

WORK SHOP REPORT

Title of workshop : Thematic Session 3c : Intersectoral Cooperation: Services for Prevention and Response, Including Community Child Protection Systems

Number of persons attending: Approx. 85 people

Workshop facilitator: Margie de Monchy, Regional Advisor, Child Protection, UNICEF ESARO

Workshop presenters (name, organization, e-mail):

Introduction: Margie de Monchy, Regional Advisor Child Protection UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa

Panel presentations

1) Government managed Inter-sectoral Response towards assisting victims of sexual abuse and exploitation to be survivors

Adv. Thoko Majokweni, Special Director of Public Prosecutions, National Prosecuting Authority, Sexual Offences and Community Affairs Unit, Ministry of Justice, South Africa

2) A Community Based model of Inter-sectoral cooperation for prevention and response in Kenya

Dr. Philista Onyango, Director, ANPPCAN (African Network for Prevention and Protection of Child Abuse and Neglect)

3) Key findings: Project on Psychosocial Support for Vulnerable Children

Alice Behrendt, Project Manager, Plan West Africa

4) Elements of National Child Protection System

Elkane MOOH, Regional Advisor, Save the Children

Objectives of workshop:

To understand the experience in Africa with regards to intersectoral cooperation on services for prevention of and response to sexual violence against children and adolescents and address the following questions:

- 1) What are the challenges faced in strengthening inter-sectoral cooperation for prevention and response to sexual violence against children and adolescents?
- 2) How can we promote strengthening of inter-sectoral prevention and response systems?
- 3) What can be done to strengthen the coordination between government and civil society in the prevention and response of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents?
- 4) What are the priority actions needed to ensure adequate monitoring and evaluation of inter-sectoral systems?
- 5) How can we generate resources to support building adequate prevention and response systems?

Key points from presentations and discussions

1) Government managed Inter-sectoral Response towards assisting victims of sexual abuse and exploitation to be survivors

Anti-Rape Strategy Process in South Africa

- ✓ Increasing national prevalence rate; in 2003: 43,085 cases, 83,250 counts & in 2006: 42,180 cases, 90,166 counts
- ✓ Government coordination structure (IDMT) – support, response & prevention, involving Government and CSO partners
- ✓ Key approaches for Response: 1) victim centrality; 2) court directed; and 3) multi-disciplinary approach

Coordination

- ✓ Inter-departmental Management Team: Gov Departments, Coordinating Team for the National Action Plan, Trafficking In Persons Task Team, etc.
- ✓ Establishment of a structured intersectoral coordination mechanism with political leadership and resources is necessary

Inter-Sectoral Nature of Sexual Violence Prevention

- ✓ Respective government departments have to engage in physically structuring communities that minimise risk factors.
- ✓ Criminal justice system has to address its shortcomings and build skills & human resource capacity to sensitively respond to Sexual Exploitation Efficiently, Effectively and Expeditiously.
- ✓ Rape prevention has to be elevated within the crime prevention strategy. (All Departments and Civil Society)
- ✓ Rehabilitative programmes with sexual offenders have to contribute towards rape prevention.

The Prevention Research Study: Key Findings & Recommendation

- ✓ Integrate rape prevention as a government development objective within the overall strategic plan and operational plans of respective departments.
- ✓ Build support for and understanding for rape prevention within respective departments.
- ✓ Review existing opportunities within respective department to integrate rape prevention into these policies and processes.
- ✓ Do the necessary research and ongoing monitoring and evaluation to optimize impact in prevention and response.
- ✓ Develop a bank of indicators for promoting safety from rape that is inter departmental, against which progress can be measured.

2) A Community Based model of Inter-sectoral cooperation for prevention and response in Kenya – ANNPPCAN Project

Key issues:

- ✓ Producers
- ✓ Duty bearers – lack of ownership, limited awareness, lack of access to services, etc
- ✓ Consumers
- ✓ Products

Why Multi-Sectoral Approach?

- ✓ Parallel systems addressing similar problems

- ✓ Projects associated with their initiators, etc.

