uttarakhand, some of the CPCs were involved in emergency response in nearby villages that did not have a CPC and included establishing child friendly spaces welcoming children from nearby affected villages as well. The CPCs managed to arrange supplies with the help of the Plan disaster management team. As part of the CFS activities lists of children were created, and basic counselling and family repatriation were supported.

Emergency response and disaster risk reduction (DRR) form an important part of Plan's work in Asia, which suffers more environmental disasters than any other continent. Recognising this, [most country strategic plans include a strong focus on DRR and emergency response with a focus on utilising child-centred methods](#). Some country programmes have large grants for DRR and emergency response work, most notably Indonesia, Bangladesh, Cambodia and the Philippines but equally, sponsorship funds are also utilised for DRR work within Plan PU areas. Plan ARO will be hosting a regional meeting focusing on child protection in emergencies for child protection focal points in December 2014 which will provide an opportunity for increased dialogue and planning relating to the role of CBCPMs in emergencies. Plan Asia has also been part of a global research on child focussed DRR in urban areas, which featured Dhaka, Kathmandu, Jakarta and Manila.¹²⁹

Some Plan country programmes have developed their CPiE guidelines or are actively contributing to the national guidelines on CPiE. For instance in Thailand, Pakistan, Indonesia and Cambodia, Plan is an active member of the DRR working groups and where they exist, the CPiE working groups (Cambodia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Thailand). Plan is also active in safe schools, which includes both work on safer school structures but also awareness programmes about what to do in emergencies. Safe school programmes are often grant funded and are currently implemented or have been completed in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and Nepal.

Supporting integration of child protection in DRR, Pakistan¹³⁰

Plan Pakistan has recently undertaken a child protection and DRR study to support integration of child protection in DRR initiatives across all sectors. Plan Pakistan have developed a new resource which brings together a set of tools, indicators, action plan, along with an assessment sample that support harm reduction in child protection and DRR programming. These materials have been developed and piloted by Plan with support from the child protection working group and UNICEF. Plan Pakistan has also developed specific Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) messages for urban areas.

In Pakistan, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for use by the concerned authorities have also been devised to articulate clear procedures for protecting children during and after disasters, particularly separated and unaccompanied children. These SOPs seek to mainstream child protection in various sectors of disaster response at the provincial and district level. The work of I/NGOs, UN agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs) working in the area of child protection during disasters will be aligned with that of the government.

¹²⁸ ICPREC, Claire O'Kane, Evaluating the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan India, September 2014.

¹²⁹ Brown, D. and Dodman, D., Understanding children's risk and agency in urban areas and their implications for child centred urban disaster risk reduction in Asia; insights from Dhaka, Kathmandu, Manila and Jakarta, January 2014, IEED, Plan International.

¹³⁰ ICPREC, Claire O'Kane, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Pakistan, September 2014.

The below table gives an overview of which aspects of DRR and emergency response the different countries in the region have been active in.

Table 8:

Outlining DRR and CPiE work the CBCPMs are involved in

	Bangladesh	Cambodia	China	India	Indonesia	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Vietnam
Has developed internal CPiE guidelines	✓			*		✓				*
Has contributed to development of national/ state guidelines on CPiE		✓		*	✓		✓	*	✓	
CBCPMs trained and actively responding to emergencies				*	*	*		*		
Messages on DRR and/or CPiE integrated with training of CBCPMs	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Safe schools programme incl awareness	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	*		*

✓ = established * = in the process

Plan country offices are contributing to national child focussed DRR and emergency response committees/inter-agency working groups. They are sharing best practices and also learning from other agencies working on child protection in emergencies. In addition, most Plan offices have developed guidelines and or action plans on DRR/ emergency response with various levels of focus on child protection. Having these written guidelines and action plans are the basis for including the CBCPMs in CCDRR and emergency response.

Child protection focal points are keen to train their CBCP groups in DRR as they realise the community committees are the most relevant entity to respond to local emergencies if they are properly trained and equipped. As reported by a child protection staff member from Cambodia: “In the project areas that were hit by the floods, Plan and partners conducted some awareness raising about keeping children safe during emergencies but because of the floods, it was difficult to reach the CBCPMs/FPNs and also to reach people as they were busy saving their belongings and family members.”

One clear indication of the risk of running parallel structures is that the CBCPMs are not involved in the DRR, while other existing community-based DRR (sometimes established by Plan but usually by government structures) are not aware of child protection. This leads to inefficient use of community structures and is an area where Plan Asia can increase its effectiveness and efficiency.

Despite increasing organisational efforts to consider CPIE and child-centred DRR, the majority of CBCPMs in Asia are not very active in terms of DRR, emergency preparedness and/or emergency response. Plan ARO is encouraged to further support the systematic inclusion of CCDRR and emergency response topics in trainings for CBCPMs. Plan Cambodia has effectively secured grant funding for this, which other countries will hopefully also be able to do to ensure the inclusion of CCDRR within fully funded project cycles. It is hoped that the December 2014 network training will result in clearer guidelines on the inclusion of CCDRR and emergency response training for CBCPMs, which can then be integrated in project proposals for the roll out of trainings across Asia.

Key findings on the role of CBCPMs in DRR and emergency preparedness, and emergencies (average regional score = 1.95, (partially achieved))

- The majority of the CBCPMs currently supported by Plan are engaged in long term development work, rather than emergency response. However, CBCPMs supported by Plan India in Uttarakhand have been involved in supporting child friendly space, basic counselling and family repatriation during the floods. Furthermore, Plan Philippines has supported the role of CBCPMs in response to cyclone Haiyan.
- Despite increasing organisational efforts to consider CPIE and child-centred DRR, Plan in Asia has to date been ineffective in increasing CBCPMs' systematic role in DRR, emergency preparedness and/or emergency response.
- Many Plan country offices are active members of national child-centred DRR and emergency response committees/inter-agency working groups. However, increased efforts are needed by Plan to support the role of CBCPMs in DRR, emergency preparedness and response.



Figure 10:
Evaluation activities with
children, Nepal

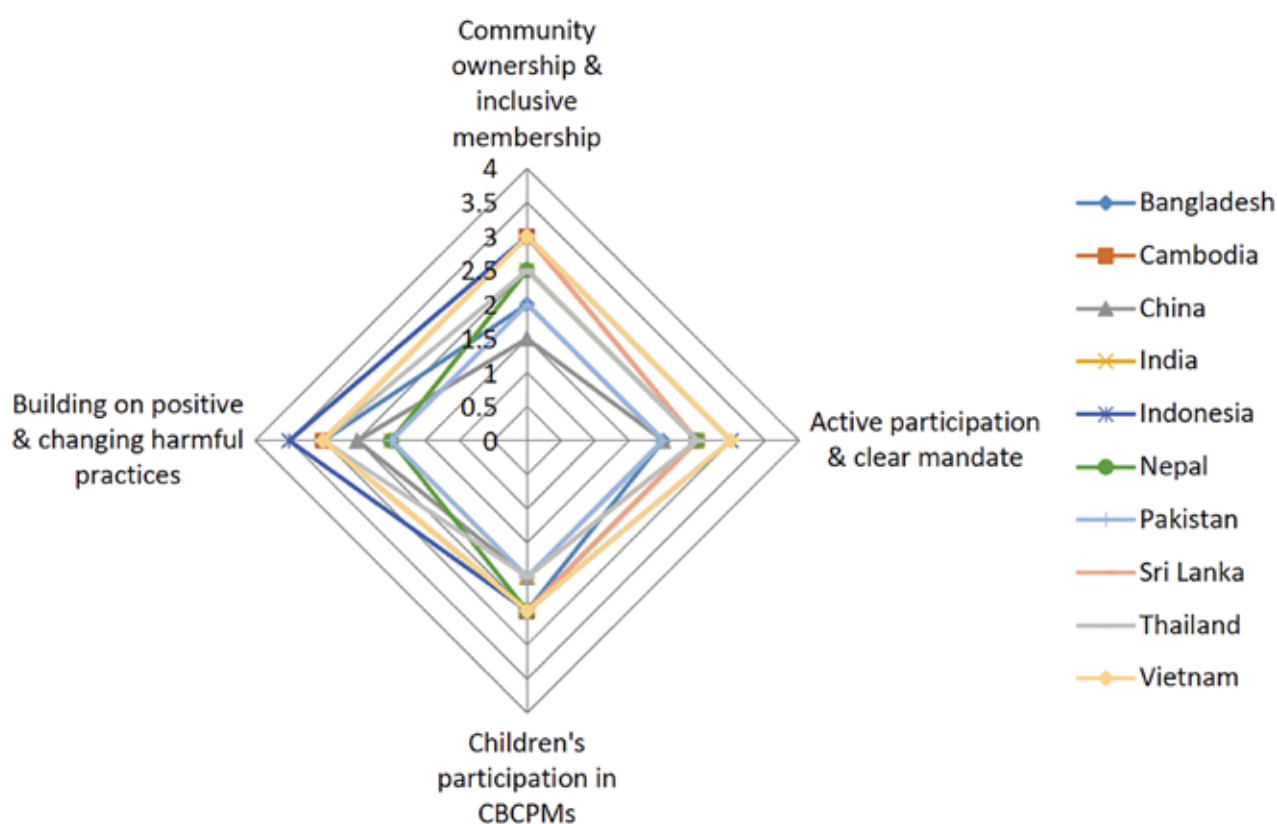
Figure 11:
Evaluation activities with
youth, Cambodia

Concluding comments on operational mechanisms to prevent and address violence against children through CBCPMs

Plan and their partners are increasingly effective in strengthening operational mechanisms to prevent and address different forms of violence and abuse faced by children in families, schools, and in communities. In particular, CBCPMs' prevention and early intervention efforts to mitigate risks and vulnerability have been relevant and effective. Plan is also engaging in advocacy and capacity building with the government at different levels to strengthen referral mechanisms and links between CBCPMs and the formal child protection system. Such links are essential to increase CBCPMs' effectiveness in referring cases to concerned government authorities for a sensitive and systematic response. Increased advocacy is needed by Plan to support the government in recruiting and training sufficient numbers of social workers at the district level to support effective child protection case management. Furthermore, advocacy and collaborative efforts with the government and civil society are needed to strengthen child friendly protection services. Moreover, increased efforts are needed by Plan and their partners to strengthen CBCPM members' knowledge and roles in DRR and emergency.

Figure 12:

An overview of KQE scores for countries on operational mechanisms





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CHAPTER 5

Evaluating supporting strategies by Plan to support CBCPMs as part of child protection system building

In the Plan ARO sub-strategy on child protection, supporting strategies to realise sustainable and effective CBCPMs are defined as follows:¹³¹

- strengthening child protection partnerships** between different stakeholders including governments, civil society organisations, communities and children and **multi-sectoral cooperation** and coordination to protect all children;
- ensuring **evidence-based management information systems** are in place for consistent data collection, analysis and research into different forms of violence against children.

This chapter explores the effectiveness of Plan's:

- strategic collaboration and partnerships with governments and civil society
- capacity building initiatives
- advocacy initiatives
- contributions to national M&E systems and databases
- efforts to create sustainable and replicable CBCP mechanisms

Strategic collaboration and partnership work between Plan International, the government and other relevant stakeholders

Score on KQE 1: Strong collaboration and partnership work with government authorities at national, sub-national and local levels in planning, implementing and monitoring CBCPMs as part of broader efforts to strengthen the national child protection system.						
1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
		Pakistan Thailand	India	Bangladesh Cambodia China Nepal Sri Lanka Vietnam	Indonesia	

Plan ARO's draft resource handbook for working with communities is clear on where Plan supported CBCPMs stand vis-à-vis the national child protection systems:

- CBCPM sits within, or is closely related to the national child protection system – it is more strategic, and sustainable, to develop CBCPMs that build upon the roles of others, in particular government agencies, rather than develop stand-alone mechanisms;
- It is necessary to know who else is working in the area or may be potential sources of support and what they do: existing groups that work across sectors with a focus on child protection.¹³²

¹³¹ Plan ARO, Child Protection Sub-strategy, outline of a strategy in the making, 2012.

¹³² Raša Sekulović and Stephanie Delaney. Step by Step - Towards Child Safer Communities: Resource Handbook for Working with Communities to Enhance Child Protection – A guide for field practitioners. Plan Asia Regional Office, 2014.

Plan International's first ever child protection programming strategy 2015-20 confirms Plan's aim to use a system strengthening approach supporting the development of an integrated child protection system within which the CBCPMs officially function and can refer cases. *"Plan adopts a systems approach in its work on child protection in both development and emergency settings. This means that all Plan's work on child protection aims to support, strengthen and implement effective national child protection systems. Plan strongly believes that any form of violence against children is preventable and investment in the improvement of child protection systems is a key strategy to do so."*¹³³ When CBCPMs are formally linked to the child protection system they are also more likely to access technical and financial support from the government authorities, which will increase their sustainability, efficiency, relevance and effectiveness.

Whereas in 2012 most CBCPMs had strong links with the local and district governmental structures, the linkages with the national child protection systems were under development. The Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam Plan Offices were already very engaged in national level system strengthening.¹³⁴ In 2014 however, *the majority of Plan Asia country offices are effectively collaborating with and contributing to national level child protection systems and engaged in strengthening the coordination from village level CBCPMs to sub-district, district, province and national level committees.*¹³⁵

System strengthening and strategic collaboration is an area in which Plan has become increasingly effective in a relatively short period of time. This progress is not only because of Plan's investment but also because governments are increasing efforts to build their child protection systems. There are also increased efforts by most Plan Country Offices to proactively collaborate with other agencies (including UNICEF and other child-focused INGOs and NGOs) to support national child protection system strengthening.

Changing dependencies

With parts of Asia being or becoming middle income countries (China, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Laos, Vietnam), governments are increasingly contracting INGOs and UN agencies to assist them in the development and implementation of new policies. Governments are also increasingly financing their own child protection systems and paying for civil society service providers to assist in the roll-out. Plan is not yet receiving government funding from Asian countries in this process but is – in some countries – very well placed to assist the government in child protection system strengthening and receive government funding for this. In some countries however, this requires Plan to be a national organisation.¹³⁶ It is warranted that Plan explores these options further as the more traditional donors might decrease their financial support to NGOs in middle income countries. Asian businesses are increasingly interested in funding child rights development and emergency programmes, which is an area that Plan can explore further.¹³⁷

¹³³ Plan International, Protection from Violence is Every Child's Right, Plan International's Global Strategy for Child Protection Programming, 2015-20, July 2014, page 6.

¹³⁴ Plan ARO, Lessons for Protection, 2012.

¹³⁵ See ICPREC, country evaluations, 2014.

¹³⁶ For instance Indonesia.

¹³⁷ Boston Consultancy Group, WFP MIC Approach, February 2013 and Save the Children, Middle Income Countries in South-East and East-Asia, Presentation, March 2014.

Plan's Strategic collaboration with governments

Table 9:

Key linkages with formal child protection systems/governance mechanisms

Key linkages with formal child protection systems/governance mechanisms in 2014 compared to 2012	
Bangladesh	Plan is very active at the national level; sharing resources with the government on CBCPMs and demonstrating how the Plan supported CBCPMs work in action. Plan continues work at the local and sub-district levels and is stepping up engagement in the district level with the newly formed CPCs.
Cambodia	Plan has stepped up its national level coordination and advocacy with the government Children's Commission, which has contributed to the drafting of national guidelines on child participation and contributed to the drafting of a national Plan of Action for Children. Plan Cambodia continues to be active at the community, commune and district levels, and to some extent on provincial level. The FPN committees are yet to be officially recognised as child protection structures despite the fact the government works closely with the FPN and would like to replicate the FPN in other areas of Cambodia.
China	Plan China continues its engagement with the Women's Federation in new project areas, where no local NGOs exist that focus on child protection. Plan's engagement with the Women's Federation is strategic, as they take the decisions and implement policy at all levels. Plan's engagement with CBCPMs in villages through schools and the village committees falls within the government Programme Development for Chinese Children.
India	The government's Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) envisions protection structures and welfare mechanisms at block, district and state levels. However, each state can develop their own laws, policies and programmes within the ICPS. Plan India and their civil society partners are working strategically with government representatives at different levels (central, state, district and block) to increase recognition of the community-based CPCs as 'mandated' CPCs under the ICPS, and to support the government in rolling out the ICPS. Plan India is also encouraging community-based CPCs to link with the Panchayati Raj institutions, and with district level Child Welfare Committees, District Child Protection Units, Childline, local police stations, Special Juvenile Police Units and other concerned duty bearers. It would be helpful to conduct gap analysis of the child protection system in each state together with all duty bearers and to then divide areas of responsibility between the different stakeholders.
Indonesia	Plan's work on CBCPMs in Indonesia is integrated with Indonesia's government structures and policies at national, provincial, district and local levels. Plan works closely with the MoWECP to develop a national policy for the establishment of CBCPMs within the MoWECP's framework on child protection. Once the Decree on CBCP is issued, one of Plan's PUs with active KPADs will become the national pilot area, where the government will establish KPADs in each community. Following that, the MoWECP will establish KPADs all over Indonesia.

