Accelerating action to end violence against children in East Asia and the Pacific: Evidence-based and promising practices

Compendium of case studies
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UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific
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Introduction

Around one billion children globally experience some form of emotional, physical or sexual violence each year. Despite this high prevalence, violence against children is often shrouded in secrecy and socially condoned, making efforts to address its causes and risk factors especially challenging. With the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, which includes a specific target (SDG 16.2) to end all forms of violence against children, efforts to realize the right of every child to live free from fear, neglect, abuse and exploitation have gained renewed momentum. To help achieve this target, as well as other violence-related goals that target poverty, health, education, gender equality, safe environments and justice, the World Health Organization and partners, including UNICEF, developed an evidence-based resource package called INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children1. This resource contains a select group of strategies to help countries intensify their focus on prevention programmes and services with the greatest potential to reduce violence against children.

To support these efforts at the regional level, this compendium highlights a selection of evidence-based and promising practices from within the East Asia and Pacific region, all of which illustrate the impact that prevention and response strategies can have to accelerate action to end violence against children. These promising practices are structured in this compendium around the seven strategies highlighted in the INSPIRE resource:

- Implementation and enforcement of laws
- Norms and values
- Safe environments
- Parent and caregiver support
- Income and economic strengthening
- Response and support services
- Education and life skills

The case studies included in this compendium elaborate on those presented at the first East Asia and Pacific Regional Conference towards the Implementation of INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children, which took place in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 30 October to 1 November 2018. The conference was hosted by the Royal Government of Cambodia, with the support of UNICEF and the World Health Organization. It brought together government representatives from the health, social welfare and justice sectors, as well as international organizations, non-governmental organizations and academics from 20 countries in the East Asia and Pacific region (plus Sri Lanka), along with experts from the region and around the world.

The compendium aims to serve as a tool to support countries in the region in implementing appropriate actions to reduce the prevalence and impact of violence against children. The case studies can help to facilitate action to protect children from violence by offering examples of and experiences in how to design and implement initiatives and programming across similar contexts. The compendium also enables stakeholders across the region to showcase their contribution towards achieving the violence-related Sustainable Development Goals at national level. The compendium is intended for use across agencies and sectors, including government stakeholders and policymakers interested in evidence-based and promising practices to address violence against children.

The compendium is intended to be a “living resource” and to be periodically updated to incorporate new case studies of good practice in preventing and responding to violence against children.

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China

Implementation of the policy on care and protection of children left behind by migrant parents

Why is the intervention important?

China is going through the largest rural-to-urban migration in history, with 244.5 million people having migrated to cities in 2017. A high percentage of these migrants are parents who left their children behind in rural homes in order to seek work in urban areas. An estimated 40.51 million children were left behind in rural communities by migrant parents in 2015. This means 3 out of every 10 children in China’s rural areas did not live with one or both parents. Several studies and incidents have highlighted the vulnerabilities and risks faced by children left behind and raised serious concerns over the care and protection of these children.

The protection concerns related to children left behind include inadequate care, development of behavioural and psychosocial problems, prolonged separation, and having little contact with parents. Yet, these children have little access to child protection services. China’s child protection systems are underdeveloped, especially in rural areas. The current law on protecting children from abuse and neglect does not include implementation measures, and there is no organization taking a lead in child protection service provision. Parents rely heavily on extended family for child care, and prevailing social norms which perceive what happens in the home as a private affair, constrain reporting and state intervention. Meanwhile, interventions are rarely preventative and are only triggered when a case reaches a severe threshold. There are limited community-based structures and services to ensure the timely reporting and identification of highly vulnerable children and their families, and to facilitate their referral to social assistance, basic social services or targeted protection services. Collection and availability of quality child protection data is also insufficient.

What was the intervention?

To respond to the care and protection needs of children left behind by migrant parents, the State Council issued a national policy entitled the Opinions on strengthening care and protection of rural left-behind children in 2016. The policy has endorsed a coherent strategy to improve parental care for children impacted by migration. It requires destination authorities to assist migrant parents by granting their families urban citizenship or subsidies in housing or education. The parents’ local government of origin was encouraged to improve policies to enable migrant workers to return to their hometowns and start a business.

The policy also establishes a multi-sectoral system of shared responsibility for care and protection of children, comprising families, local authorities, schools and communities. This system focuses on strengthening parental guardianship for children with clarified responsibilities for authorities at all levels, including schools and village committees, for monitoring children’s safety, and for identification, reporting and response to children at risk.

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4 “Children left-behind” refers to children left-behind in rural areas with at least one parent as a migrant worker.
5 The definition of “left behind children” used by the State Council in this policy statement is “both parents are migrant workers, or one parent is a migrant worker and the other parent lacks child supervision ability, and the child is under the age of 16”.

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To establish implementation details, the Government launched an action plan entitled *Joint efforts to ensure guardianship and company for sound development*. The plan contains provisions aimed at reducing risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect for children left behind by migrant parents. It clarifies the primary care responsibilities of parents and holds village committees and higher levels of Government accountable for ensuring migrant parents make proper caregiving arrangements for children before migrating for work, and the village committee should regularly monitor children left behind.

