

**Capacity building in violence prevention for
those working with and for children and families
- examples of good practices from
UNICEF Papua New Guinea**



Papua New Guinea





Child Protection in Papua New Guinea means:

**... improved protection from violence,
abuse and exploitation**

Program has three elements:

- 1. Social protection and violence prevention**
- 2. Legal protection and justice for children**
- 3. Cultural practices and behaviour change.**



Five good practice examples:

1. Cultural practices and behaviour change through village / community courts
2. Family support centres in hospitals
3. Increased protection of children in justice systems
4. Violence prevention in schools
5. Protection of orphans and other children vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation by faith based organisations.



1. Cultural practices and behaviour change:

- Goal - Women and children have their protection rights respected by village / community courts
- Method - Two week capacity building program. Village court officials, an equal number of women from the same village court jurisdictions and young people trained in child protection, CRC, CEDAW, planning and assessment
- Key tools - Based on the UNICEF Protective Environment for Children Framework, the Triple A (Assessment, Analysis, Action) Community Consultation tool and uses a Human Rights Based Approach.



1. Cultural practices and behaviour change:

- Delivery mechanisms - Local women trained as technical advisers and placed at the district level. They conduct training and do follow up visits to each court and identify further capacity development needs
- Result – 71,000 children across five districts offered increased protection. Some courts have put up signs that advise communities that serious offences will be referred to higher courts and are conducting awareness campaigns in market places.



The value of children ...

Dr Jill Korbin (1981) identified four factors that influenced the degree to which children are protected from maltreatment.

These factors are:

1. The cultural values placed on children
2. Beliefs about particular groups of children
3. Cultural beliefs about age capabilities, and
4. The existence of a network of concerned individuals beyond the immediate family.



Quotable quote # 1:

- “Depending on the cultural context, adopted children, illegitimate children, stepchildren, orphans, females, children who result from a difficult pregnancy or painful labor, retarded and deformed children, and children who display behaviors and characteristics not valued by their parents and culture may be at increased jeopardy” (Korbin 1981).



2. Family support centres:

- Goal - Woman and children escaping violence can get profession and coordinated support in a safe and accessible place
- Method – Establishment of a ‘One-stop-shop’ model of service delivery within the health system and involving civil society
- Key tools - Interagency guidelines and protocols
- Aim is to establish one service in every provincial hospital and a ‘mini centre’ in every district hospital
- Result – 3000 children and women receiving specialised and coordinated support annually. Number will increase to 7,000 by 2009.



Quotable quote # 2:

- “Traditionally women and children (male and female) have been cast together. They shared the same minority status, have been exploited as domestic and wage slaves and for the greater part of history even worn the same clothing to distinguish them from adult males. Together they have been idealized, romanticized, infantilized, trivialized and desexualized. Since both women and children have been lumped together as helpless, dependent and powerless, they even share the same “feminine” gender and consequently both have been sexually used and abused by men” (Rush 1980).

3. Juvenile justice:

- Goal – Children in conflict with law experience less violence at the hands of police through reduced opportunities for police violence against children
- Methods - Ensuring children have access to support services
- Skilling up NGOs to document, advocate and make abuses transparent
- Mentoring of police
- Funding of a Human Rights Centre to support NGOs
- Tools – Legislation , police policy, handbooks
- Result – 64 per cent reduction (2004 - 2007) in number of children remanded and given a custodial service.





4. Child friendly schools:

- Goal - Children experience increased protection from violence, abuse and exploitation at school and protecting children from violence is core business for National Department of Education
- Methods - Phasing in of Child Friendly Schools program and capacity building of school communities. Schools more friendly and relevant to students in seven keys areas, of which protection is one component of the program.

4. Child friendly schools:

- Tools - Child Friendly School model and related resources
- Result - Approximately 53,273 students are attending official child friendly schools
- An evaluation of the program, conducted by the University of Goroka in 2007, found that in these schools, severe corporal punishment (such as beatings were now less common) but corporal punishment in the form of discipline was administered by around 20 per cent of teachers
- Children have increased knowledge of their protection rights and how to claim them





5. Faith based organisations:

- Goal - Orphans and other children vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation experience increased protection and increased access to essential services (health, education, protection)
- Methods - Capacity building of Faith Based Organisations in HIV and AIDS, protection, planning and assessment
- Linking children to essential services
- Competency based training manual and includes vulnerability assessment, planning
- Partnership between National AIDS Council and Department for Community Development
- Results – New program no tangible results yet.

Thank you