Nepal	<p>Plan Nepal is working with the Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW) and Central Child Welfare Board in strengthening the child protection system, supporting District Child Welfare Boards (DCWBs) and strengthening the juvenile justice system. Plan Nepal continues to support Village Child Protection and Promotion Sub-Committees and also collaborates closely with the government authorities at district level to develop child protection policies and implementation strategies and is assisting with the implementation thereof together with other NGOs. Plan Nepal has supported the MoWCSW in developing the National Plan of Action against Human Trafficking and DCWBs to develop strategic plans for children in Plan Nepal's programme districts.</p>
Pakistan	<p>Since 2010, Pakistan's administration of its provinces and policy implementation has changed, resulting in severe delays and limits to what can be achieved through collaboration at national level to strengthen the system. Efforts to approve a national Child Protection Policy have also been delayed. Plan Pakistan is making strategic efforts to work collaboratively with the provincial and district government authorities to ensure recognition and support for the development and strengthening of Child Protection Committees within child protection system.</p>
Sri Lanka	<p>Through strategic partnerships with the Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs, Plan is demonstrating how existing gaps in the implementation of child protection mechanisms at the community level can be addressed through Plan's work in specific locations and time frames. Plan has established a clear partnership with the probation department to support the efficient implementation of community and divisional Child Protection Committees in programme areas. Plan is also supporting better functioning of the district and provincial level Child Protection Committees. The functions of the National Child Protection Authority are decentralised to the Districts through District Child Protection Committees.¹³⁸</p>
Thailand	<p>Plan strategically works at the provincial level to support CBCPMs, as part of wider child protection system building. Plan's strategy is to support the setting-up/strengthening of Child Protection Committees/working groups at the provincial, district, sub-district and community levels in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai provinces where ethnic hill tribes live. Government and NGOs are both members of the Provincial Child Protection Council. At provincial and district levels Plan works to improve case management, coordination and referrals with NGOs. At the national level Plan works with UNICEF, ECPAT etc. in anti-trafficking and DDR activities. Plan should increase its advocacy at national level to become a member of the National CPC to increase direct advocacy for securing government support for CBCPMs.</p>
Vietnam	<p>At the national level Plan collaborates with the Department of Protection and Care for Children under MoLISA which is responsible for supporting and strengthening the national child protection system. Plan Vietnam, in close collaboration with UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision and Child Fund advocates and provides technical support to the government on child protection system strengthening. Since 2012, Plan Vietnam has increased its collaboration with civil society by signing partnership agreements with two local NGOs. Plan continues its engagement with the government recognised Child Protection Boards/Committees. Child Protection Boards have also been established in some provinces and districts. These Boards are supported by inter-agency working groups which involve technical advisers and government officers who implement the action plans.</p>

¹³⁸ The NCPA was empowered to appoint sub committees under sec. 15(e) of the Act No.50 of 1998.

Inter-agency initiative to develop guidelines lead by Plan India, Jharkhand¹³⁹

Plan India has taken a lead in the development and drafting of Guidelines for the formation of CPCs at village, panchayat, block and district level involving UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision, CRY and other NGOs (who are members of an inter-agency child rights group). In this regard, a state level consultation meeting was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Government of Jharkhand, under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary. Financial support was given by Jharkhand State Child Protection Society (JSCPS), the Department of Social Welfare and technical support was given by Plan India. These are initial steps towards the development of a Child Protection Resource Centre involving all related stakeholders.

SAIEVAC, the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children, is an inter-governmental platform and SAARC Apex Body for Children body with a vision that all children, girls and boys, throughout South Asia enjoy their right to be protected from all forms of violence, including abuse, exploitation, neglect and discrimination.

SAIEVAC's strives to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children in all settings through strengthening comprehensive child protection systems at the regional and national levels where governments, civil society and children are empowered to share experience, formalize linkages and reinforce cooperation to end violence against children.

Plan ARO has been supporting strengthening of SAIEVAC institutional capacities since its inception, while sharing and promoting its own organisational learning on community based child protection mechanisms' role in preventing and responding to violence against children.

As can be seen in the table above, Plan country offices have invested time and resources in child protection system building whilst continuing its focus on the community and sub-district CPCs and ensuring those committees are an integral part of the community and government child protection structures. In some countries, CBCPMs are awaiting formal government recognition, most notably in some parts of India, Thailand, Pakistan and Cambodia. For those countries where the Plan supported CBCPMs are not yet officially recognised by the government, obtaining this recognition is a priority as this is seen as a key factor for sustainable, independent and integrated CBCPMs.

In countries which are more decentralised, including India and Indonesia, laws and policies are promulgated at province/state level. Thus, Plan is strategically engaged to effectively influence law and policy development at these levels. For example, in Indonesia, KPADs are recognised and supported as part of the National Child Friendly City Initiative and are able to access budgets through this initiative. Furthermore, Plan India is working with state-level government authorities to strengthen the child protection system in seven Indian states.

On a national level, [government officials interviewed as part of this evaluation recognise Plan as a partner agency with whom they develop strategy and that assists with the implementation of the strategy](#). Plan country offices are spending more time and resources on advocating for child protection policy development which support integrated CBCPMs. Consecutively, Plan's continued engagement at the community level with CBCPMs ensures Plan's input is relevant, as long as it is based on children, communities and partners' feedback and addresses current weaknesses and gaps in the system.

Plan Bangladesh, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Vietnam have been proactive in demonstrating to national government officials how the Plan supported CBCPMs operate on a village/sub-district level. Plan China, Bangladesh, Indonesia and India have developed guidelines for establishing community-based child protection systems (in some countries this was done in collaboration with the state and other NGOs) which have been shared with national and state level government partners in the hope that they will utilise the Plan guidelines for when the government replicates Plan CBCPMs in other areas with or without Plan support.

¹³⁹ Plan India (January 2014) Oak Foundation Project Progress Report.

Plan's increased focus on system strengthening by using Plan guidelines as well as evidence-based advocacy from its field work at provincial/state/national level policy development, is already demonstrating its effectiveness as governments demonstrate willingness to invest in Plan funded CBCPMs and to replicate its models. However, **this warrants strong connections between Plan field and national offices, in which field staff are heard and can ensure strategic directions and programme decisions are relevant to children's needs.** Also, there is often a wide gap between the policies the government promulgates at national level and the extent to which the government implements these policies/plans in the villages and districts. Plan should continue to highlight this issue with its national government partners to ensure relevance.

Plan's strategic collaboration with civil society. Plan has become more effective in its strategic collaboration and engagement with civil society in child protection system strengthening across Asia during the last two years. Plan Asia Regional Programme on Supporting Civil Society for Consistent and Sustainable Reduction of Poverty through Realization of Children's Rights in Asia has effectively contributed to this. The civil society's roles to be strengthened are in: i) implementing and monitoring children's rights; ii) protecting children from violence and abuse; and iii) ensuring their right to participate in their own development. Plan has utilised a blend of capacity building, networking, research and standards setting to assist this process. This programme is implemented in core countries of Nepal, Cambodia, East Timor, Pakistan and Vietnam.¹⁴⁰

Plan Asia countries cooperate in various degrees with civil society organisations in their CBCP programming; from only working with the government (Indonesia, Sri Lanka) to working with government NGOs (China), to starting to reach out to independent NGOs (Vietnam) and always including CBOs and/or local NGO partners (all other countries). The strategies of Plan International and Plan Country Offices include a focus on strengthening 'strategic partnerships with civil society' which has been implemented to various degrees.¹⁴¹ Plan Asia is in the process of moving away from seeing partners as 'contractors/service providers' to seeing them as true partners, with whom mutual learning takes place and whose voices are equal. This process is in various stages across Asia. Sustained and longer term relationships with partners, increased focus on not only technical but also management capacity building are important elements of this change.

In some countries, Plan has **taken a leading role in coordinating INGOs and UNICEF in its collaboration with the National Child Protection System to strengthen a unified approach to CBCPMs,** for instance in Cambodia and Vietnam. In other countries, Plan needs to step up its national level collaboration with the child protection authorities to obtain recognition for the local CBCPMs and also to increase its influence on policy and law development (such as in Thailand). In some countries, due to the political situation, this has not been possible (most notably in Pakistan).

South Asia Coordinating Group to End Violence against Children (SACG) is an inter-agency group of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), United Nations (UN) agencies and other actors engaged in child protection at the regional level.

SACG mission is to work together with the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC), the National Action and Coordinating Groups against Violence against Children (NACGs), children and young people and other stake-holders to end all forms of violence against children through advocacy, institutional strengthening and technical support.

SACG promotes a rights-based and coordinated approach to the strengthening of national child protection systems, including community-based child protection mechanisms. Plan ARO has been represented and involved in SACG since its inception in 2006, promoting the spirit of inter-agency collaboration and joint efforts while contributing with technical inputs specifically around community based child protection mechanisms.

¹⁴⁰ Plan ARO, presentation on progress of the ARO programme on supporting civil society for consistent and sustainable reduction of poverty on Child Protection Network meeting 2013.

¹⁴¹ NB – this is also a focus of the Plan Indonesia country strategy but has not been implemented yet by the CBCP programme.

Good practice Nepal – establishing and strengthening networks¹⁴²

In most of the working districts of Plan Nepal, efforts have been made to encourage both government agencies and civil society organisations to establish district level federations or networks to share expertise and resources to increase efficiency. In the Kanchanpur, Banke, Morang and Sunsari districts, Plan Nepal has also supported the District Child Welfare Board (and Women and Children Office) to develop a Strategic Plan for children to consolidate their efforts and to support each other by sharing expertise available within the organisations to ensure a wider and bigger impact.

Plan Bangladesh and Plan Cambodia have ensured relevant partnerships with prominent local NGOs, respectively the Women's Lawyers' Union of Bangladesh and CCWC and CCPCR in Cambodia. This has increased the scope for Plan's advocacy and influence through these agencies' prominent activism and engagement with the government in networks that Plan might not be as active and informed in. For instance in Cambodia, CCWC and CCPCR are both active members of the National Task Force against Child Trafficking and also of the National Task Force on Minimum Standard for Children in Institutional Care. Plan Nepal also forms part of a close network of child-focussed NGOs that collaborate closely with the government child protection system, at national, provincial and district levels.

Engaging with nascent civil society, Vietnam¹⁴³

With support from Plan ARO, Plan Vietnam successfully organised a workshop on CSOs and Child protection services. The workshop attracted 40 highly diversified participants including 28 representatives from international and local NGOs from North to South. Representatives from UNICEF, other development agencies, people with disabilities and the Buddhism Association also participated in the workshop. However, Plan's engagement with two local NGOs has also seen some challenges, mostly caused by a perceived distrust of NGOs by the government. Continued efforts are needed to engage civil society organisations in the child protection system in the Vietnamese context.

Key findings on strategic partnerships with government offices and civil society (average regional score = 2.8, more than partially achieved)

Strategic collaboration with governments

- Plan countries in Asia are effective in their increased collaboration with national level child protection authorities resulting in increased recognition for Plan's work; and in some governments' plans to adopt Plan methodologies for establishing CBCPMs (Indonesia, Bangladesh and to some extent in Cambodia and India).
- The sheer majority of Plan supported CBCPMs have been established within government child protection systems and contribute towards the realisation of an efficient government child protection system.
- It is important that Plan invests in its engagement with national child protection authorities to increase the government's recognition for CBCPMs supported by Plan and improve chances for government funding/support.

¹⁴³ ICPREC, Shikha Ghildyal, evaluation of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Vietnam, September 2014.

- To contribute to the development of relevant laws and policies, Plan should continue its engagement at the local level and base its advocacy on its evidence-based findings in the field. The risk of a dichotomy between policy development at national level and the realisation thereof at local level is present and can potentially disengage committee members and local partners.
- Plan needs to ensure all its CBCPMs are officially recognised by the authorities as this will foster their sustainability and effectiveness.
- Strategic collaboration with civil society.
- Further focus is required to increase the effectiveness of Plan's long term partnership engagement with civil society. In some countries Plan's engagement with civil society in the CBCP programme is minimal.
- Plan is encouraged to step up its strategic role in leading the coordination of NGOs in national, provincial and state level child protection system strengthening, increasing Plan's visibility and potential for policy influence.
- Increasing CBCPM members' role at district and provincial levels to represent communities is recommended. This accelerates the process of the CBCPMs becoming sustainable, by networking effectively with government offices and by receiving government funding.

Capacity building provided to stakeholders to improve the functionality of CBCPMs

Score on KQE 4: CBCPM members, Plan staff, and civil society and government partners access capacity building to develop the necessary competencies to support implementation of the KQEs for CBCPMs.						
1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
		Bangladesh China India Pakistan	Nepal	Cambodia Thailand Sri Lanka	Vietnam	

In the last two years, Plan Country Offices in Asia have invested significantly in improving and expanding CBCPMs through a growing focus on capacity building and support. The capacity building not only contributes to CBCPMs' effectiveness in preventing and responding to child protection cases, but also increasingly focuses on Plan and partners' capacity to contribute to policy and law development that support a child friendly child protection system and a vibrant and coordinated civil society that advocates for improved child protection services. This focus is backed up by Plan ARO's technical advisers and by the regional sub-strategy for child protection which includes two objectives on capacity building;

1. Capacities of duty bearers are enhanced at different levels for establishing and strengthening child protection systems to prevent violence against children and respond to child protection issues in the best interest of every child;
2. Effective community-based child protection mechanisms are established, sustained and scaled up to contribute towards fully functional national child protection systems;

The above objectives build on Plan's global strategy on strategic partnerships and Plan's child-centred community development approach which supports child-focused community mobilisation, mentoring and technical support to empower children as right holders, and to strengthen the capacity of duty bearers to better fulfil their responsibilities to children.

Across the region Plan has effectively strengthened the capacity of CBCPMs and the child protection systems at different levels of government, with civil society and local partners. For example:

1. Plan Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand have all drafted guidelines and/or training manuals for the establishment of CBCPMs in local/national languages, which have been shared with the relevant government authorities. Some governments, most notably Nepal, Indonesia and Bangladesh have indicated they will potentially utilise Plan's guidelines as national guidelines for CBCPMs.
2. Plan Nepal, India and Sri Lanka have contributed to the establishment and training of child protection fora and networks, resulting in a stronger unified voice of civil society, establishing standards in CBCPMs, better coordination so there less overlap and more complimentary work.
3. Cooperation between Plan countries offices and university departments and training centres focusing on child rights/social work (for example in China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka) to enhance the understanding of child protection and to prepare a new generation of child rights advocates/social workers to contribute to child protection system strengthening.
4. Increased focus on training government officials at national, provincial and district level in child protection, child rights and child participation, referral networks resulting in improved national and state/provincial policies (in all countries).
5. Increased attention for capacity building of partners in organisational skills to contribute to their independence and to create more equal partnerships.
6. Continued focus on training for CBCPMs including refreshers' training on an annual basis as well as guidance and support. These trainings have been standardised in some countries but not in all.
7. Increased focus for meaningful child participation and development of training of trainers and directly for children in awareness raising, child friendly child rights monitoring, child protection and child rights.