Meanwhile, the plan clarifies the obligation of local civil affairs bureaus to establish a database of children left behind, and provision of temporary respite care services for children in need. It also requires the civil affairs bureau to share data with the public security bureau to assure all children have residential registration (Hukou), which is critical for access to public welfare in China, and to share data with the education bureau to ensure that children who have dropped out of school return. The plan also covers reporting procedures for cases of child abuse and neglect, and support for families who have difficulties with childcare by providing social assistance and social welfare benefits. Finally, it requires local government and social organizations to improve awareness of parents and caregivers through campaigns for strengthening children’s connections with parents and quality parental care.

**What was the impact?**

Development and implementation of the policy has reinforced family-focused, strengths-based approaches to support child and family wellbeing. It has marked a significant investment from the State in safeguarding children left behind against neglect and abuse. The success has become a cornerstone of child protection system building in China.

The policy has resulted in the establishment of a notification, reporting and care supervision network from community to provincial level in all rural communities in China, as well as the inclusion of responsibility and accountability for supervising caregiving of children left behind in the administrative mandate of local government. For the first time, civil affairs bureaus at all levels have been designated to coordinate and hold accountable for policy implementation and providing parental guardianship intervention. A database with three vulnerability indicators has been established, including children without adult supervision, children having no Hukou registration, and children dropping out of school. These indicators have enabled Government to develop measures to more effectively address protective and risk factors and improve safety for children left behind.

**How do we know the intervention worked?**

To measure progress in implementation of the policy, a baseline survey was conducted in 2016 by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, and follow up data is subsequently being collected to monitor progress. The baseline survey showed there were 360,000 left behind children living on their own across China, and 16,000 children had dropped out of school. A further 210,000 had no Hukou residential registration. By 2017, significant results had been achieved. According to data published by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, 76,000 children had benefited from improved parenting and/or placement and 11,821 children had returned to school. In addition, more than 125,000 children had their Hukou registered.

**What you should know...**

Although preliminary outcomes indicate success in establishing measures to benefit the caretaking and safety of children left behind and to enhance implementation of the policy and establish an administrative child protection network, the policy actions are still focused on mitigation rather than prevention. Thresholds for statutory child protection intervention remain low, which continue to be specialized interventions only for left behind children with rural registration of Hukou and those living on their own. There is a need to improve assessment indicators to detect early signs of child abuse and neglect, and upgrade current databases to a comprehensive administrative data system, so that child protection services will be available to all children at all ages. Meanwhile, there is also a need to develop family assessment tools and improve the quality and availability of referral services, and to improve professional standards and capacity building for a wide range of professionals, especially those working in the community.

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Lao PDR
A multi-sectoral approach to implementing laws and policies to protect children from violence

Why is the intervention important?
Violence against children is a common reality in Lao PDR. The results of the Lao PDR national Violence against Children Survey, conducted in 2014, reveal that 15 per cent of girls and 17 per cent of boys are physically abused before they turn 18 and 24 per cent of girls and 18 per cent of boys experience emotional violence at home. Furthermore, 7 per cent of girls and 12 per cent of boys are sexually abused as a child. Witnessing violence is also common for children growing up in Lao PDR: a quarter of girls and boys witness physical violence at home, while almost a third of boys and a quarter of girls witness physical violence in the community.

In Lao PDR, the legal and policy framework to protect children from violence has been considerably strengthened in recent years, most notably with the passing of the Law on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Violence against Children in 2015 and development of the country’s first National Plan of Action on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and Violence against Children 2014-2020. Implementing and enforcing laws and policies that protect children sends a strong message to society that violence is unacceptable and will be punished. Thus, the priority now is to ensure that existing and newly approved laws and policies to address violence are effectively enforced and implemented by child protection actors at all levels.

What is the intervention?
Using the results of the national Violence against Children Survey as a catalyst for action, the Government of Lao PDR developed a multi-sectoral response to violence against children containing a set of priority actions for implementation. The priority actions cover three main areas that together provide an overarching framework for ending violence against children:

- **Enhancing the enabling environment** by implementing and enforcing laws and policies that protect children from violence, establishing systematic national data collection and research, strengthening the capacity of all those who work with and for children, and enhancing management and coordination in child protection.

- **Preventing violence against children** by changing attitudes and behaviours and promoting respect and non-violence, supporting parents, caregivers and families, and empowering children to protect themselves.

- **Responding to violence against children** by providing timely referral and access to appropriate support services, and bringing perpetrators to justice and preventing re-offending.

The priority actions underwent broad consultation across sectors and were endorsed by key government stakeholders in 2018. The actions outlined in the plan support implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and Violence against Children 2014-2020, as well as other national strategies, policies and legal instruments, specifically the Law on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Violence against Children. The actions also support Lao
PDR to deliver on international commitments to uphold the right of each child in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to reach the violence-related goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda.

**What is the expected impact?**

It is expected that the priority actions will contribute to reducing the overall levels of violence against children in the country through a decrease in the percentage of children who experience violent discipline from an adult in their household and a reduction in the percentage of adult caregivers who believe that physical punishment is necessary to properly raise a child.