Processes and Steps

- ✓ Carrying out a study
- ✓ Develop profiles of affected districts or communities
- ✓ Collate and analyse information
- ✓ Capacity building
- ✓ Awareness raising and advocacy

Results or Outputs

- ✓ Emergence of viable structures and economic activities
- ✓ Direct services to children for prevention and protection
- ✓ Child participation
- ✓ Influencing policy formulation and legislative reforms
- ✓ Participation in government structures and processes
- ✓ Improved networking and coordination
- ✓ Open dialogue and ownership
- ✓ Identification of other key issues
- ✓ Improved environment for children

Challenges

- ✓ Institutionalisation of the system
- ✓ Frequent transfers
- ✓ Interest in numbers, not the process and strategies
- ✓ Preconceived ideas of development
- ✓ Mobilisation of community resources

Lessons Learnt

- ✓ Bringing people together increases synergy
- ✓ Duty bearers have great potential but not harnessed
- ✓ Communities equipped with knowledge, skills and some income have the capacity to protect their children
- ✓ Child protection cannot be treated in isolation
- ✓ Governments have the tendency to give lip service to good practices

3) Key findings: Project on Psychosocial Support for Vulnerable Children

Response to Sexual Violence in West Africa

- ✓ Medical/Mental health implications, e.g. STD/I
- ✓ Needs for Psychosocial support (counseling) as well as Education for children
- ✓ GBV during the conflict - problems remain after the wars...
- ✓ Systematic intersectoral approach together with traditional & religious community structures, including community-based childrens' club, is critical

Recommendation

- ✓ Integration of mental health issues into the regular service provision
- ✓ Strengthen the capacity of relevant Government partners and NGOs to provide psychosocial care for children
- ✓ Utilisation and revitalisation of positive cultural practices, involving communities
- ✓ Development of education programmes for parents

4) Elements of National Child Protection System

Key Issues

Nationa Strategy/Policy should be based on...

- ✓ CRC principles
- ✓ Protection – recovery, rehabilitation
- ✓ The right to stay with their families – best interest of the child
- ✓ Knowledge on child development

Main interconnected and mutually supporting elements

1. Legal reform and policy development
2. Multi-sectoral cooperation between Ministries and with CSOs
3. Creation of an informed, enlightened public
4. Ongoing research programme

SUMMARY

➤ **KEY ISSUES**

1. Identify and involve all relevant Government Departments to streamline the procedures to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse against children and adolescents
2. Provide response services for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse in all settings – urban & rural, family, community, etc.
3. Establish multi-sectoral referral and information management systems on sexual exploitation and abuse - identify short, medium and long-term solutions for victims

➤ **CHALLENGES**

1. Institutionalisation of Child Protection Systems at different levels in the country – reporting/referral/information management mechanisms
2. Ensuring effective and sustainable human capacity development of service providers, e.g. training
3. Identification and clarification of role and responsibilities of each actor/stakeholder in each stage
4. Scale up services with adequate resources by the Government

➤ **ACTIONS NEEDED – Main Discussion Points**

- Strengthen child protection system at the community level – community involvement is imperative

- Integrate child protection system into the Governments' structure and system
- Recognise more the role of religious organisations in terms of education and raising awareness on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse
- How to deal with cases of sexual exploitation and abuse in family settings which are often underreported at the community level?
- How to mobilise resources for necessary psychosocial support for child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse?

➤ **3 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Undertake national mapping exercises of inter-sectoral services for prevention and response to sexual exploitation of children and adolescents through multi-sectoral process (government and civil society – all levels) and conduct capacity gap analysis and costing.
2. Document and share good practices in inter-sectoral prevention and responses in Africa (all 4 AU languages) with a view to promote their adoption across the continent.
3. Promote and support the development of Comprehensive Management Information Systems (MIS) to measure and track both the impact of sexual violence against children and adolescents and efficiency of services to mitigate the impact while providing evidence for well resourced scaling up.

Rapporteur : Pernille Bengtsen, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF South Africa
Mioh Nemoto, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Mozambique