The sub-sections below evaluate the effectiveness of Plan Country Offices in building the capacity of the various stakeholders involved in CBCP: Plan staff, governments, partners, civil society, CBCPMs and other community actors and lastly children.

Capacity training for Plan staff

Plan's global child protection policy 'Say Yes! To Keeping Children Safe' requires that all Plan staff and partners are trained in the child protection policy before signing it. Plan developed its Child Protection Policy Training Toolkit in 2011 and this training has been used across the world in Plan offices.¹⁴⁴ As such, there is a general level of knowledge on child protection and reporting responsibilities across Plan staff in Asia.

Child protection teams are often understaffed and find it challenging to implement all their responsibilities effectively. Some country offices experience a high staff turn-over in child protection, which might be partly due to the high work pressure. For instance, in the 2013 regional child protection meeting, half the focal points were newly appointed. Insufficient training of the national child protection team is organised by national offices.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴⁴ Plan International, Child Protection Policy Training Toolkit, 2011.

¹⁴⁵ Interview with Plan ARO senior child protection advisor Rasha Sekulovic, March 2014.

Plan has developed a wealth of training resources for Plan staff and partners related to child rights, child protection and child participation in child protection:

1. Bamboo Shoots training manual¹⁴⁶ – a training for front staff to enhance children's role in their own and their community's development.
2. Sticks and Stones training manual¹⁴⁷ – a training for front staff to enhance children's role in their own and their peers' protection.
3. Plan's Child Protection Policy Training Toolkit, 2011, which Plan staff across the world have been trained in to protect children and do no harm.
4. Plan ARO's guidelines on establishing and supporting CBCPMs (Step by Step Resource Handbook) is crucial to assist with setting minimum standards and to base national training programmes on.

Many countries have developed or are developing guidelines for supporting CBCPMs but not all of these include training manuals for implementation. It is important that these are developed alongside and are based on the regional forthcoming CBCP guidelines. The majority of Plan child protection front/field staff has been trained on the CCCD principles, child protection, child rights, relevant domestic laws and rights, reporting procedures. The majority have been trained in using Bamboo Shoots and will be trained using the Sticks and Stones handbook to train children to become involved in their own protection. Training on child protection in emergencies and child-centred DDR (Bangladesh) has taken place but has not been rolled out yet across Asia/internationally. Depending on the implementation modalities, Plan front staff are themselves training the CBCPMs or their partner agencies are doing this. In India, with such diversity across the states, there are reportedly varied interpretations of what CBCPMs are, what their responsibilities are and with whom they cooperate. India is in the process of developing a handbook on the establishment of CBCPMs which should result in a more common framework for CBCPMs.

“Where CBCPMs work there are very strong staff with technically sound competencies and confidence in child protection, as child protection needs to be ‘hands on’ to find good solutions. In each situation the barriers are different.”

Plan India staff member, Delhi, India

“There are a few staff in Plan who have a good understanding of CBCPMs, but there is no common understanding. Staff members may have different perceptions on what CBCPMs look like, their roles, and the extent to which CBCPMs can work on various protection issues.... We need to develop a common training manual and guidance on CBCPM to develop a common framework for institutional development of CBCPMs.”

Plan India staff member

¹⁴⁶ Plan ARO, Bamboo Shoots training manual.

¹⁴⁷ Plan ARO, Sticks and Stones training manual.





Within most countries, child protection staff try to meet every quarter, six months or annually to share learning from experiences and opportunities to organise relevant training programmes for staff. The regional annual meetings for Plan child protection focal points effectively contribute to learning and replication of good practices.

Capacity training for governments

In recent years Plan has stepped up its collaboration with child protection authorities at national level. Plan has organised workshops, collaborates on policy and law development and demonstrates good practices by inviting government officials to field locations to see CBCPMs in action. This has resulted in relevant child protection policies and contributed to ensuring CBCPMs are included in the nascent child protection systems. Plan's increased impact at this level is in line with Plan's Global Strategy and with the regional sub-strategy on child protection.

Ensuring that training of national policy makers is relevant and that there is no overlap with training provided by other agencies is essential as many of the National CPCs are understaffed and receive multiple consultants by donors simultaneously, sometimes with little benefit.

“The amount of consultants who come and do the work and leave again is very high. We’re afraid that if we engage consultants to train us, we will not be able to do our normal job.”

Interview with Cambodia National Children’s Council staff member, April 2014

Vietnam, Pakistan and Thailand Plan Country Offices have all worked closely with other agencies in their contributions to standardised methodologies for working with CBCPMs. This efficient practice should be copied by other country offices to contribute to standardised methodologies for the support of CBCPMs across agencies, which also boosts a united advocacy voice with the government.

Social Workers: The child protection systems envisioned by most Asian governments include a cadre of social workers to whom child protection cases can be referred. However, as described in Chapter 4, most Asian countries lack sufficient numbers of trained social workers. Some Plan offices in Asia (including China, India, Sri Lanka and Vietnam) have supported various capacity building initiatives for social workers on child protection and case management. In all countries it is recommended that Plan reviews whether they can contribute to the training of social workers at central level to increase and improve the cadre of social workers/child protection workers’ counselling and case management skills and ensure the child best interests are always upheld.

Training at state/province/district level: The majority of Plan training activities for government officials take place at district and sub-district levels where it trains the district CPCs (of various names) in general child protection, child rights, the international and domestic legal and policy framework, their responsibility within the child protection system and the role of CBCPMs, referrals and case management. Trainings are mostly a one off because of limited budgets. However, Plan works closely with the committees, often assisting them in coordination, case management and referrals and through this

continues to build their capacities. In some countries, including Thailand, Nepal and Sri Lanka, Plan itself is a member of the provincial committees directly contributing to the effectiveness of these coordination mechanisms and their referral and case management.

Training of government CPCs at district/provincial level is usually not standardised and often implemented by different Plan partners decreasing efficiency. Thus, standardisation of training for government employees is recommended as done by the Uttar Pradesh team in India.

Training initiatives on child protection supported by Plan in Uttar Pradesh¹⁴⁸

Plan India state office in Uttar Pradesh have developed a training manual on child protection and annexes which include information about the ICPS and the roles of different functionaries (such as the District Child Protection Unit, Child Welfare Committee, Juvenile Justice Board, Child Protection Committees etc). This manual is being used in the training of various government functionaries, as well as for training of NGO staff and CPC members.

In addition, a challenge faced in many countries is the high turn-over (and/or transfer in between departments) of government personnel resulting in many of the district committee members not having been trained.

Training of police/judiciary: There is special need across Asia for better training on handling very sensitive cases like rape, child trafficking and protection cases involving drug use. Cooperation and capacity building of court and police officials is needed, with significant attention to the principle of the child's best interests. Plan is increasingly working with the police and judiciary, most notably in Sri Lanka, India, Nepal and Bangladesh. For example, Plan India in Jharkhand state is supporting different initiatives to build the capacity of the police to be more child friendly and to better handle cases as per their duties. In addition, in Delhi, Plan India is piloting the establishment of a child friendly space within the police station in one of its CBCPM project areas as a good practice model for future replication. Plan Nepal is engaged in strengthening the juvenile justice system by working closely with courts as well as with the Juvenile Justice Coordination Committee.

To increase efficiency, Plan and partner agencies should invest in training capacities of government line ministries at provincial and district levels so that the government can assume responsibility for establishing and training CBCPMs and does not depend on NGOs. For example, in Indonesia, Vietnam, India and Sri Lanka, some government district authorities or state authorities are already training either Plan supported or government supported CBCPMs, with variable degrees of success, sometimes using training manuals that are the result of close cooperation between Plan and the national government.

Teachers/school staff: Across Asia, Plan is training teachers and school management teams as well as children attending schools in child protection, positive disciplining and reporting mechanisms as part of the 'Learn without Fear' global campaign which officially ended in 2013. In many countries, reference is made to national laws outlawing violence against children in school.

¹⁴⁸ Plan India (2013) APPR Uttar Pradesh.

“I was asked to accompany a team of students from my school to this child protection training. At first I was reluctant to come as I have been to many such trainings which were a waste of my time. But after attending the training conducted by Plan Sri Lanka, I felt a change in my attitudes. I felt this training was different to the earlier programmes I have participated in. As a teacher I learnt a lot about child protection, why that sort of thing happens, what we as adults and teachers could do to prevent such unfortunate incidents, and what is the role of parents etc. A film called “Anawaratha” was effectively used that shares information about early pregnancies and sexual abuse etc. I highly commend Plan Sri Lanka for the wonderful training and sharing their knowledge with different sectors of the society.”

A teacher with 22 years of teaching experience, Central Sri Lanka

Capacity training for partners and civil society

Plan ARO's programme to support civil society to address poverty through the realisation of child rights includes a wide variety of activities to realise the goals and objectives. Supporting CBOs in the monitoring of child rights and contributing towards alternative country reports on the CRC progress is one major goal. The second goal is for Plan to strengthen civil society engagement in combating violence against children. Thirdly, the programme aims to increase children's participation and role in their own protection. Core countries for this regional programme are Vietnam, Nepal, Pakistan, Cambodia and Timor-Leste. Selected civil society partners in these countries have contributed to the alternative reporting on the CRC, have participated in annual regional training and technical progress meetings and have been trained in using 'Bamboo Shoots' with children. This initiative has also contributed to civil society in the wider region, mostly through the studies and tools that were realised by this programme.

Plan Country Offices CBCP programme's engagement with civil society and partners varies from having more than 20 civil society partners to having none at all. The engagement with civil society has improved, through Plan's increased focus on long term, strong and equal partnerships with civil society. This change is most notable in Vietnam and Cambodia. In Vietnam, Plan has reached out to independent NGOs for the first time, contributing to civil society's role in CBCP and child participation, but not without challenges. In Cambodia, Plan now employs a stronger focus on building organisational capacity of its partner organisations, leading to official accreditation by the Cambodian NGO coalition. Plan Pakistan has also contributed to the development and modification of seven of its partners' child protection policies, increasing their mandate towards children's rights to protection.

Plan is increasingly effective in its cooperation with national universities and training institutes in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Nepal to standardise child protection interventions, social work and contribute to building a new locally trained generation of child rights' advocates. In Nepal, a nine-month long course is being delivered by Social Work Institute for Child Protection Workers and by St. Xavier's College for Child Protection Managers. Plan could play a vital role in strengthening such initiatives as a process of standardising child protection training. In Vietnam, Plan developed the now widely used (reportedly in most Plan offices around the region) positive discipline training manual in close cooperation with the National Institute of Psychology in Vietnam.¹⁴⁹ Plan should expand its cooperation with universities to research local child rearing practices that are potentially harmful or that contribute to children's protection.

Good practise Sri Lanka: Care and Protection of Children Network for Research, Learning and Action

Plan Sri Lanka is a member of the Care and Protection of Children Network for Research, Learning and Action (CPC): formed in May 2009 in partnership with the Institute for Participatory Interaction in Development (IPID) as a mechanism to strengthen and systematise child care and protection in crisis-affected settings through collaborative action of international child rights agencies, government, other local institutions and academic partners. The CPC Network supports the incorporation of child protection courses/modules within existing degree programmes (especially in Sociology, Psychology, Law and Education). In collaboration with the Open University of Sri Lanka, a three month certificate course on Care and Protection of Children was also developed. A diploma/advanced certificate programme in Child Care and Protection is also being supported.

Plan is also increasingly supporting networks of CBOs in district/provincial levels in various aspects of child protection. Training partners in groups or through network trainings also avoids duplication of efforts. Plan has stepped up exchange visits to programme sites for partner organisations which are greatly appreciated by Plan and partners, in India and Cambodia. This helps sharing weaknesses and coming up with creative solutions but continues to be an underutilised tool – despite its cost efficiency. This practise should be further utilised by Plan offices. Throughout Asia, ongoing support and mentoring to partner NGOs is given through quarterly meetings to discuss progress, challenges and solutions.

Plan Thailand, Plan Indonesia and Plan Bangladesh have a dedicated CBCP manager whose responsibility includes capacity building. This has allowed these countries to develop training tools and guidelines for the establishment of CBCPMs. Plan Thailand staff and the trained NGO partners are experimenting, developing and adapting the 'CBCP training model' to best fit the context of the hill tribes. This experimenting demonstrates an open relationship which fosters mutual learning.

Capacity training for CBCPMs

As reported earlier in this report, Plan ARO is about to launch its Step by Step - Towards Child Safer Communities: Resource Handbook for Working with Communities to Enhance Child Protection, which has the potential to greatly contribute to the standardization and replication of CBCP training across Asia. The majority of CBCPMs that Plan supports in Asia are trained by Plan or Plan partners. In Nepal, Indonesia, Vietnam and India, the

¹⁴⁹ Plan Vietnam, Positive Discipline Training Manual, 2008.

government is also contributing to the trainings, mostly on the national child protection reporting system, lines of responsibilities and legal and policy frameworks, which is anchoring the CBCPMs within the national child protection system. Most trainings for CBCPM members take place at sub-district or district level for committee representatives and include the following topics:

1. Training on the role of the CBCPMs;
2. Training on child protection and child rights;
3. Training in/assisting with the electing of volunteers to be part of the CBCPM;
4. Training in case management and referral and in some minor social skills to assist the CBCPM members with first assistance to victims and referral; and
5. Training in national laws and policies that are relevant to child protection (e.g. violence against women and children, trafficking, child labour, CSEC).

Since the comparative analysis, the introductory trainings for CBCPMs have not evolved a great deal but many Plan Country offices have developed or are in the process of [developing standardised training manuals and guidelines for the establishment of CBCPMs](#), most notably Nepal, Pakistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. In addition, Plan is increasingly assisting the committees to develop annual plans of action, standard operational procedures and activities under their plans of action, contributing to their effectiveness and efficiency.

Also, the majority of CBCPMs in Asia have received some form of training in awareness raising about positive discipline, birth registration, the dangers of child marriage, child labour and child trafficking/migration and the importance of school attendance. Some countries offer more specialised trainings for the women and children focal points (or community volunteers) on sensitive case management, counselling skills as well as child participation skill training (using the Bamboo Shoots Manual).

The majority of countries offer annual refreshers' training, which often takes place at the district sub-district levels and involves committee representatives rather than all members. Whilst training more committees' representatives together in one location rather than each committee in their community individually is more cost-effective in the short run, it limits capacity building opportunities for 'ordinary' committee members who are not invited who might lose interest. In some countries, religious and cultural practices keep women from attending trainings away from their village, limiting women's involvement (most notably Pakistan/Bangladesh and some communities in Sri Lanka).

Some Plan countries (including India, Nepal and Thailand) [also support networking among CBCPMs as a means to share expertise, experiences and resources](#) increasing cost-effectiveness and having wider impact of the interventions made. Furthermore, some of the Plan offices (in India and Indonesia for example) [organise exchange visits between CBCPMs](#) supported by Plan with other agencies' CBCPMs. This horizontal exchange has resulted in committees asking advice from each other prior to requesting assistance from the authorities.

With the growing investments of Asian governments in their national child protection systems, [Plan needs to invest in the CBCPMs capacity to advocate for funding allocation from government](#) so they become sustainable, independent CBOs that can advocate for investments in children's rights in their communities. More effort needs to be put in ensuring child protection is included in community development plans and district/provincial development plans by increasing training on advocacy, developing plans of action and budgeting skills.

Committee members interviewed during this evaluation reported a number of **challenges or gaps in their capacity** including: i) need for more guidance on how to respond/make referrals to sensitive cases (such as child sexual abuse); ii) how to negotiate with parents/caregivers to prevent child protection violations; and iii) how to more effectively interact with the police or officials from the court. Many committee members also mentioned challenges faced when combining their own livelihood and family responsibilities, alongside responsibilities for community-based child protection efforts. Plan partners in Cambodia have decided to break up trainings into quarterly training events rather than annual refreshers' training allow for more in depth discussions of training subjects.

“We can only train the FPNs once a year. This is insufficient. This year we trained the FPNs once every quarter, so we broke the subjects in smaller pieces; about awareness raising, resource mobilisation for the poorest people in the commune. CCASVA raised awareness about how to take care of their own community, to be more sustainable.”