**How will we know the intervention worked?**

The multi-sectoral response plan will be accompanied by a detailed and costed implementation plan with a monitoring and evaluation framework to monitor implementation of the priority actions. This will provide a framework for accountability by which progress and achievements towards implementation of the priority actions can be measured and reviewed over the short, medium and long-term.

Overall changes in the levels of violent discipline and attitudes towards violence against children, to which this intervention contributes, will also be measured through the Lao PDR Social Indicator Survey. This will enable the Government to monitor changes in the use of and attitudes towards violence over time.

**What you should know…**

Persistent advocacy at the highest levels of Government, supported by a mass media campaign as part of the #ENDviolence against children initiative, helped to raise awareness and increase dialogue about violence against children in Lao PDR. This was an important first step towards modifying policies, attitudes and behaviours and opening up the space for development of legislation to protect children from violence.

Effective implementation of the priority actions will require cooperation and coordination between key Government stakeholders, development partners and civil society. Promoting convergence and complementarity between stakeholders’ activities will be critical for the achievement of the actions and in fostering a spirit of cohesive leadership to end all forms of violence against children in Lao PDR.

Given the scarcity of resources allocated for child protection, it is critical to build on existing prevention and response initiatives, including those across more recognized structures such as public health and education, making a planned multi-sectoral response all the more important.

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**Useful links:**

Mongolia

Adopting and implementing a legal prohibition on all forms of violence against children

Why is the intervention important?

Violence against children is highly prevalent in Mongolia. In 2013, the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey revealed that 47 per cent of children aged 1 to 14 had experienced some form of violent discipline at home. Since 2011, there have been increasing numbers of severe cases of violence against children reported in the media, which has led to a public outcry and demand for action.

Until recently, child protection issues, including the protection of children from violence, had been addressed in isolation, resulting in short-term and less sustainable impacts for children. Prior to 2016, there was no comprehensive legal prohibition on all forms of violence against children in all settings, and no comprehensive child protection framework, or a system in place to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation and abuse of children.

What is the intervention?

In 2016, the Parliament of Mongolia passed the first ever Law on Child Protection, making a significant step towards fulfilling every child’s right to protection. The Law on Child Protection enshrines both a prohibition on all forms of violence against children, and a framework for a system of prevention and response to violence. The Law prohibits all forms of violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse of children by parents, guardians and third parties who are responsible for care, treatment, guidance and education of children and adolescents. It also states that non-violent disciplinary methods should be used in the education, upbringing of, and caring for children.

The passing of the Law was a ground-breaking success – Mongolia was the first country in the East Asia and Pacific region to ban violence against children in all settings, including the home. The legislation clearly defines the principles of protecting children, in particular the principle of the best interests of the child that should be given a primary consideration when taking any decision concerning children. Further, this legislation identifies the people required by law to report harm or suspected harm to a child.

The Law contains complimentary, robust provisions which relate to coordination, and the foundations of a strengthened child protection system. For example, it establishes the National Council for Children (led by the Prime Minister) and councils for children at other levels (led by Governors) to act as oversight bodies for implementation of the law. In addition, an Inter-agency child protection working group for coordination has also been set up, which is led by the Deputy Minister for Labour and Social Protection.

The Law also strengthens the coordination of protection, response and support services through mandates, standards, procedures and accountability mechanisms. It also establishes mechanisms for identification, referral and follow up for children who are at risk and/or who experience violence.
What was the impact and how do we know the intervention has worked?

While it is difficult to measure the effectiveness of the legal prohibition in only two years, the new legislation sends a strong message that violence against children is unacceptable and punishable by law. It has also paved the way for the subsequent development and approval of child protection service standards and standard operating procedures, which are crucial for ensuring the law is implemented on the ground, and for enabling duty bearers to understand their roles under the law. Child protection service mechanisms were also since established, including:

- A child helpline as a reporting mechanism.
- 31 Justice for Children Committees at municipal, district and provincial levels.
- 609 multi-disciplinary teams at community level, consisting of child and family social workers, school social workers, primary health care practitioners, police, and other professionals. Their roles include prevention of violence against children, identification and assessments of children at risk of abuse, referral and follow up.
- 15 new one-stop service centres and protection shelters for victims of violence.

The Law has also been instrumental in harnessing funding to support efforts to address violence. In follow up to the Law, funds for child protection services were allocated from the state budget for 2018 to enable the creation of new posts for Child Rights Inspectors; the establishment of a Training, Research and Information Centre at the Authority for Family, Child and Youth Development; and the accreditation of legal entities for provision of specialized services, such as providing funding to NGOs for the provision of services for child victims of sexual abuse. Funding was also provided for a national awareness campaign on positive discipline.

All these efforts have had a measurable impact on the lives of children exposed to violence in Mongolia. Changes can be observed in children’s willingness to disclose violence, reporting behaviours around violence and help-seeking behaviours. In 2017, an average of 12,000 calls were received every month by the national child helpline. This increased to 15,000 calls each month in 2018. Of the cases received each month, the helpline referred 396 to the multi-disciplinary teams in 2017, a figure that rose to 657 cases a month in 2018. In addition, a total of 618 children were referred to support services by the Justice for Children Committees in 2017. By September 2018, this figure had already been surpassed, with the Committees referring 897 children to child protection services. This contributed to an increased caseload at the protection shelter of 998 children between January and September 2018, compared to 596 in the whole of 2017.

What you should know…

Implementation of laws to prevent and respond to violence against children must be accompanied by awareness-raising, efforts to change social norms, and professional training, including skills development for parents and teachers on the use of non-violent discipline. In addition, as children become more digitally connected, there is a need to address violence against children both online and offline, and emerging issues, such as sexting and grooming, need to be considered in a national plan on violence against children.

The Government of Mongolia plans to continue its commitments to protect children from violence by ensuring that national data on child protection is compiled and analysed. The Government also plans to improve the monitoring of child protection services, with tools already drafted for community-level multi-disciplinary teams and Justice for Children Committees. An evaluation of the implementation of the Law on Child Protection is planned for 2019.

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Useful links:

For a copy of the Law on Child Protection (in Mongolian) visit:  
https://www.legalinfo.mn/law/details/11710?lawid=11710
Sri Lanka

Supporting regulation and policy implementation to combat corporal punishment in schools

Why is the intervention important?

The Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2018) acknowledged that high numbers of children are subjected to violence, including corporal punishment, in Sri Lanka. A baseline survey among 1,417 students from grades 1-10 conducted by the Provincial Department of Education in 2016 found that 52 per cent of children experience physical punishment in schools or home settings. In addition, an Education System Review in the northern province, carried out in 2014, found that corporal punishment affected the physical and psychological wellbeing of children.

Although the Ministry of Education’s regulations ban corporal punishment in schools (Ministry of Education Circular, 2016), the practice remains widespread in Sri Lanka. There are documented instances of corporal punishment continuing to be administered in schools by both teachers and principals. While cruelty to children is prohibited under national law, hitting a child to correct him or her is not a criminal offence. According to the Provincial Department of Education in 2016, the main reasons for the use of corporal punishment by teachers is their lack of knowledge about the consequences of corporal punishment for children, and their lack of skills in positive discipline or alternative methods to resolve conflict.

What was the intervention?

The intervention involved both awareness raising about the harm caused to children by corporal punishment, as well as capacity building to provide teachers with positive disciplining approaches to use as an alternative to corporal punishment. The programme was implemented in 100 schools covering approximately 12,500 primary school children, including boys and girls, for a period of one year from June 2016 to May 2017.

In consultation with the Provincial and Zonal Education Officials, an expert team developed a training manual for teachers on Positive Classroom Management. A provincial resource team led the roll out of the manual. The resource team trained 425 primary teachers on positive classroom management techniques and provided regular ongoing guidance and mentoring support to the teachers.

What was the impact?

Following the intervention, 39 schools were identified as corporal punishment free schools. An independent assessment (not yet published) conducted by the Northern Provincial Department of Education among teachers in the target schools revealed that 70 per cent of the teachers continued to practice positive classroom management techniques. It further identified that 68 per cent of teachers expressed positive attitudes towards punishment-free schools. The assessment also found that, although there had been a positive shift in attitudes amongst teachers, 50 per cent of parents were still in favour of corporal punishment.

The Training Manual on Positive Classroom Management has been endorsed at the provincial level for use by primary teacher trainers within the province. Agreement has also been made to incorporate the manual into the provincial school-based teacher development package.
How do we know the intervention worked?

An independent assessment of the project was commissioned in mid-2018 by the Provincial Department of Education to measure the effectiveness of the tools and techniques used in the Positive Classroom Management training. It also aimed to understand the perceptions of teachers, students and parents regarding corporal punishment.

Classroom activities were also monitored using a checklist and interviews with selected groups of teachers and students. This was conducted by the resource team.

What you should know...

Differences in levels of commitment between the policy making body (Provincial Ministry) and the implementing body (Provincial Department) meant that government support could have been better coordinated. Lack of coordination between the two entities had an impact on the level of technical support provided by the Psychosocial Working Group, which was an informal provincial mechanism comprised of psychosocial experts and educationists that provides technical guidance for implementation of the review report recommendations. Further, the lack of involvement of principals, school management and the community generated greater resistance towards teachers’ commitment to roll-out Positive Classroom Management. Changing social norms at the community level remains a challenge.

Collaboration and synergy between the Provincial Ministry of Education and the Provincial Department of Education was facilitated by UNICEF, and the latter will now play a leading role in rolling out the initiative to all schools in the province. Through engagement with the Provincial Child Rights Monitoring Committee, the Provincial Department of Education has agreed to report on violence in schools on a quarterly basis.

In the next phase, UNICEF and the Provincial Department of Education intend to develop a comprehensive approach to address social norms using both child protection and communication for development expertise. This next intervention will include principals, school management and communities in efforts to prevent corporal punishment. A monitoring and assessment framework will be incorporated to track progress.

UNICEF has taken steps to re-establish the Psychosocial Working Group under the leadership of the provincial department, with an agreed terms of reference. Approaches across provinces will be consolidated and the central Government will be engaged to develop a national strategy and action plan to eliminate corporal punishment in schools.