CCASVA staff member, Kampong Cham, Cambodia

Plan countries offices need to develop strategies to respond effectively to these challenges. They also need to ensure further efforts to reach and involve all CBCPM members in training programmes; strengthen training for CBCPM members on the principles of ‘do no harm’ and the ‘best interests of the child’; support mentoring, networking and exchange visits, with less reliance on classroom-based training; incorporate training on DRR and emergency preparedness for CBCPM members.



Figure 13:
Evaluation activities
with children, Indonesia

Capacity training for children

As part of its CCCD approach, Plan emphasises children’s right to participate in their own development and as active citizens, utilising the ‘Bamboo Shoots’ training manual to train children to be involved in their own development. In many Asian countries, Plan staff have started to train their own staff and implementing partners in using the ‘Sticks and Stones’ manual, training children to protect themselves and their peers. Children have been trained in various countries, starting in Sri Lanka, followed by Cambodia and other Plan country offices in Asia will follow suit.

All Plan offices are involved in training children as part of the child and youth clubs in life skills and protection related subjects. Children and adolescents, especially members of councils and groups are accessing training on: child rights, child protection, life skills, reporting mechanisms, media and peer education. Plan has developed a wide range of IEC materials about child protection for children, which have been widely shared and utilised.¹⁵⁰

“There are so many unsecure places for children in our village. Earlier, we did not see these as risks for children. Through the awareness programmes on child protection conducted by Plan, we got important information on how to identify risks in our vicinity and how to protect our children from them.”

Female Children’s Club Member, community, North Central Sri Lanka

Exchange visits between children’s groups as well as children’s networks are effective in various countries, most notably India, Cambodia and Nepal, contributing to children’s knowledge and experience. Through the children’s groups, many children have been exposed to visits to national and sometimes even international level children’s meetings, increasing their exposure, knowledge and advocacy opportunities for relevant policies and laws.

Challenges: It continues to be challenging for some child members of CBCPMs to be taken seriously and heard. This is something that can partly be overcome through increased focus on training children in representation and advocacy but also needs to be addressed by training adults on children’s right to participation. Another issue that is becoming apparent is that clear boundaries that need to be set in children’s involvement in their own and in peers’ protection. At no time should children put themselves at risk in reporting cases of violence against children. This needs to be emphasised in the training for children and for adults. Children report they need more training and guidance on child rights and reporting and that, like the CBCPMs, they would like all their members to be trained, not just their representatives so that they can all benefit equally.

Key findings on capacity building

(average regional score = 2.8 – more than partially achieved)

- To increase efficiency and a strong voice, it is recommended that Plan continues to work with other UN/NGO and government agencies to standardise trainings and guidelines for governments to contribute to the development of national standards and guidelines. This will ensure more efficient and effective use of resources.
- Furthermore, increased efforts are needed by Plan across Asia to collaborate with official training institutes to institutionalise and sustain effective capacity building interventions for key functionaries on CBCPMs and child protection system building. This will increase costeffectiveness of training of CBCPMs and also strengthen the linkages between CBCPMs and the state child protection mechanisms.

¹⁵⁰ These materials include: Plan International, Violence Against Children Action Booklet, 2012; Plan International, Your Personal Guide to Understanding Violence Against Children, 2012; Plan International, Child Friendly Version of Say Yes to keeping Children Safe, 2012.

- Plan is increasingly effective and efficient in its collaboration with civil society partners; fostering long term partnerships which benefit and contribute to a vibrant civil society advocating for the realisation of child rights and holding the government to account. In those Asian countries where Plan does not collaborate with civil society in its CBCP programme, it is strongly advised that it starts this collaboration. It is more sustainable, efficient and strategic in the long run as this will contribute to improved and increased civil society, leading to a better child protection environment.
- There is a need for further standardisation of training of trainers, to ensure trainings delivered by partners are in line with Plan policy and meet Plan standards.
- It is recommended that Plan puts more emphasis on CBCPMs' capacity to develop budgets and project proposals and advocate for government budget allocation for child protection activities within their communities, to respond to governments across Asia increasing budget for their child protection systems.

Advocacy efforts to influence strategy, law, policy and budget allocations for CBCPM and child protection system strengthening

Score on KQE 2: Effective advocacy with the government at different levels to influence laws, policies, standards, and budgets which contribute to a stronger child protection system from national to local levels.						
1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
		Bangladesh China Pakistan Thailand	India Nepal	Cambodia Sri Lanka Vietnam		Indonesia

Plan offices in the Asia region are increasingly involved in advocacy and close cooperation with national governments to influence policy and legal development to create a conducive child rights environment that supports CBCP programmes and developments. Plan International's Global Advocacy Strategic Framework focuses on child protection systems/CBCPMs in Goal 3, as does the international Plan Strategy 'One Plan One Goal strategy (2011-15)', which supports this in its four main goals:

1. Tackling exclusion
2. Improving programmes
3. Expanding successful programmes
4. Extending Plan's influence¹⁵¹

Goal 3 and 4 require Plan to increase collaboration and advocacy to improve child rights developments in the countries Plan works in. Plan's Global advocacy framework 2013-15 includes advocacy for CBCPMs within national child protection systems.¹⁵²

¹⁵¹ Plan International, Strategy 2011-2015 – One Plan, One Goal, 2011.

¹⁵² Interview with CBCPM Regional Senior Programme Coordinator, March 2014.



Figure 14:
CBCPM members, India

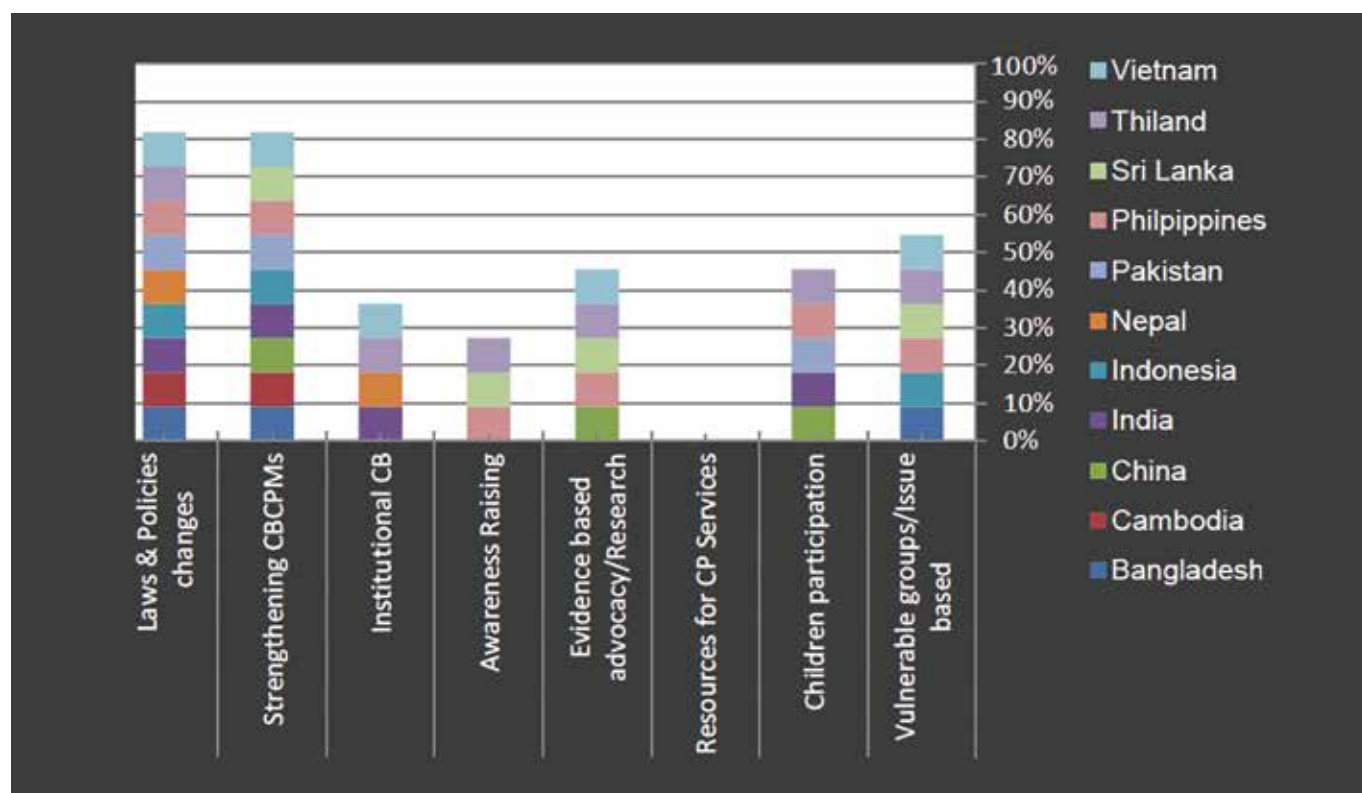
In 2014, Plan ARO undertook a mapping exercise of the advocacy initiatives by Plan Country Offices in Asia for child safe communities. The report, “Advocating for Child Safe Communities in Asia Region, Mapping of Advocacy for Community-Based Child Protection Mechanisms” provides a clear overview of advocacy initiatives in the region, its strengths and challenges, and a way forward.¹⁵³ The aim of the mapping exercise was to strengthen CBCPMs position within the respective child protection systems by learning from good practices of advocacy being utilised by Plan to promote/enhance/expand CBCPMs within the national child protection system. This includes advocacy by the CBCPMs locally as well as advocacy by Plan and partners national level.

Plan ARO’s report “All Rights for All Children” analysed the advocacy initiatives by the Civil Society Coalitions and Plan Country Offices in Asia under the Plan ARO programme to support civil society for poverty reduction through the realisation of children’s rights.¹⁵⁴ Plan has been cooperating with Civil Society Coalitions (CSO coalitions) in Asia with the aim of strengthening and sustaining joint efforts towards the realisation of children’s rights. Some of the networks’ advocacy has focused on child protection system strengthening and law reform, which will be discussed below.

¹⁵³ Plan ARO, Advocating for Child Safe Communities in Asia Region, Mapping of Advocacy for Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms”, May 2014.

¹⁵⁴ Plan ARO, All rights for All Children, Mapping and Analysis of Advocacy Initiatives Pursued by the Civil Society Coalitions and Plan Country Offices in Asia, June 2014.

Just over half (55 percent) of Plan's offices in Asia have an advocacy strategy in place for child protection, some of which relates to CBCPMs. It is recommended that all countries develop an advocacy strategy that includes evidence-based advocacy for CBCPMs to be included in and supported by the national child protection system. The findings suggest that the majority of Plan Asia Country Offices are advocating at national level for CBCPMs to be integrated with the national child protection system. Most Plan Country Offices are also advocating for changes in the law and policy development to improve children's rights and child protection. The figure below provides an overview of advocacy related to the CBCPMs by Plan Asia Country Offices as reported in "Advocacy for Child Safe Communities":¹⁵⁵



Despite advocacy being a relatively recent focus by Plan, it has already achieved some clear advocacy outcomes in the field of CBCPMs ensuring that they are recognised and supported as part of child protection system strengthening, including:

- Inclusion of CBCPMs in national and provincial regulations for governance and on child protection systems through Plan Country Offices good relationships with the relevant authorities, based on the sharing of resources, invitations to share lessons learned and successful models;
- Replication by national authorities of Plan supported CBCPMs in Vietnam and Indonesia;
- Inclusion of Plan developed tools and guidelines for CBCPMs and child participation within government tools and guidelines (multiple countries in Asia, including Thailand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, China, Vietnam, Cambodia and potentially Bangladesh and Indonesia). Plan Vietnam worked with the Vietnamese state Children Bureau in finalising the data monitoring tool. This tool is officially accepted by the Children Bureau and all DOLISA offices are requested to use the tool when collecting data about children.

Figure 15.

Overview of advocacy subjects by Plan offices in Asia

¹⁵⁵ Plan ARO, advocacy for child friendly communities, 2014, page 17.

- Linking of CBCPMs to governance initiatives, like the Child Friendly City Initiative in Indonesia: Plan's active involvement with the Child Friendly City Initiative and the support it has extended to districts and cities to be awarded the 'Child Friendly City' title by the Government of Indonesia demonstrates Plan's ability to see opportunities to which it can link its CBCP work successfully.

A wealth of good practices in advocacy is emerging from the region, including:

- Advocacy towards policy/law changes that call for CBCPMs (supported by Plan) to be integrated and replicated within the emerging national system.
- Increasingly strong cooperation with other international child rights agencies in advocacy for improved child protection system.
- Strong support for, and cooperation with, networks of (local) NGOs that conduct joint advocacy, mostly in India, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam and Pakistan.¹⁵⁶
- Supporting children's advocacy through national children's events and increasing children's direct access to national and international leaders.
- Use of evidence-based advocacy: collaborative analysis/mapping of the child protection system, its strengths and weaknesses and basing advocacy for improvements to the laws/policies of the child protection system on this (e.g. in Nepal, India, Sri Lanka).
- Through interactions with government child protection councils/committees mostly at district and provincial levels, Plan is directly influencing policy development and implementation in Thailand and Sri Lanka. Through Plan Sri Lanka's direct involvement in district and provincial level CPCs, Plan encourages consistency and the standardisation of good practice processes and systems for child protection, encouraging recognition and support for CBCPMs.
- Plan Pakistan and Plan India have been involved in national/state/provincial budgets for child rights and child protection system strengthening.

However, Plan's advocacy in the region is still patchy. According to ARO's senior child protection advisor, most Plan offices in Asia struggle to integrate advocacy with programmes. He encourages child protection focal points to include a bottom up approach, involving CBCPMs in advocacy, to create demand for the government to change policies.

Other weaknesses in Plan's advocacy in Asia were identified during this evaluation:

- Plan is underutilising its wealth of first hand data from the great number of CBCP committees it supports. Plan should step up evidence-based advocacy directly referring to small studies in the communities it supports CBCPMs in.
- Advocacy efforts to increase resources for child friendly child protection services are currently limited. Advocating for an increased budget allocation fits with Plan's rights-based approach and should be expanded, especially in middle income countries.
- Not all countries have advocacy strategies in place; advocacy strategies should be developed and should include evidence-based impact stories that can easily be shared to promote CBCPMs.
- Meaningful opportunities for children's role in advocacy could be further supported by Plan.
- Some Country Offices are not collaborating with other child protection actors in their national level advocacy for system strengthening that includes CBCPMs.

¹⁵⁶ Plan ARO, Advocacy for child friendly communities, May 2014, page 25.

Key findings on advocacy (average regional score = 2.8 – more than partially achieved)

Key strengths

- Plan countries in the Asia region have increased their effectiveness in advocacy with governments leading to positive changes in laws and policies related to child protection system strengthening and CBCPMs.
- A wealth of good practices is emerging across the region, from the local to the national and regional level. Country offices can learn from the good practices developed by other Plan country offices and adapt these for their own country.

Key weaknesses:

- Plan needs to increase its evidence-based advocacy work, utilising the rich data through its studies and ongoing M&E systems resulting in relevant policies for children.
- Each Country Office needs to have an advocacy strategy and action plan, and should increase the role of its national partners in advocacy. This should include financial and human support for the implementation of the advocacy strategy, including capacity building for staff of Plan and Partners.
- Children and local CBCPM's role in advocacy could be further strengthened.
- Plan should increase its advocacy through with other child rights' organisations within the countries they operate in.¹⁵⁷

The status of M&E systems and a government data base on child protection

Score on KQE 3: Improved monitoring and evaluation systems to measure the impact of child protection interventions are in place, including the establishment						
1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
		Bangladesh China India Pakistan Sri Lanka Thailand	Cambodia Nepal	Indonesia Vietnam		

Under Plan's programme guidelines of CCCD, the planning, monitoring, evaluating and learning are designed and guided by the PALS system: the Programme Accountability and Learning System.¹⁵⁸ As part of CRSA processes, consultations with children and adults enable data collection on child protection in Plan's project areas. In addition, across Asia, children and adult community members are involved in the annual participatory programme reviews (APPRs).