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Useful links:

For more information about UNICEF’s work in Sri Lanka visit: https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/
Viet Nam
Sustained advocacy for law reform to build a comprehensive legal framework on child protection

Why is the intervention important?
Violent discipline is widespread in Viet Nam. The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014\(^6\) showed that 43 per cent of children aged 1 to 14 years suffer from physical punishment at home, with more male children experiencing physical punishment than their female counterparts. The 2016 Multi-Country Study on the Drivers of Violence against Children in Viet Nam also highlighted that physical abuse of children has been found to cause harm. Longitudinal quantitative data from Young Lives gathered over a period of more than 15 years showed that children in Viet Nam who report experiencing corporal punishment in schools at age eight have poorer cognitive outcomes, poorer math scores and lower self-esteem and self-efficacy during adolescence than their non-abused peers.\(^7\)

Until recently, the child protection system in Viet Nam was still in its infancy. Child protection legal provisions, policies and programmes had been formulated in a fragmented manner and child protection concerns were largely seen as a private matter. Care and protection services were mainly provided by volunteers and social welfare officers undertaking complex tasks without the necessary skills and training.

What was the intervention?
This intervention sought to build a comprehensive legal framework to strengthen the child protection system through a multi-sectoral approach. It began with a comprehensive review of the national child protection legal framework and the establishment of an intersectoral committee to draft a new child protection law. The approved law – the Child Law – came into effect in 2017.

Getting the law passed took continuous high-level advocacy with the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, related ministries and judicial stakeholders to obtain their endorsement. It was also necessary to engage with the highest levels of Government, including the Prime Minister. UNICEF identified champions in the National Assembly, including the Chairwoman, who helped raise awareness regarding the importance of the proposed new law. UNICEF also supported public awareness raising through the media and through public and children's forums.

The approved Child Law incorporates child protection principles from the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as child justice principles for promoting a specialised approach for handling children in civil, criminal and administrative proceedings. It contains dedicated chapters on child protection system building, alternative care, justice for children and child participation. Importantly, the Law extends Government responsibility to child protection for all children and not just those in special circumstances as under the previous law. The Law also establishes a National Committee on Children, headed by the Deputy

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Prime Minister and the Ministers of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Health and Education and Training, with members from all relevant ministries, judicial institutions and NGOs.

What was the impact and how do we know the intervention has worked?

While it is difficult to attribute specific changes to the introduction of the 2016 Child Law, there has been a marked increase in public awareness about violence against children and demand for action, as evidenced through an increase in high profile cases of child abuse and violence in the media and public pressure to respond.

The Law has also led to the expansion of child protection systems to all provinces of the country and an increase in child protection budget allocation at national and sub-national levels. In 2017, the Vietnamese Prime Minister approved the National Targeted Programme for the Development of Social Assistance 2016-2020. One of the four components of this programme centres around the development of the child protection system for protection and care of children in difficult circumstances, abused children and children at high risk. The total budget allocated for this programme is approximately US$440 million from both national and local budgets of which roughly US$29 million is allocated for the development of the child protection system. The Law also provides provisions to formalize the roles and authorities of the National Child Protection Help Line.

Alongside the passing of the 2016 Law, the Government convened a National Conference on Violence against Children, chaired by the Prime Minister, with participation from 18,000 government leaders and officials at all levels. At this conference, the Government made commitments to appoint frontline child protection workers for all 11,000 communes and to improve child protection services.

What you should know…

The Law defines a child as anyone under the age of 16. Efforts to advocate for the age to be set at 18, in line with international standards, were not accepted by the National Assembly. There is a need for continued advocacy for further reform, including amending the definition of the child, to bring Viet Nam into alignment with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Law can only be implemented through strengthening the child protection system as a whole. UNICEF is engaged in ongoing advocacy with the National Assembly and the Government, as well as providing technical support, for legal recognition of the social work profession. The Government is also planning to restructure the social welfare workforce and service delivery system in the near future.

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Useful links:
For more information about child protection legislation in Viet Nam visit:
Cambodia

PROTECT: A communications strategy to end violence against children and unnecessary family separation

Why is the intervention important?

Violence against children remains a significant issue in Cambodia. The findings of the Cambodia Violence Against Children Survey 2013 highlight that violence is a serious concern with over half of children in the country experiencing at least one form of violence before the age of 18. The survey also found evidence of attitudes and perceptions that support the acceptability of violence against children and allow it to persist.

At the same time, institutional care has become increasingly common throughout Cambodia. Despite the Government’s alternative care policy, which mandates that institutional care should be a last and temporary solution, there was an increase in the number of children in residential care from 6,254 in 2005 to 26,187 in 2016. While poverty, lack of access to education and lack of social welfare support contribute to families placing their children in residential care, it is also driven by the belief that children will receive better care and education in institutions. Placement in residential care exposes children to greater risk of violence, exploitation and neglect.

This intervention was designed in response to these two important child protection concerns, specifically in recognition of the need to address the social norms that support violence and those that underly family decisions to place their children in residential care.

What is the intervention?

In 2017, Cambodia adopted a government-led communication for development strategy, PROTECT: A Communication Strategy to End Violence and Unnecessary Family Separation in Cambodia, led by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation with support from UNICEF. The strategy aims to address the social and cultural norms that legitimize violence against children and normalize the belief that residential care facilities are beneficial to a child. The goal is to enable children, their parents and caregivers and communities to prevent and respond to violence and family separation by raising awareness about the unacceptability of all forms of violence and unnecessary family separation, transforming prevalent norms and attitudes that condone violence and promote unnecessary family separation, as well as building skills and self-efficacy to practice protective behaviours. It is targeted at children, parents, caregivers, community members, service providers, policy makers, the judiciary and the media.

The communication strategy is national in scope, with focused implementation in five focal provinces: Phnom Penh, Kandal, Preah Sihanouk, Battambang and Siem Reap, as well as in the UNICEF Integrated Early Childhood Development Districts in Cambodia’s North East provinces.
The communication strategy, which covers a five-year period from 2017 to 2022, encompasses four major communication approaches: mass media; interactive communication technologies; community engagement; and advocacy. It builds on existing good practices in Cambodian culture and is solution-oriented rather than problem-centred. The detailed strategy is multi-layered and cross-sectoral and combines universal theories of change with suggested practices or actions tailored for Cambodia. The package includes: a desk review report; a conceptual framework; a comprehensive strategy document; a monitoring and evaluation framework; and a costed implementation plan.

What is the expected impact?

By promoting a steady progression from knowledge gain to attitude change to garnering commitment, implementation of the communication strategy is expected to result in positive social and behaviour change in the target provinces – ultimately leading to lower levels of violence and family separation in Cambodia.

How will we know the intervention worked?

A detailed monitoring and evaluation framework, built into the Cambodia PROTECT strategy, provides a roadmap of planned activities and tasks with specific directives on how the intervention activities can be evaluated and monitored over time. Baseline and end-line surveys are proposed along with regular monitoring of activities. A baseline survey is being conducted through an institutional contract supported by UNICEF.

What you should know...

The inter-ministerial Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children 2017-2021 was developed and launched in December 2017.

The Cambodia PROTECT Strategy is one of the key activities in this Action Plan. The Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation agreed to establish an inter-ministerial working group to lead and coordinate the implementation of the Cambodia PROTECT Strategy. Behavioural impacts to be measured through surveys will serve as an advocacy tool for integrating the Cambodia PROTECT campaign into the Ministry’s annual work plan and for allocating resources to continue the campaign in the future.

To enhance implementation of the strategy, UNICEF strengthened strategic partnerships with key NGO partners. They all signed a Memorandum of Agreement, which sets out the core principles and procedures to support the implementation of the Cambodia PROTECT Strategy. Partners can take on specific elements of the strategy and implement them in additional provinces, using the same package of branding, messages, materials and indicators that accompany the strategy. Communication materials for the mass media, community engagement and interactive communication technology components are being developed with the support of UNICEF.

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Useful links:

• To view Cambodia’s Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children 2017-2021 visit: https://www.unicef.org/cambodia/Full_VAC_Action_Plan_En_Final_AP.pdf

• For information on Cambodia’s Action Plan for Improving Child Care 2016-2018 visit: https://www.unicef.org/cambodia/results_for_children_26320.html

Cambodia PROTECT stands for:

- Promote a culture of zero tolerance
- Recognize specific vulnerabilities
- Orient all duty bearers and rights holders
- Transform attitudes
- Explore options and alternative solutions
- Commit to end violence and family separation
- Take positive actions

Useful links:

- To view Cambodia’s Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children 2017-2021 visit: https://www.unicef.org/cambodia/Full_VAC_Action_Plan_En_Final_AP.pdf
- For information on Cambodia’s Action Plan for Improving Child Care 2016-2018 visit: https://www.unicef.org/cambodia/results_for_children_26320.html
Cambodia
Catalysing faith leaders to promote positive social norms to reduce violence against children

Why is the intervention important?
The findings of Cambodia’s national Violence Against Children Survey 2013 highlight that violence is a serious concern in Cambodia, with over half of children experiencing at least one form of violence before the age of 18. In addition, 4 per cent of females and 6 per cent of males aged 18 to 24 reported experiencing sexual violence as a child. The survey also found evidence of attitudes and perceptions that support the acceptability of violence against children and allow it to persist. Additional research shows that Cambodia lost at least US$168 million in 2013 as a result of the negative health consequences caused by violence against children – equivalent to 1.1 per cent of the country’s GDP.\(^8\)

This intervention was designed to address the high levels of violence against children in Cambodia and to address the prevailing social norms and values that are harmful to children.

What is the intervention?
World Vision International has partnered with Buddhist monks in Cambodia to form a cross-faith Technical Working Group to review sessions and suggest appropriate contextualization of World Vision International’s global project model, called Channels of Hope for Child Protection, applicable for target Buddhist communities. It is one of the approaches utilized by World Vision in Cambodia to address harmful attitudes and behaviours towards children, with faith leaders as the key actors.

Channels of Hope for Child Protection equips faith leaders with information and technical content on child protection and links their understanding of these with the religious teachings, scriptures and faith principles. Given that World Vision works with communities that are predominantly Buddhist, child protection materials are contextualized to suit local needs, enabling the Buddhist faith leaders to engage followers and practice the curriculum within their own faith communities.