The independent global thematic review of Plan's child protection work undertaken in 2011 found that most countries had not yet progressed to the stage of developing frameworks and indicators for M&E of their child protection programmes, and recognise the need for support in doing this.¹⁵⁹ Since 2012, Plan Country Offices are increasingly systematically measuring

¹⁵⁷ For more information about Plan ARO's advocacy towards improved CBCPMs and advocacy for other child rights issues, please refer to Plan ARO's mapping of advocacy for CBCPMs report, May 2014.

¹⁵⁸ Plan International, Programme Guidelines, page 53-57.

¹⁵⁹ Global Child Protection Services, Plan's Child Protection Programme, Thematic Review, 2012, page 14.

outputs, outcomes and impacts of CBCP interventions, utilising the monitoring form for CBCPMs developed by Plan ARO,¹⁶⁰ and the KQEs developed by ICPREC in the comparative analysis.¹⁶¹ Plan ARO, for monitoring purposes, has defined CBCPM's functionality as follows: "CBCPM is classified as functioning when there is evidence that it has:

1. Raised awareness in the community on different forms of violence against children
2. Prevented violence against children through early detection and intervention
3. Contributed towards timely reporting and referring alleged cases of child abuse to the relevant child protective services"¹⁶²

On an annual basis, all Asian countries will report on the above CBCP indicators as well as indicators on child participation to the regional CBCP senior coordinator, through a standardised monitoring form. This will enrich the data Plan country offices are collecting and will enable the regional office to compare and evaluate the effectiveness of CBCPMs. In addition, all current CBCP programmes use a variety of M&E frameworks to track progress against indicators and measure outcome, results and impact dependent on the donor of the programme (or Plan sponsorship), the country office strategic framework and its indicators; some child protection programmes (for example Cambodia) have a dedicated M&E officer. The M&E frameworks co-function as reporting frameworks for the implementing partners. This can sometimes result in confusing situations where example Cambodia) have a dedicated M&E officer. The M&E frameworks co-function as reporting frameworks for the implementing partners. This can sometimes result in confusing situations where implementing partners have to report on different indicators for CBCP programmes because of multiple donors with different programme objectives (and thus indicators to measure outcomes).

UNICEF 2014 "Hidden in Plain Sight": Measuring violence against children

Measuring the breadth and depth of violence against children is complicated by the fact that violence can take many forms (physical, sexual and emotional), occur in any setting (including the home, school, workplace and over the Internet) and be perpetrated by individuals (parents and other caregivers, peers, intimate partners, authority figures and strangers) or groups. A thorough assessment of its nature and prevalence requires reliable statistics on all types of violence to which children are exposed as well as the range of circumstances surrounding its occurrence. These data needs, however, remain largely unmet. Certain forms of violence are better documented than others, depending on a country's capacity and investment in data collection. Yet even when data are available, the quality and scope of the information are often limited. Representative data on particular forms of interpersonal violence, including violent discipline and bullying, have increased over the last two decades, mainly through large-scale population-based surveys. However, data on other forms of abuse, including systematic statistics on sexual violence against boys, remain woefully lacking.¹⁶³

Plan Country Offices have increased their cooperation with and contribution to government child protection monitoring systems and some country offices have advocated for their M&E tool for child protection to be used by other actors. In Vietnam, government actors, UNICEF, World Vision and Plan are all using Plan's Children

¹⁶⁰ Plan ARO, CP Programme Guidelines: Safe and Sound, 2011, page 6-8.

¹⁶¹ See Plan ARO, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012 Annex B.

¹⁶² Plan ARO, CBCPM, Process Summary Basic Guidelines, 2014.

¹⁶³ UNICEF, HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT, A statistical analysis of violence against children, September 2014, page 7.

Information System Tool “Household Child Data Book”, which it finalised in partnership with the Ministry of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs. In 2013, the National Children Bureau officially launched the Tool. Village collaborators collect the data through household visits. However, data analysis and sharing remain underdeveloped.^{164,165} In Indonesia, different ministries collect child protection data through its institutions, whereas the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection collects data through both the OSCC (one stop crisis centre, which is hospital-based) as well as through its Child Friendly City and Village initiative. Both ministries use different M&E frameworks than Plan which results in duplication and confusion of child protection data.¹⁶⁶ In Nepal, Plan supported the CCWB to develop software for the Child Rights Management Information System (CRMIS), which tracks data on the implementation of the CRC and from which situation reports are drawn every year.¹⁶⁷

Plan ARO developed a regional thematic strategy, “Safe and Sound: Growing up with Protection” (2013), in which establishing, maintaining and sustaining CBCPMs represents one of the central aspects of strengthening national child protection systems at the community level. To ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of the CBCPMs contribution towards reduction of violence against children, a set of indicators had been developed to measure the effectiveness and functionality of these mechanisms.

For the purpose of this indicator, a CBCPM is classified as functioning when there is evidence that it has:

1. raised awareness in the community on different forms of violence against children;
2. prevented violence against children through early detection and intervention and
3. contributed towards timely reporting and referring alleged cases of child abuse to the relevant child protective services.

Table 10:

Outlining Plan Asia investments in M&E

	Banglades	Cambodia	China	India	Indonesia	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Vietnam
3.1 The Government has developed monitoring and evaluation systems for monitoring and evaluating child protection interventions.	x	*	*	*	✓	✓	x	*	✓	✓
3.2 A government database on child protection cases is established and regularly updated.	x	*	x	*	*	*	x	*	*	*
3.3 Plan and partners have developed and are using an M&E framework for CBCPMs.	*	✓	*	*	✓	*	x	✓	*	✓

✓ indicates established (often in collaboration with Plan) and * indicates in progress whereas x indicates no progress:

3.1 progress is made in developing these M&E systems and Plan is contributing to these, either at district, provincial/state or national level.

3.2 progress is made in colliding data from various government data bases on child protection for instance but not operational yet anywhere.

3.3 progress indicates that country offices are working with partners to develop a unified M&E framework

¹⁶⁴ Plan Vietnam, Narrative annual report, 2014, Toward an Engaging Child Protection System Project, Calendar year 2013.

¹⁶⁵ ICPREC, Shikha Ghildyal, Evaluation of the effectiveness of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan Vietnam, September 2014.

¹⁶⁶ ICPREC, Kunera Moore, Evaluation of the effectiveness of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan Indonesia, September 2014.

¹⁶⁷ ICPREC, Chandrika Khatiwada, Evaluation of the effectiveness of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan Nepal, September 2014.

Government database on child protection

In many countries UNICEF is building the capacity of the relevant government offices in improving child protection monitoring systems and especially databases. Usually UNICEF works in close cooperation with departments of statistics of Planning Ministries whereas Plan's collaboration is mostly with the Ministries of Social Affairs and or the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs who oversee the CBCPMs. Unified national databases on child protection are rare but do exist in parts of Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and India. Government databases on child protection caseload are often reportedly unreliable and outdated. Some countries have very specific databases, including databases on trafficked children, missing children, child labour, child sexual exploitation, migrating children but the data is not collated into one database on children at risk and violence against children. As such, obtaining reliable national statistics about child protection continues to be challenging across the region. In some countries (such as Sri Lanka) Plan cooperates with the government to build this database.

Development of a government data base on child protection, Sri Lanka¹⁶⁸

In the Eastern region of the country Plan Sri Lanka is collaborating with the concerned authorities, particularly the Department of Probation and Child Care to develop an Information Management System to support at risk and vulnerable children and families. The information management system is under development in consultation with the senior and grassroots level staff of the department, the Information Technology Department of the Provincial Council, and Plan ICT manager.¹⁶⁹

Plan and partners have developed and are using M&E framework for child protection

Approximately half of the Plan Countries in Asia have developed an integrated M&E framework for child protection that their implementing partners and Plan use to track progress for CBCPMs and often also for child protection system strengthening. The majority of these frameworks have not been integrated yet with the often nascent national child protection M&E frameworks (see above). Also, other NGOs supporting CBCPMs in the same district or province are likely to use another child protection M&E framework. Thus, there is a need to merge these frameworks into one framework which should also be used by the respective government. Work towards this is taking place in Cambodia, Vietnam, Pakistan, China and India. This is a time consuming process as partner organisations (government and civil society) often also use their own M&E frameworks, as well as that of other donors.

Stakeholders including children and community members are involved in M&E activities in their communities in different ways. For example, as part of the M&E approach Plan and NGO staff, children and adult members of CPCs and children's groups, and concerned government officials are involved in the Annual Participatory Programme Review (APPR) which is an influential participatory review and planning process for shaping ongoing programming. In many countries, youth and children (especially members of children's groups) have also been trained to participate in the baseline research. In China, dialogue with stakeholders has been a particularly important part of ongoing monitoring and has been used to inform programme development: for example, feedback from children was

¹⁶⁸ ICPREC, Claire O'Kane, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms supported by Plan China, September 2014.

¹⁶⁹ Plan Sri Lanka (2013) Progress report from the Eastern Province, 2013.

incorporated into the development of child protection reporting and referral mechanism, with special consideration for the establishment of increased peer support structures.¹⁷⁰ In Nepal, Plan assisted in the organising of the national consultation to prepare the first-ever children-led report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).¹⁷¹

It is encouraging to see an incorporation of more outcomes and impact indicators in the CBCP M&E systems whereas before the emphasis was primarily input and output indicators.

Plan China, baseline and ongoing monitoring measure the following through KAP studies, pre and post tests and interviews¹⁷²

- The proportion of children and young people aware (i) of their right to protection; (ii) of the current mechanism/processes available where they can receive assistance with/to address any violation of this right; and (iii) their willingness to use such processes.
- The proportion of members of the respective communities who are aware of children's rights, their obligations towards meeting those rights and the current mechanisms available for assistance to address any violation of these rights.
- The awareness and perceptions of government officials and CSO to children's right to protection and their role (and willingness) in safeguarding the right.
- Using a common criteria based on international standards/indicators identify the prevalence of abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect at the provincial level, and in each of the pilot counties.

However, many of the Plan and partners staff shared that they find the child protection M&E framework too time consuming and complicated. Ensuring indicators are SMART and CBCP members understand the process contributes to the collection of more reliable data. Furthermore, KAP surveys are often planned (across Asia) as part of a project proposal but not carried out. This is a missed opportunity because it provides a better understanding of impact on violence against children than solely measuring the number of cases that are being reported and dealt with, which is influenced by many other factors.

Collecting baseline data in absence of accessible and reliable government baseline data is practiced in more communities than it was in 2012, but still not in the majority of Asian countries. This needs to be systematically integrated in each programme to allow for more impact assessments and thus, evidence based advocacy.

There is some evidence that monitoring of children at risk is increasing and that more countries are disaggregating data according to gender, age, vulnerability type, but it requires further efforts by Plan. Plan needs to work on integrating this data into programmes to ensure children who are at risk access the services they need. It is important that data on vulnerable children is treated confidentially and only shared in the best interests of the child.

¹⁷⁰ Claire O'Kane, Analysis of the effectiveness of Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms supported by Plan China, September 2014.

¹⁷¹ Two children representatives (a boy and a girl) are participating in Pre-Sessional Working Group to be scheduled on 23rd September 2014 in Geneva with the support of the organizations including Plan Nepal.

¹⁷² ICPREC, Claire O'Kane, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan China, 2014.

Replicable practice – Cambodia¹⁷³

Plan Cambodia has launched the Child Friendly Community which includes indicators against which the local government together with Plan track progress in health, education, ECCD, child protection and WASH. On big displays in the community meeting hall, communities proudly showed the progress they made against the indicators. It is crucial that Plan's 'child friendly community' initiative's monitoring will in the future be linked to a simplified CBCP M&E system as well as to the new government child protection monitoring system.

Some of the CBCP programmes that Plan implements are regularly evaluated by external consultants. Plan Country Offices demonstrate learning from these evaluations and have focussed on improving the identified weaknesses, which is laudable. However, 'evaluation fatigue' was equally observed. Evaluations are costly and the choice to include some recently evaluated CBCP country programmes in field work for this regional evaluation raises questions concerning cost efficiency.

Development of KQEs as part of this evaluation

This evaluation measures progress against the KQE indicators that were identified through Plan's regional comparative analysis of CBCPMs,¹⁷⁴ and built upon Save the Children Global Child Protection Outcomes.¹⁷⁵ The framework was used as a self-assessment tool (pots and stones) by Plan and partners in all ten country offices that participated in this evaluation. This was found to be very helpful, yet overly complicated. As such, the tool was simplified by ICPREC during the process. In addition, ICPREC consultants suggest some changes to the KQEs to reduce the number of indicators used while ensuring that they capture the most relevant data on building blocks, operational mechanisms to prevent and address VAC, and supporting strategies.

Key findings on M&E (average regional score = 2.1, partially achieved)

Status of Government monitoring and evaluation systems for M&E of child protection interventions:

- Plan is increasingly collaborating with the government to develop integrated M&E frameworks for national child protection systems and the CBCPMs within that.
- Plan country offices are recommended to step up inter-agency efforts to develop systems and approaches to monitor and evaluation CBCPMs and to collect disaggregated data on child protection concerns which can feed into government database and M&E system developments.

Status of government data base on child protection cases:

- Plan is assisting government departments in some countries to develop databases on child protection, but the majority are supported by UNICEF. Plan can contribute to these by ensuring the data it collects feed these databases. Plan can also step-up its advocacy for improved national data collection and analysis.

¹⁷³ ICPREC, Kunera Moore, Evaluation of effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan Cambodia, September 2014.

¹⁷⁴ Plan Asia Regional Office, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012 – see Annex B.

¹⁷⁵ Save the Children, Child Protection Initiative QoS Global Outcome Indicator Handbook, August 2013.

Status of Plan and partners M&E framework for CBCPMs:

- The majority of Plan country offices together with partners have developed and are using M&E frameworks or are in the process of designing these. For increased effectiveness, the M&E frameworks should follow the SMART principle.
- Increased capacity building of village level CBCP committees is needed to track relevant data and share with government and/or Plan/Partners contributing towards an up to date integrated database.

Scaling up and sustainability including phase-out

Score on scaling up and sustainability						
1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
	China	Bangladesh Nepal Pakistan Thailand	Cambodia India Sri Lanka	Vietnam	Indonesia	

Bringing quality programmes up to scale through cooperation with and replication by governments is one of the goals of the Plan International 2011-15 strategy.¹⁷⁶ Contributing to sustainable CBCPMs is an important element of Plan ARO's child protection strategy.¹⁷⁷

Overall goal:

Every child enjoys rights to protection from all forms of violence in all settings through effective, competent and well-resourced national child protection systems.

Specific objectives:

1. Enhance capacities of duty bearers at different levels for establishing and strengthening child protection systems to prevent violence against children and respond to child protection issues in the best interest of every child;
2. Establish, sustain and scale up effective community-based child protection mechanisms to contribute towards fully functional national child protection systems;
3. Ensure meaningful involvement of children, particularly those from excluded and marginalised groups, in their own protection;
4. Advocate with duty bearers for the establishment and enforcement of child protection legal and policy frameworks and allocation of resources to ensure functioning child protection systems are in place.

In recent years Plan countries in Asia have significantly stepped up their involvement in child protection system strengthening through contributions to national child protection policy, laws and framework development, and to capacity building of government officials, as well as CBCPM members. These efforts contribute to sustainability of the CBCPMs supported by Plan and increase chances of governments replicating the Plan CBCP model. Plan's support to CBCPMs is both through grants as well as sponsorship. Especially in non-Plan PU areas, Plan has phased out its support to these mechanisms with variable results

¹⁷⁶ Plan International, One Plan, One Goal, 2011.

¹⁷⁷ Plan ARO, Child Protection Sub-Strategy, outline of a strategy in the making, September 2011.

to the sustainability of these mechanisms. Plan Asia has a wealth of experience including some success stories, as well as experiences that did not prove so sustainable.

Sustainability

The most important elements of sustainable CBCPMs are:

1. A mature national child protection system and the recognition for (Plan supported) CBCPMs within that.
2. Community involvement and empowerment through the CBCPMs.
3. Children and youth's involvement.
4. Availability and accessibility of a child friendly referral network.
5. Long term investment for CBCP structures ensured, both financial as well as human resources.
6. Clear phase-out strategy designed including continued monitoring and support for CBCPMs from either the government or civil society.