In 2017, World Vision’s Child Protection and Faith and Development Teams conducted the first ever workshop with the monks.\(^9\) Supported by the Ministry of Cults and Religion, 32 Buddhist monks of two denominations and from various universities participated in the sessions, learning key concepts and themes on child protection and linking them with Buddhist teachings and principles. The monks actively debated and discussed how their faith communities could tackle violence against children. At the end of the workshop, 12 monks volunteered to form a Technical working group with five key World Vision staff. This group meets on a regular basis to come up with appropriate contextualization of activities and learning points that Buddhist communities can use for teaching purposes. The Technical Working Group is also finalising a local manual in the Khmer language for easy use and access to relevant child protection information.

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What is the expected impact?
This intervention is expected to result in a decrease in harmful attitudes towards specific child protection issues, including corporal punishment, child marriage and sexual abuse; increased motivation among faith leaders to support the most vulnerable children; and increased competency to engage with child wellbeing issues.

How will we know the intervention worked?
So far, a total of 129 faith leaders in Cambodia have been trained on the Channels of Hope for Child Protection approach. More than 95 per cent of these reported increased knowledge on child protection as a result of participation in the workshop. Pre- and post-test results show at least a 10 per cent increase in reported protective attitudes. Furthermore, 85 per cent of participants reported increased motivation to act on behalf of the most vulnerable children.

“At a pagoda when children were playful, naughty, running around causing trouble, Buddhist villagers often came to me and commented that I should have hit those children. But I did not react as commented. It’s natural that children are like that,” said a monk from Mohamontrey Pagoda.

What you should know...
Understanding faith community structures and ensuring relationships at the necessary levels (local, national and international) is essential for the sustained success of this type of intervention. Local government actors in the relevant sector, other community-based organizations and NGOs are important partners that should be present at all levels of implementation, including training and workshops. All relevant community leaders and groups, parent-teacher associations, informal or traditional structures that are working towards child wellbeing, are also necessary partners.

Local government actors have an opportunity during the workshops to share ways in which individuals and faith communities can engage in existing child protection mechanisms, as well as to support them in their planning.

Changing attitudes and behaviours takes time. It is essential that follow up activities with faith leaders and their communities take place to sustain the emerging changes.

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Useful link:
For more information about World Vision’s work with faith leaders in Cambodia visit:
Indonesia

Human Centred Design to prevent child marriage in Indonesia

Why is the intervention important?

Due to Indonesia’s large population it has one of the highest burdens of child marriage in the world. The legal age of marriage in Indonesia is 21, but with parental consent girls can get married at 16 and boys at 19. The 1974 Marriage Law allows for exceptions so that much younger girls can be married with consent of a religious or district court. Unequal gender norms, poverty, and lack of access to quality education are all drivers of child marriage, including traditional attitudes about gender and women’s role in society. A quantitative analysis of child marriage determinants in Indonesia identified that the average age of preferred marriage is around 26 years. Yet, structural and environmental factors are driving the onset of early marriage. Girls who marry before the age of 18 are at least four times less likely to complete secondary education or equivalent.

Based on data from the Indonesian Demographic and Health Survey 2012 and confirmed through online and offline consultations with adolescents and community members, there is a lack of accessible and adolescent-friendly information about child marriage, healthy relationships, and reproductive health. A recent poll conducted with Indonesians aged 14-24 showed that a shocking 41 per cent of girls had sex with their boyfriends because they felt they could not say no.

What is the intervention?

To help close the information and skills gap, a Human Centred Design (HCD) process was used to develop innovative and gender-responsive adolescent-friendly information and communication materials to address child marriage. By involving 62 girls and 61 boys between the ages of 10 to 17 to participate in the design, prototyping and testing of the intervention, as well as using participation observation to understand the daily lives of these adolescents, it is tailored to fit their capacities, address their challenges and use solutions identified by them. The end result of the HCD process with adolescents in West Sulawesi was a series of prototypes, including a comic book.

The aim of the comic book was to encourage adolescent girls and boys to seek out information and support when making important life decisions and increase their knowledge on marriage, relationships, and reproductive health. Furthermore, the actions of the characters demonstrate concrete positive steps that both boys and girls can take to

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11 Statistics Indonesia (BPS), National Socio-economic Household Survey (Susenas), 2016.

12 See: https://indonesia.ureport.in/polls/

13 Human-centred design involves using a user-centred approach to design solutions.
delay marriage, with messages that are specific to boys and girls. The prototypes acknowledge the important roles that boys play as peers and boyfriends to adolescent girls, avoiding placing the responsibility solely on girls to avoid unwanted pregnancy/marriage.

In order to reach a larger audience of adolescents and as part of the iteration process, the comic book will be adapted to include digital versions. Discussions are ongoing to develop an online game and Instagram video story. In April 2018, the comic book was adapted for U-Report, UNICEF’s social media-based polling platform, and shared on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter with its 110,000 users. Amongst other digital content posted in April through U-report, the comic book was the most successful in engaging users: 821 reactions on Facebook, 2,126 likes on Instagram and more than 6,000 impressions on Twitter.