Across the region, Plan country offices are working towards the optimization of these conditions through effective advocacy with and capacity building for government authorities on the elements of a sustainable child protection system at national, state, provincial and district level. In addition Plan, often in collaboration with government and/or civil society partners, are supporting capacity building of CBCPM members. Wide disparities exist in the maturity of the national child protection systems and the extent to which Plan supported CBCPMs are integrated within this system.

The greatest challenges across Asia are (1) ensuring sustainable human, financial and resource support from governments for the Plan supported CBCPMs once Plan support phases out; (2) to ensure the government's replication of the CBCP model follows standards and guidelines and ensures that the best interests of the child are prioritised. These challenges require intensified collaboration between Plan and other child protection actors to step up advocacy with governments for budget allocations to the CBCPMs and the national child protection systems as well as strong networks of local NGOs that can continue to support the CBCPMs at local and district level. (3) ensuring the CBCPM volunteer members continue to be engaged, involved and dedicated despite competing priorities at home and work as well as the potential risks of being a CBCPM member, when dealing with cases where the perpetrators are violent or issue threats against the CBCPM members. Without the volunteers, there is no CBCPMs. It is crucial that CBCPM members feel valued, are motivated and feel protected by the government child protection authorities, the village leaders and by Plan to carry out their work. Identifying the best possible way to support and reward volunteers is recommended for each country office to ensure sustainable CBCPMs.

In many countries across the region, child protection is a priority area for the national governments, like in Vietnam, Indonesia, Nepal and Sri Lanka, which enables civil society and the UN to advocate using the existing national law and/or framework. For instance in China, in Hanying County support for the inter-agency child protection committees at the county level has been formally incorporated into government administration protocols. The Women's Federation Chairwoman from Hanying County said that this ensured they could continue handling cases according to the mechanism design, and that it was also very manageable to apply for government funding to continue the project.¹⁷⁸

¹⁷⁸ ICPREC, Claire O'Kane, Desk based analysis of the effectiveness of CBCPMs supported by Plan China, September 2014.

Elements supporting sustainable CBCPMs in Vietnam

The government has a National Program on Child Protection, which must be implemented by provinces and districts

- Sustainability level is high in Vietnam with top down approach; when higher authorities issue orders, they will be followed;
- Government has a budget for CBCPM, which has increased in the last two years;
- There is plan to build capacity of Social Workers;
- Strong cooperation between NGO/INGO and Government;
- There are many provinces where the Government has set up CBCP Boards by themselves alongside other INGOs such as World Vision and Plan;
- In the Social Economic Development Plan 2011-2015, the Government of Vietnam indicated that by 2015 half district in Provinces will have CBCPS.¹⁷⁹

In all countries, a [supporting legal framework](#) is key to sustainable CBCP structures. In authoritarian states, CBCPMs could not function effectively without government support. However a challenge in relying heavily on government support is the high turn-over of government personnel, resulting in the constant need for Plan to aware and train new government officials that oversee the CBCPMs in their area.

Having [interested and committed community members](#) of the CBCPMs is crucial for the sustainability and effectiveness of CBCPMs. In Indonesia, linking the CBCPMs to the Child Friendly City Initiative has really boosted community members' pride to be involved as it resulted in their district winning the prize for being the most Child Friendly District in Indonesia and has increased access to funding for their CBCPM. Linking strong CBCPMs with government financial support will boost community's involvement. The freedom of individual CBCPMs to develop their own regulations, as long as these follow the best interests of the child, is also an important element to hold on to as it again guarantees ownership, which contributes to sustainability. Rewarding mechanisms for volunteers need to be analysed as the competing priorities of volunteers, which can result in a decreased interest in the CBCPMs after some time, directly affect the sustainability of the CBCPMs. Without active members, who prevent and respond to children's protection needs, the CBCP mechanism is non-existent. This was highlighted in the E-discussion between child protection focal points in August as part of this evaluation.

“Dependency on voluntarism when coupled with harsh economic and environmental adversity can cripple local commitment. This needs to be tackled through smart advocacy with government and political economic structures.”

Plan Sri Lanka staff member

Another factor contributing to CBCPMs sustainability is [children and youth's involvement](#). We have seen that children's involvement is crucial as they monitor that the CBCPMs continues to respond to children's changing needs and that the CBCPMs continue to be relevant. Children's roles need to be genuine and children should be respected members in order for them to feel valued and continue to invest their precious time in the CBCPMs.

¹⁷⁹ Interview with World Vision Vietnam staff member by ICPREC consultant, June 2014.



Ensuring government support for the CBCP structures, when Plan phases out is of paramount importance and requires strategic alliances with government departments. In other places, like Indonesia and Thailand, phase-out and hand-over responsibilities have not been strategised or gradual and as such, have potentially decreased chances of sustainability for these structures.

Whilst the inclusion of CBCPMs in Government Child Protection systems is the main vehicle for scalability and sustainability, linking CBCPMs with local NGOs that can provide trainings and on-going support, is another effective way of continuing CBCPMs' development after Plan phases out. Supporting federations of CBCPMs can enhance mutual learning and joint advocacy contributing to sustainability and scale up. Plan Nepal and Plan Bangladesh are particularly strong in supporting these networks.

The CBCPMs are increasingly collecting support in kind and cash from community members in aid of vulnerable children in the community. Whilst the amounts or contributions are not large, they certainly do contribute to the effectiveness and credibility of the CBCPMs; this system also contributes to solidarity and awareness about child protection issues in communities. However, accessing funds from local authorities to cover running costs, including the costs of pencils/papers, awareness raising campaigns and emergency responses continues to be difficult across Asia, despite the increased recognition of and support for CBCPMs by the relevant authorities and the availability of support for child protection initiatives – on paper – in government/local budgets.

Lastly, sustainability of independent CBCPMs depends heavily on the availability of qualitative, reliable, accessible, child-friendly child protection services offered by the state and civil society. Plan countries in Asia has mostly invested in building the capacity of the committee members and of district level child protection committees, but have made less investments in building government professional social services' capacities. This investment is still required in most Asian countries that Plan works in. Without the availability of quality service providers, the CBCPMs become toothless committees that cannot refer children to the services they need. Plan should explore whether it wishes to get involved in the capacity building of these services. If it decides not to, it should step up its advocacy with governments to increase the quantity and quality of referral services.

Table 11:

Outlining factors that contribute and hinder sustainable CBCPMs taken from the e-discussion¹⁸⁰

Factors that contribute to sustainable CBCPMs	Factors that hinder CBCPMs sustainability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBCPMs are functionally and effectively linked/ coordinating with other organisations and institutions that support them. - Community has good understanding of child protection and the roles and responsibilities of CBCPMs. - Clear TORs, clear SOPs for different child protection issues (Plan Pakistan); Well defined government child protection system and procedures. - Supporting CBCPMs with equipment, trainings and materials and recognising the work of the group through rewards, certificates, annual celebrations. - Strong focus on sustainability from the beginning, in terms of leadership, government involvement, exit strategy, including a clear understanding of the weaknesses of the existing child protection system through a gap analysis and a clear set of actions to overcome the identified weaknesses. - Integrating the CBCPMs into the local development plans to ensure government policy and funding support. - Working closely with existing structures and groups of children leaders. - Ownership by community and by government child protection workers is crucial. - Ensuring appropriate, sustainable fund/in kind allocation from government, community and other stakeholders. - Strong child and young people's participation. - Track record in dealing with cases; quick and result oriented response when cases happen. - Documentation of good practices and impact assessments/research also help in scaling up when shared effectively with government and other partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the CBCPM structures were not built properly through effective mobilisation and democratic process it may create further problems for the sustainability. - (Fear of) Conflict and social security issues. - Family honour and other cultural barriers hinder successful CBCPMs as it results in cases not being reported or not being appropriately dealt with through the court system. - Lack of awareness and appreciation for CBCPM; absence of support groups for child protection cases. - Low mandate (insufficient institutional status) of CBCPMs. - Lack of government ownership of CBCP system or absence of child protection system in general; Government child protection workers do not have job security and move around so they do not take ownership for the CBCP structures. - Paying CBCP members with stipends will hinder true volunteerism. - Unclear functions/directions for CBCPM, lack of strategic plans, absence or weak external party to build capacity and strengthen CBCP mechanisms. - CBCPM is established as a parallel system and not linked to the government system. - Plan support that creates dependent CBCPMs rather than independently functioning CBCPMs - Failure to position resources. - Political/cultural context that does not support development of CBCPMs. - Depending on volunteers who face challenging socio-economic needs.

Scalability

The numbers of CBCPMs that Plan supports in 2014 compared to 2012 are staggering and have more than doubled in most countries. In addition to the CBCPMs that have been established and continue to be supported by Plan, governments in Vietnam and Indonesia have replicated Plan models of CBCPMs, bringing Plan's CBCPMs in Asia to further scale.

¹⁸⁰ For the full report, please refer to: ICPREC for Plan ARO, Lessons learned from the E-discussions on CBCPMs, August 2014.

Requisites for effectively bringing CBCPMs to scale through governments and other agencies are 1) a legal framework within which financial and capacity building support for these CBCPMs is guaranteed; as well as 2) the existence of a mature referral network to ensure committees can refer children to child friendly quality services; 3) in addition, national guidelines, minimum standards and training programmes for CBCPMs contribute to standardised quality services.

Across the region governments are increasingly interested in Plan's CBCP model. Government dignitaries have witnessed first-hand how Plan supported CBCPMs operate, resulting in national policy makers being keen to replicate Plan's model. For instance in Indonesia, Plan works closely with MoWECP to develop a national policy for the establishment of CBCPMs within the ministry's framework on child protection.¹⁸¹ In some states of India, the community-based CPCs that Plan supported are recognised as model CPCs under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme, which encourages formation of CPCs in every community.

It is important that Plan monitors governments' replication the CBCPMs, to ensure governments adhere to minimum standards and respect children's rights: they should include a baseline, sufficient training for the elected community members, community awareness raising about child rights and child protection. Plan in Asia should review extending its role in training of government/district offices to establish and effectively support CBCPM. Ministries increasingly have funding for this and some have demonstrated keen interest in Plan providing this type of training.

Table 12:

Key recommendations on effective collaboration with governments to take CBCPMs to scale

- Building a strong relationship with the government and CSOs, conducting adequate capacity building to build a strong integrated system with clear mandated roles of CBCPMs.
- Being involved and represented in various national, provincial and local meetings with child protection structures; and by ensuring representation of community members of CBCP mechanisms in district and provincial level government child protection systems.
- Building a strong local child protection workforce, strengthening case management for child protection, referral and liaison with support services ensuring local ownership at community and governmental levels are recognised and promoted without creating dependency relations; and by developing a clear exist strategy and transition with the local government conducting evidence-based advocacy and policy influencing (Plan Vietnam).
- Working closely with prominent other child focused agencies to support the government's child protection system.
- Ensuring CBCP models are low cost so that governments can replicate.

¹⁸¹ This framework, as described above, includes the One Stop Crisis Centres as well as the Army and Police wives network. Although no evidence for the work of the army and police wives was found during the field research.

Plan should:

- Increased advocacy is needed with government authorities across Asia to increase budget allocations to support sustainable and effective child protection systems and mechanisms at all levels (in both development and emergency contexts).
- Strengthen collaboration with national advocates for child protection.
- Increased understanding on what motivates volunteering CBCPM members to dedicate time and to actively contribute to children's protection in communities. Different ways of recognising and/or rewarding volunteers and their CBCPMs for their efforts and achievements should be mapped and good practices replicated.
- Increase linking of CBCPMs with horizontal networks of CBCPMs and CSOs for sustainable access to capacity building and advocacy.
- Develop clear strategies for phase-out, including capacitated CBCPMs that can develop proposals requesting budget allocation and that can advocate effectively.
- Ensure children's role is guaranteed and supported beyond Plan's phase-out by linking children members to national youth initiatives and trainings.
- Further develop guidelines and tools to establish CBCPMs so that these can be shared wider for replication purposes.
- Explore Plan's future role in strengthening capacity of referral networks and government services providers, including but not limited to social workers specialised in child protection.
- Explore Plans' future role in supporting national governments in roll-outs of CBCPMs across countries.



Figure 16:
Outlining CBCPMs linkages
and referral mechanisms
in Indonesia

Concluding comments on supportive strategies

The spider diagram demonstrates the progress Plan has made in recent years by increasing its effectiveness in collaboration with and capacity building with and for national governments and civil society. This fosters professional partnership to strengthen CBCPMs as part of an effective national child protection system. Plan has booked progress also through increased advocacy for improved child protection systems and scaling up of CBCPMs in Asia. Plan is increasingly standardising trainings for its staff and partners, with potential for scale beyond Plan Programme areas.

It is recommended that Plan increases its focus on system strengthening work whilst maintaining its strong support for grassroots, sustainable, effective CBCPMs to ensure Plan's advocacy for policy and law changes is relevant to children and communities who Plan works with. More focus is required to improve evidence-based learning, and to link evidence-based learning to programme development and advocacy, which in turn can take qualitative programmes up to scale. Significantly more efforts are needed to pilot and scale up CBCPMs in urban communities.

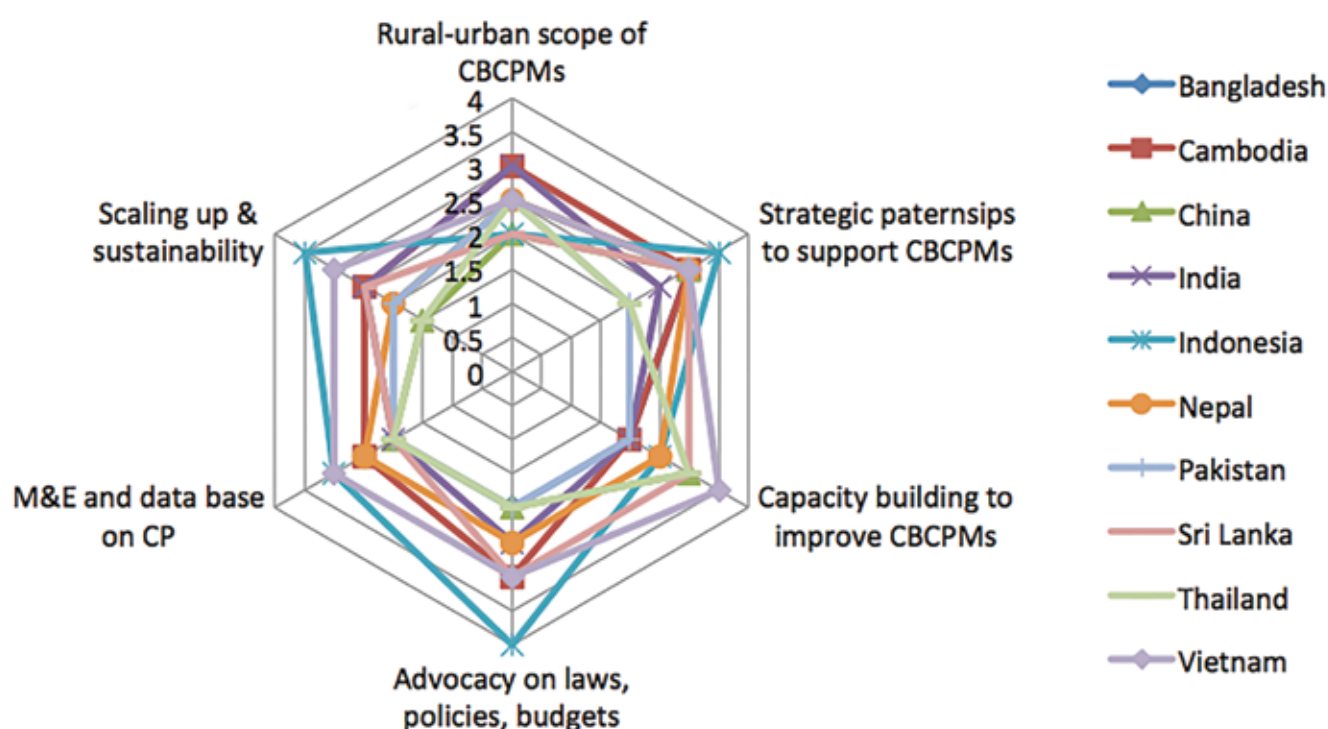


Figure 17:

An overview of KQE scores of countries in supporting strategies

A full-page background image showing a child in silhouette, running and flying a kite. The kite is a diamond shape with a long tail, flying against a bright, cloudy sky. The child is in the lower left, and the kite is in the upper right.

PART C:

LESSONS LEARNED, CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAPTER 6

Key achievements and replicable practice, challenges and gaps

This chapter identifies key achievements and replicable good practices, as well as key challenges and gaps in relation to:

- I. Building Blocks: participatory involvement, ownership and awareness
- II. Operational mechanisms and coordination to prevent and address violence against children
- III. Supporting strategies: collaboration, advocacy and replication

Under each of the three above headings, we will first discuss the key achievements and replicable practices followed by challenges and gaps.

Building blocks: participatory involvement, ownership and awareness

Key achievements in participatory involvement, ownership and awareness

- Increased ownership and relevance of CBCPMs in some communities following effective community mobilisation and awareness on child rights and child protection.
- The majority of CBCPMs now include child representatives; and many CBCPMs work collaboratively with children's groups. Close collaboration between children's groups and CBCPMs are mutually reinforcing and contribute to more effective and relevant CBCPMs. There is increased value for children's participation in many communities, districts, provinces; and girls and boys are more aware of their rights and more confident to speak out.
- Forming Federations of CBCPMs in India and Nepal; and networks among children's groups in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, India and Vietnam enhances mutual learning and collective advocacy.

Replicable practices in participatory involvement, ownership and awareness include:

- Plan Thailand's new model of community mobilisation and nomination of interested community members to form CBCPMs is proving to be more relevant and effective than the earlier model of working through the existing village committees.
- Children's representation in district Child Protection Committees in Sri Lanka, Nepal and Indonesia; and linking children's groups capacity training with the National Youth's association in Indonesia.
- Efforts by Plan's Thailand NGO partners supporting ethnic minority youth, women and leaders in CRSAs to better understand and build upon traditional practices
- Applying programme guidance to tackle exclusion (e.g. Plan Pakistan).
- Village Rules or Codes of Conduct developed by community focusing on better care, protection and participation of girls and boys.
- Supporting children's participation in social audits of government services by children's groups (in India).

Key challenges and gaps in participatory involvement, ownership and awareness

- Insufficient efforts by some local authorities to recognise the mandate of CBCPMs within the formal child protection system, which limits effectiveness.

- Lack of sufficient understanding of child protection and lack of community ownership of CBCPMs in some communities. More intensive community mobilisation, awareness, sensitisation on child protection issues need to be supported by the NGO partners/ Plan in these project areas.
- Limited involvement of key CBCPM stakeholders, especially local officials because of their busy work and low value for child protection.
- Difficulty for CBCPM members to find time to dedicate to child protection volunteering due to their existing commitments to livelihoods, study and family.
- The most marginalised women, men, girls and boys (including people from the poorest families and people with disabilities) are rarely included as CBCPM and/or children's group members. Furthermore, there is less involvement of fathers and men in CBCPM initiatives; and in some children's groups boys are less active than girls.
- Limited efforts to identify and build upon existing positive traditions that contribute to the care and protection of girls and boys in some countries, potentially reducing the relevance of CBCPMs.
- The majority of CBCPMs do not have a Code of Conduct. It is unclear whether all CBCPMs are bound by and trained in Plan's Keeping Children Safe Code of Conduct.
- Linkages between CBCPMs, children's groups and youth groups are sometimes weak. Increased linkages between children's clubs and CBCPMs are required.
- The majority of CBCPMs still do not access government funding. The CBCPMs lack capacity to develop project proposals to obtain funding directly from agencies. Local government often does not prioritise children in their budgets. Furthermore, only a minority of CBCPMs have their own meeting space, which limits the capacity of CBCPMs to meet and store its documents and case files safely.
- Plan is directly implementing programmes to support CBCPMs in Sri Lanka and Indonesia, thus there is less direct involvement of civil society organisations. This raises questions concerning budget efficiency and longer term effectiveness.

Operational mechanisms and coordination to prevent and address violence against children

Key achievements in operational mechanisms

- Increased awareness on child protection and child rights in communities where Plan supports CBCPMs and children's groups: Plan and Partners report significant gains in knowledge of CBCPM members, parents, children, teachers and local officials about the different forms of violence against children, child rights and child protection.
- Increased awareness about where to report child protection concerns to and increased willingness to report. Children, parents and teachers are more aware of the roles and responsibilities of CBCPMs and an increasing number of cases are reported.
- CBCPMs are reportedly contributing to decreased levels of VAC; children report decrease in VAC in schools, their homes and their communities across Asia. Reductions in child marriage, corporal punishment, out of school children, gender discrimination and child labour exploitation are reported across Asia. Increases in birth registration and school attendance are reported by CBCPMs across Asia.
- Increase in prevention and early intervention work by CBCPMs and government child protection agencies: Across Asia an increase in early interventions by CBCPMs and government counterparts (sometimes trained by Plan) are reported demonstrating a maturing child protection system, including early referral services for children with disabilities, orphans and other groups of vulnerable children (including 'left behind





children' in China).

- CBCPMs are often able to prevent or resolve 'low complexity' cases within their community concerning: neglect, scolding, beating, bullying, and/or school dropout; and CBCPMs are able to intervene and/or make referrals supporting a response to 'medium complexity' or 'high complexity' cases (including child sexual abuse, child marriage, child labour).
- A focus on gender equality and abolishing gender discrimination for girls is clear in most countries, mainly focusing on girls' equal access to education and decrease in child marriage.
- Community risk mapping: CBCPMs in various Asian countries conduct a mapping of children/families at risk which assists in early detection of cases. In some countries, CBCPMs collect data on child protection issues in their communities on a regular basis which they share with the authorities.
- Increased recognition, linkages and cooperation between CBCPMs and government child protection authorities across Asia resulting in more efficient and effective referral networks. In some countries, a mapping of available services has been undertaken by CBCPMs contributing to relevant, effective and efficient responses.
- Increased coordination and collaboration between service providers and CBCPMs in some countries; coordination with especially government service providers has become more effective resulting in more response to child protection concerns.
- Professionalisation and standardisation of child protection responses: In some countries, cases are referred to multi-sectoral child protection centres (Thailand, Indonesia) which has resulted in more comprehensive and effective responses. Plan Sri Lanka has developed and published guidelines for management of child abuse and neglect cases.
- Plan has cooperated with the police particularly in countries in South Asia to develop child friendly police practices improving children's care and protection of children by the police.
- There are good examples of child protection mainstreaming into other thematic areas (Education, Children as Active Citizens, WASH, health, DRR safer school project) and significant mutual contributions to programming and campaign goals through implementation of the 'Learn without Fear' (now completed) and 'Because I am a Girl' campaigns which enhances efficiency and effectiveness.

Replicable practices in operational mechanisms

- Plan Cambodia's Parents and closed groups: The parents groups receive training on positive parenting, child rights, household budgeting, birth registration, child protection. The closed groups offer counselling and information sharing to help families break the patterns of violence and solve the root causes.
- Plan China's early interventions including assistance to children with disabilities, the 'care bank card', surrogate mother, and efforts to apply local policies on 'left behind children' to ensure prevention and support to children living with their grandparents or other relatives.
- Plan India's Support to mass awareness campaigns on "Breaking the Silence" to report child sexual abuse, and the "Let's Talk! How Safe are our children" campaign and Plan Sri Lanka's child friendly IEC materials and campaigns on safe and unsafe touch.
- Plan Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Cambodia's community mapping of vulnerable children and families resulting in better monitoring and early interventions.
- Plan India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka's establishing child friendly police practices.
- Development and implementation of guidelines for management of child abuse and neglect cases by multi-disciplinary teams (e.g. Plan Sri Lanka).

Key challenges and gaps in operational mechanisms

- **Insufficient positive parenting interventions** in some countries limiting result of awareness raising on VAC and child rights among parents and other caregivers (grandparents, aunts, uncles).
- **CBCPMs are not capacitated to organise themselves** in some communities resulting in ineffective committees with delayed response to cases, limited awareness raising activities and irregular meetings.
- **Barriers to reporting** continue to exist due to: lack of awareness; perceived 'privacy' of protection issues within families; fear to report; poverty and associated costs if cases are taken to court; lack of access to government officials; police and judiciary corruption; and delays and lack of trust in the process.
- **Secrecy around child sexual abuse cases**, especially around sexual abuse of boys remains. In many locations child sexual abuse cases are not reported to the CBCPM due to shame and stigma, and due to legal barriers. There is insufficient guidance to support CBCPMs sensitive response to child sexual abuse, bullying, and child migration.
- **Weak or no referral services at sub-district/district level in some countries and overreliance on one focal point at sub-district level in other countries.** Lack of government infrastructure and insufficient human and financial resources; insufficient coordination among concerned stakeholders; discrimination; misuse of power and corruption; and challenges in getting sufficient evidence and witnesses. Particular challenges are faced when trying to get a government response to cases from remote communities. Plan staff are still actively involved in case management in some countries. This is unsustainable and needs to be addressed.
- **Continuation of traditional settlement of cases** in which children's best interests principle and the do no harm principle are not upheld.
- **Threats from human traffickers and those involved in sexual and commercial exploitation** of children has caused some communities to stop certain awareness and rescue campaigns. Communities need increased support from police and judicial authorities to deal with these threats.
- **Child members are sometimes too involved in case management**, putting themselves at risk. The roll out of the Sticks and Stones will help rectify this.
- **Police officers and judiciary in most countries are insensitive to children's rights** and needs resulting in increased risk to children in police custody and judicial system.
- **Insufficient training of CBCPMs on CPiE and DRR** despite CBCPMs being well placed to be first point of action to respond to keep children safe in emergencies.
- **Plan's limited presence in urban areas** in Asia could result in limited learning about children's protection issues in urban areas in Asia, despite the rapid speed with which Asia is urbanising. Complex issues relating to urbanisation, migration, unemployment and discrimination need to be better addressed as they are contributing to: sexual violence, pornography, economic and sexual exploitation.
- **Most CBCPMs lack an emergency fund to respond to emergency child protection cases.** Moreover, there are often delays in response when referrals are made to the district levels. Such delays reduce community member's confidence in the child protection system.

Supporting strategies: collaboration, advocacy, capacity building, and replication

Key achievements in supporting strategies

- **Plan has increased the scale of CBCPMs in most countries**, increasing the number of children that are accessing CBCPMs.





- Plan is increasingly effective in its strategic partnerships with the government at national, provincial/state and district levels supporting roll out of the national child protection systems, including strategic efforts to align CBCPMs supported by Plan with the evolving national child protection systems.
- Plan and their partners are increasingly effective in using advocacy to influence government's child protection policy and law development at national, provincial/state and district levels.
- Plan is increasingly involved in strategic work with other child rights actors and supporting alliances which are engaged in collective advocacy on relevant laws, policies, schemes at different levels to support child protection system strengthening.
- Plan's government partners are taking increased ownership to lead child protection system building, including funding CBCPMs in some countries.
- In some countries Plan has successfully secured long term funding for support to CBCPMs and child protection system strengthening. Furthermore, increased financial and in kind support for CBCPMs from community members to implement its mandate increases their sustainability.
- Plan is increasingly effective in creating equal partnerships with civil society partners, by applying more systematic training programmes. Plan's CBCP work has benefited tremendously from partnerships with strong national civil society partners that bring expertise, access to national advocacy networks.
- Capacity building of government officials and Plan's involvement in the provincial and district level CBCPMs contributes to more functional child protection systems at the provincial, district and divisional levels.
- Plan is increasingly developing standardised training of trainers manuals, guidelines for establishing and supporting CBCPMs in many countries in Asia, which will contribute to standardised procedures and care and will facilitate replication of Plan's models.
- There are good initiatives to train the police, to support more regular communication between the CBCPMs and the local police stations, and to pilot the establishment of a child friendly space in the police station by Plan in some countries.
- Plan countries in Asia are increasingly conducting baseline surveys and independent evaluations. However, insufficient use is made of the baselines in evaluations, often because the scale of the evaluations is too large to conduct in depth studies in one location.

Replicable practices in supporting strategies

- Plan Indonesia is a leading contributor to the development of CBCPMs as part of the Indonesian Child Protection System, in terms of contributions to legal development requiring CBCPMs in every community as part of new child protection policies.
- Plan India has contributed to the establishment of an inter-agency group of master trainers on child protection at the state level to support training on child protection, and relevant domestic law and policies.
- Plan India and Nepal are supporting district level stakeholders to undertake district needs assessments to better identify, plan and budget for child protection.
- Plan Nepal has made good efforts to encourage government agencies and civil society organisations to establish district level networks to share expertise and resources. This has resulted in more effectively designed and executed district strategic plans and policies.
- Plan Indonesia has linked to the Child Friendly City Initiative. Plan directly supports the development of district/local Child Protection regulations resulting in support from the Child Friendly Cities budget to the CBCPMs.

- Plan Nepal has been successful at facilitating rights holders groups, including children's groups, to conduct direct advocacy and influence local policy making and budget allocations.
- Plan Sri Lanka is running tailor made in depth follow-up trainings for their CBCPM community volunteers ensuring members learn relevant skills that increase the CBCPM's effectiveness.
- Plan China is supporting systematic baseline and evaluations of CBCPMs.

Key challenges and gaps in supporting strategies

Strategic partnerships

- Many national governments still lack a comprehensive children's law or policy and a central children's ombudsperson to take full responsibility for children's rights and protection. This requires continued advocacy by Plan and its partners.
- Many governments in Asia are in the process of developing and executing their child protection system in which CBCPMs are increasingly featuring; this process can be slow and politicised. It is crucial that Plan continues to contribute to this process and engage with it, ensuring sufficient support to developing the key elements of the national child protection system. Continuous efforts to increase the contributions of other agencies to this process are vital.
- Only the minority of CBCPMs in Asia receive government funding: Plan needs to step up its advocacy to increase budget allocation to CBCPMs and child protection systems.
- Further focus is required for Plan's strategic engagement with civil society to form long term equal requires as in some countries Plan's engagement with civil society within the CBCPMs is minimal.
- Increased support for establishing networks of NGOs/CBOs is required.

Advocacy

- Most country offices lack an advocacy strategy and action plan, including further support for the role of children and local CBCPMs in advocacy. Furthermore, Plan should increasingly collaborate with networks and other agencies in advocacy initiatives.

Capacity building

- There is a need for standardisation of trainings for CBCPMs across many countries.
- More specific training for CBCPMs is required in prevention, sensitive reporting and referral of child sexual abuse, child trafficking and other forms of child sexual exploitation. CBCPMs have limited capacity to raise funds; Plan needs to develop training materials for CBCPMs to successfully raise funds and implement projects.
- Regular transfers of government officials contributes to inefficiencies and ineffectiveness of collaboration and capacity building investments by Plan on child protection, especially due to poor 'hand over' mechanisms.
- In almost all Asian countries, there are insufficient trained qualified social workers available to support case management of child protection at the district and provincial levels. Capacity building of social workers is crucial to the effectiveness of the CBCPMs' referral network, thus Plan is advised to review whether it can contribute to the training of social workers at national levels.
- In many countries, referral services are very limited to none, which severely hampers the effectiveness of CBCPMs to provide the necessary services to child victims that are in the best interests of the child.



M&E

- In most countries in Asia, data on child protection is collected by many different actors, but data is not centrally collated and analysed to provide an integrated overview of child protection issues affecting children. There is **limited collaboration with other agencies to systematically track child protection and child rights** across countries.
- Plan's M&E of CBCPMs has improved but **requires further systemising across Asia to improve the evidence base of outcomes and impact**, which would strengthen Plan's advocacy.

Sustainability and scalability

- Plan should **step up its advocacy with government authorities** across Asia to **increase government budget allocations** to support sustainable and effective child protection systems and mechanisms at all levels in development and emergencies.
- Plan should **contribute to increased linking of CBCPMs with horizontal networks** of CBCPMs and CSOs for sustainable access to capacity building and advocacy.
- Plan needs to **develop clear strategies for phase-out**, including capacitated CBCPMs that can develop proposals and can advocate effectively.
- Plan child protection teams need to determine what motivates volunteering members of CBCPMs and how Plan can retain active and committed CBCPM members.
- Plan needs **to ensure children's role is guaranteed and supported beyond Plan's phase-out** by linking children members to national youth initiatives and trainings.



CHAPTER 7

Key lessons learned, conclusions and recommendations concerning the effectiveness of CBCPMs

Key lessons learned and conclusions

In recent years, Plan countries across the Asia region have made **significant progress in strengthening CBCPMs effectiveness and contributing to wider government efforts to strengthen the child protection system**. Such efforts are extremely relevant, and are in line with Plan ARO's regional sub-strategy "Safe and Sound",¹⁸² and Plan International's new global strategy for child protection programming which establishes an ambitious framework for action. The new child protection strategy focuses on working with four groups of actors that are fundamental for a systems approach: communities, families, children; and government.¹⁸³ This global strategy prioritises Plan's work to strengthen effective and tailored CBCPMs and encourages partnership work at various levels to achieve this.

Efforts to strengthen CBCPMs and the child protection system in Asia have been **most effective when Plan has worked collaboratively with government and civil society partners at different levels** – local, sub-district, district, state/provincial, and national levels. Appropriate community mobilisation and awareness raising on child protection, ensuring community ownership for CBCPMs and active informed members, has been essential to the establishment of effective CBCPMs. A strong focus on prevention and early interventions, links between community and school-based child protection mechanisms and collaboration between CBCPMs and children's groups have also increased the effectiveness and efficiency of the response. Furthermore, advocacy and capacity building efforts with relevant government authorities at sub-national and national levels has been crucial to ensure linkages between CBCPMs and the formal child protection system, including links to referral and response mechanisms to medium and highly complex child protection cases.

Plan efforts to collaborate with civil society and government partners to develop and strengthen CBCPMs and the child protection system contribute to **increased efficiency, effectiveness and sustainable efforts IF there is sufficient focus on effective communication, coordination, capacity building and mentoring** (particularly in the initial two years of establishing CBCPMs). In most countries significant investments are being made in relevant capacity building initiatives for Plan staff, civil society and government partners (at different levels), as well as for CBCPM members and children in communities and schools. Furthermore, Plan ARO provides significant capacity building support from the regional office through: monitoring visits by the regional technical advisers and regional coordinators;¹⁸⁴ the development and dissemination of regional resources (including the draft handbook for working with communities; Bamboo Shoots; Sticks and Stones; advocacy mapping; child friendly materials etc); and through the regional child protection network meeting.

¹⁸² Plan Asia Regional Office, Safe and Sound – Growing up with Protection: Regional Sub-Strategy Child Protection in Development, 2013.

¹⁸³ Plan International, Protection from Violence is Every Child's Right: Plan International's Global Strategy for Child Protection Programming, July 2014.

¹⁸⁴ Including a dedicated CBCPM senior regional coordinator.

In many countries (including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam), Plan has made significant progress to replicate and scale up CBCPMs particularly in the last two years. However, increased efforts across the region are needed to adapt and scale up CBCPMs in urban and peri-urban communities, particularly in areas with high prevalence of the poorest most marginalised families. In addition, increased efforts are needed to build CBCPM members' capacity on emergency preparedness, DRR and CPIE so that communities can mitigate risks and respond more effectively in emergencies, to prevent family separation, support family reunification, and to support care and protection of children in families.

CBCPMs supported by Plan are increasingly effective in preventing and responding to different forms of violence against children; and children's groups further enhance children's role in their own self-protection and protection of their peers. Overall, CBCPMs are contributing to reductions in corporal punishment (by parents, caregivers, teachers); child marriage; child labour; child neglect (including leaving young children unsupervised in the home); domestic violence; gender discrimination; school dropout; and bullying. CBCPMs are also contributing to improvements in the value for children's education and sending girls and boys to school; consideration of children's needs, interests and voices within families, schools and communities; communication and non-violent ways to resolve conflicts and to discipline children within families; and birth registration. Some CBCPMs are also contributing to prevention, reporting and referrals concerning child sexual abuse, child trafficking and drug abuse.

Across the region further efforts are needed to overcome barriers to reporting and response among community members, children, CBCPM members, and the concerned authorities. Under-reporting on child protection concerns and use of informal justice mechanisms which are not based on the best interests of the child remain common. These issues are decreasing the effectiveness of the CBCPMs supported by Plan. Thus, increased efforts are needed to engage children and adults in strengthening child friendly reporting mechanisms; and to strengthen referral mechanisms so that sensitive and timely responses to child protection reports are made by the concerned statutory agencies.

Children's role in their own self-protection and the protection of their peers is crucial. Close collaboration between children's groups and CBCPMs, with children's representation in CBCPMs enhances the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of CBCPMs. Increased efforts are needed by Plan and their partners to systematically apply basic requirements for effective and ethical participation of children in child protection initiatives in their communities and schools. In particular, more efforts are needed to assess and minimise risks faced by children, to support inclusive participation, and adult feedback and accountability to children.

Good practices including positive parenting, closed groups, development of village rules, risk and resource mapping, early interventions to support children living with grandparents and children with disabilities, the roll out of "Sticks and Stones", police training etc (see Chapter 6) contribute to increased effectiveness of CBCPMs and should be adapted and replicated in more countries across the region. Furthermore, broader efforts should be made to include fathers, grandfathers, grandmothers, aunts, uncles and other relative caregivers in parenting education and awareness initiatives on child rights and protection. To increase relevance of the CBCPMs for the most vulnerable population, increased efforts are needed to support inclusive representation in CBCPMs and children's groups, with more efforts to reach and actively include people/children with disabilities, out of school children, and the most marginalised families.





In many countries CBCPM and children's group developments ensure a particular focus on the rights of girls and efforts to end different forms of gender based violence and discrimination contributing to the "Because I am a Girl" campaign. Women and girls tend to be more actively involved in CBCPMs and children's groups in many countries in the region. However, to **further strengthen effective work on gender equality it is also important to recognise the importance of increased engagement of men, fathers and boys** in CBCPMs and children's groups.

Furthermore, some CBCPMs in the region continue to have a very specific focus on preventing and responding to very specific forms of violence against children (e.g. a specific focus on child marriage in Bangladesh), rather than being responsive to other protection issues. Thus, increased efforts are needed in these countries to ensure that the CBCPMs become more responsive to a wider range of protection concerns affecting girls and boys, increasing relevance of CBCPMs for children facing different child protection concerns (including early pregnancy, and risks associated with increased access to the internet).

Ongoing and increased advocacy by Plan and their civil society partners is needed to ensure that CBCPMs mandate is recognised and supported by the local and national authorities, and that budgets are allocated to support CBCPMs' prevention and early intervention efforts. Good practice from Indonesia in establishing CBCPMs that are replicable and sustainable through government legal and policy development and government funding can be used to inform such advocacy initiatives in the wider region.

In most countries across the region significant **weaknesses and gaps in the formal child protection system's response, referral and service delivery mechanisms are caused by lack of resources and lack of investment.** In most countries referral mechanisms are limited or not functioning efficiently or effectively, particularly in rural and remote locations. Child protection case management is in its early stages of development in most countries. Few governments in the region have made sufficient investments to develop and support a cadre of qualified social workers, who should at least be accessible at the district level to respond to referrals from CBCPMs to support sensitive and timely responses to child protection case management. Furthermore, in most countries in the region there are **insufficient child friendly protection services** (including psychosocial support services for survivors of abuse, family support services, counselling for family members with substance abuse or additions, legal support etc). This creates significant challenges in establishing effective CBCPMs, as the referral mechanisms or protection service response by concerned duty bearers is often delayed or limited, and sometimes creates new risks to children if an institutional response is favoured. Thus, **ongoing and increased efforts by Plan in collaboration with other child focused agencies in each country are required to support the government in strengthening the child protection system.** Governments need to be convinced to increase investments (human, financial and material) to strengthen: CBCPMs; referral mechanisms; social work capacity; child friendly protection services; and child sensitive social protection schemes.

In each country Plan child protection managers and technical staff need to **strategically review the time and efforts invested** in support to community-based child protection work, vis-a-vis advocacy and capacity building with government and civil society partners at different levels (e.g. sub-district, district, state/province, national level) to **determine the most optimum efforts to support the effective and sustainable development of CBCPMs as part of child protection systems.** It is important for Plan Country Offices to ensure that child protection, CBCPMs and child protection system strengthening

is **prioritised in Country Strategic Plans** moving ‘beyond projects’ to more strategic planning to institutionalise and strengthen effective and sustainable CBCPMs with clear links to the formal child protection system.

The 2012 comparative analysis of CBCPMs “Lessons for Protection” supported by Plan in the Asia region resulted in 14 key recommendations.¹⁸⁵ Progress has been made by Plan in the past two years in responding to many of these recommendations, including increased advocacy efforts by Plan country offices to ensure that CBCPMs are recognised and directly linked to the formal child protection system; a mapping of advocacy efforts to support CBCPMs and the child protection system has been undertaken with support from Plan ARO. Furthermore, Plan is increasingly supporting government and civil society agencies in developing their social work capacity for child protection case management. However, most of the 2012 recommendations continue to be relevant for further action by Plan Country Offices and the Plan ARO in the coming years, and are thus reflected in the new recommendations shared below.



Figure 18:
CBCPM members in India
participating in evaluation

Recommendations for Plan to increase the effectiveness of CBCPMs

The recommendations are grouped under key clusters concerning:

- I. Building blocks: participatory involvement, ownership and awareness
- II. Operational mechanisms and coordination to prevent and address violence against children
- III. Supporting strategies: collaboration, advocacy and replication

¹⁸⁵ Plan Asia Regional Office, Lessons for Protection: A comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in Asia, 2012.

Building blocks for participatory involvement, ownership and awareness in CBCPMs

Plan in collaboration with civil society and/or government partners should:

1. Adapt and scale up efforts to pilot and strengthen CBCPMs in urban and peri-urban communities especially in the poorest neighbourhoods.
2. Strengthen CBCPMs through sufficient community mobilisation, capacity building and mentoring, especially in the first one to two years of their establishment.
3. Increase advocacy with local and national authorities to ensure that CBCPMs mandate is recognised by the concerned government authorities; and that CBCPMs can access relevant local government budgets for child protection and prevention initiatives.
4. Develop strategies to increase the role of men, fathers, and marginalised families in CBCPMs and community-based protection awareness and parenting initiatives.
5. Strengthen collaboration between children's groups and CBCPMs to enhance children's role in their own self-protection. More systematic efforts are needed to: apply basic requirements for children's participation¹⁸⁶ supporting inclusive, safe and ethical participation of girls and boys in child protection work with increased accountability from adults. Ongoing efforts to roll out the use of "Sticks and Stones" will support such efforts.
6. Support networking among CBCPMs and children's groups at sub-district and district levels to enhance mutual learning, information sharing and collective advocacy; and support CBCPM and children's group representation in sub-district, district and state/provincial level child protection structures.
7. In partnership with academia increase community-based participatory research and/or anthropological studies on positive traditional child rearing and protection practices that contribute to the care and protection of children to further inform effective project planning, design and implementation of CBCPMs.

Operational mechanisms and coordination to prevent and address violence against children through CBCPMs

Plan in collaboration with civil society and/or government partners should:

8. Expand CBCPM prevention and early interventions including: community-based awareness on child rights and child protection issues (including creative use of media, theatre and traditional arts); parenting education (for all male and female parents and other relative caregivers); risk and resource mapping; home visits to identify the most vulnerable children and to refer them to relevant schemes/services; the development and application of Village Rules; and child and youth led peer education and action initiatives. A good practice film of early interventions made by CBCPMs in the region should be developed to enhance replication and scale up. Furthermore, collaboration between child protection and ECCD practitioners should be encouraged to develop and scale up parenting education initiatives adopting a life cycle approach to parenting of girls and boys of different ages.
9. Engage child and adult stakeholders in dialogue and planning to develop strategies to overcome barriers to reporting and response on child protection concerns to further develop child friendly reporting and response mechanism focusing on the 'best interests' of the child.

¹⁸⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No.12, The Right of the Child to be Heard, CRC/C/GC/12, July 2009.

10. **Support the e-development of updated resource directories** at local, sub-district, district, state/provincial and national levels to enhance coordination, referral and response mechanisms.
11. **Advocate with the government and support capacity building efforts to establish a sufficient cadre of qualified social workers at sub-district levels** to ensure their accessibility to CBCPMs so that they can respond to undertake child protection case management in a sensitive and timely manner.
12. **Advocate for and provide technical support for increased government and civil society investments in pilots and expansion of child friendly protection services** including psychosocial support to child survivors of abuse and exploitation; family support services; and multi-disciplinary support teams/One Stop Crisis Centres.

Supporting strategies by Plan to support CBCPMs as part of child protection system building

To further support effective CBCPMs and child protection system strengthening efforts Plan and their partners should:

13. **Advocate for increased budget allocations** for increased human and financial resources for child protection system developments (including investments in CBCPMs, social workers, and child friendly protection services) at national, provincial, county and community levels; and **analyse use of existing government child protection budgets**.
14. **Support inter-agency initiatives to increase efficient and relevant capacity building for: police and judiciary on child protection (and use of institutional care as a last resort); for social workers on child protection case management; and for government officials on child protection laws, policies, and the roles of CBCPMs.**
15. **Advocate and support developments of an integrated government database on child protection** using disaggregated indicators (gender, disability, ethnicity, caste, geography etc) which can inform monitoring and planning of child protection services, policies and plans.
16. **Strengthen monitoring and evaluation of CBCPMs** to increase quantitative and qualitative data on the impact of CBCPMs that can inform evidence-based advocacy for scale up of CBCPM. Undertake more systematic baseline studies of child care and protection concerns communities; periodically collect data on relevant child protection indicators; and ensure periodic independent child protection evaluations.



Figure 19:
Drawing of child rights by
children, Vietnam



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About the Report

This report is the result of the regional evaluation of the overall effectiveness of the existing community-based child protection mechanisms (CBCPMs) supported by Plan in the Asia region, and their contribution to improved protection of children from all forms of violence. The evaluation was coordinated by Plan Asia Regional Office and took place between November 2013 and October 2014. This evaluation builds upon the regional comparative analysis of the CBCPMs completed in 2012 which resulted in the “Lessons for Protection” report. This evaluation had a two-pronged specific focus: the effectiveness of community-based child protection mechanism in preventing and responding to violence against children at community level on one hand, and the effectiveness of its linkages with formal child protection systems.

The report findings indicate that CBCPMs supported by Plan are increasingly effective in preventing and responding to different forms of violence against children. Overall, CBCPMs are contributing to reductions in corporal punishment, child marriage, child labour, child neglect, domestic violence, gender discrimination, school dropout and bullying. It also points out gaps to be addressed, including a need to overcome barriers to reporting and response among community members, children, CBCPM members and the concerned authorities. Good practices are identified side-by-side with areas for strengthening, further elaborated in the set of sixteen recommendations. It is hoped that the learning captured in this report will inform and improve practice of Plan and other child focused organisations within the global child protection community.

About Plan

Plan is a child-centred community development organisation working with children, their families, communities, organisations and governments to promote child rights to end child poverty. When children and adults work together as part of the change process, it is more likely that programmes will be successful and sustainable.

Founded over 70 years ago, Plan is one of the oldest and largest children’s development organisations in the world. We work in 50 developing countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas to promote child rights and lift millions of children out of poverty.

Plan’s vision is of a world in which all children realise their full potential in societies that respect people’s rights and dignity. Plan works with more than 3.5 million families and their communities each year. We are independent, with no religious, political or governmental affiliations.

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