What is the expected impact?

It is expected that the comic book, in the long-term, may contribute to lowering the overall prevalence of child marriage in locations where it is introduced. In the short-term, it is expected to result in increased knowledge among girls and boys about marriage, relationships and reproductive health, and where to seek support in relation to these issues. The results of the pre-testing, expected in February 2019, will provide insights into the effectiveness of this peer-to-peer approach in achieving this impact.

How will we know the intervention worked?

The comic book was initially pre-tested with 30 girls and 32 boys (aged between 10 and 17) as well as parents, teachers and health workers. It was further tested as part of an ongoing child marriage prevention programme that empowers adolescents with life skills in West Sulawesi province. A simple pre- and post-questionnaire was used to check for changes in knowledge and attitudes of over 1,400 adolescent girls and boys exposed to the comic book.

What you should know...

While the process of HCD ensures that communication materials are relevant and contextualized, two main challenges were identified in its application. The first challenge is that generally adolescents, especially adolescent girls, were found to have limited experience in actively participating in group discussions, expressing their opinions and engaging in solution-based methodologies. To address this issue, tools were developed (prompts such as letter writing, drawing, and case studies) to facilitate participation. It may be necessary in the future to first build the confidence of adolescents on self-expression before engaging directly in HCD. Secondly, the HCD methodology may work better in Indonesia in settings where adolescents have established bonds with one another as they may feel more comfortable to express themselves in a group setting.

In response to the natural disasters in Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara (August 2018) and Palu, Central Sulawesi (September 2018), the comic book has also been integrated into adolescent engagement programmes, given that girls are more vulnerable to child marriage during emergencies.

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Useful links:

Malaysia
Addressing norms and values towards ending child marriage

Why is the intervention important?
Marriage before the age of 18 is a fundamental violation of human rights and the rights of a child that impacts every aspect of a child’s life. In Malaysia, as elsewhere in the world, child marriage denies girls and boys their childhood, disrupts education, limits opportunities, increases the risk of violence, and jeopardizes health.

In Malaysia’s plural legal system, the legal age for marriage is set between 16 and 18, depending on the laws concerned. However, both civil and religious laws allow for exceptions to consider and approve cases of child marriage, and most cases brought forward for consideration are approved.

Child marriage in Malaysia affects both girls and boys. Between 2008 and June 2018, 11,424 applications for underage Muslim marriages were made by girls and boys.14 Between 2008 and September 2018, there were also 5,409 underage civil law marriages between non-Muslims, as well as a further 450 customary marriages involving boys and 4,560 involving girls in Sarawak state (please note that this does not include data of customary marriages in the other states of Malaysia).15

In July 2018, a case involving the marriage of a 41-year-old Malaysian man to an 11-year-old Thai girl received international media attention16 and caused public outrage, creating the opportunity to raise the issue of child marriage in Malaysia.

Child marriage in Malaysia is linked to widely-accepted social norms; children are often pressured to get married, sometimes by their own parents. For example, when faced with early pregnancies, child marriage is perceived to be the only solution to avoid the shame of having a child out of wedlock, to legitimize the relationship, and allegedly to protect the future of the bride. Therefore, eliminating child marriage effectively and sustainably requires a shift in attitudes and behaviours to establish new social and cultural norms that do not tolerate child marriage in Malaysia.

What is the intervention?
Noting the lack of evidence and data on child marriage in Malaysia, UNICEF supported a Study on Child Marriage in Malaysia, which was undertaken in collaboration with local academics, to better understand the drivers of child marriage. The qualitative study included interviews with 140 young people who were married as children. Participants were asked about their experiences, including why they married, and who was involved in the decision that they should marry while still a child.

The key drivers identified by the study were: 1) family poverty; 2) lack of access to education; 3) limited information on sexual and reproductive health or access to sexual and reproductive health

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14 Malaysian House of Representatives, Answer to Question 45 by Dato’ Seri Dr. Wan Azizah Dr. Wan Ismail, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Women, Family and Community Development in 14th Parliament session, 15 October 2018.

15 Ibid.

services for young people, leading to premarital sex and unwanted pregnancy; and 4) socio-cultural norms that encourage child marriage as an acceptable option for pregnant teens or those involved in premarital sex. This is linked to a lack of effective parental support and guidance on sexual and reproductive health and parental acceptance of child marriage as a viable option.

The release of the initial study working paper was timed around the media’s attention on the case of the 11-year-old girl. UNICEF also supported a U Report survey on child marriage and shared the results publicly to increase visibility and maintain public interest around the issue. In coordination with government, UNICEF supported a Child Marriage Forum of more than 70 government, NGO and civil society organization partners in July 2018, where the UNICEF study was presented for discussion. The Forum provided an opportunity for concerned stakeholders to raise their voice and outline a Call to Action, thus increasing public discussion, debate and visibility of the issue. The study was again highlighted at subsequent forums including for NGOs and civil society organizations, and at a forum on Comprehensive Sexuality Education, where it was used to make the connection between accessing comprehensive sexuality education and ending child marriage.

What was the impact?

UNICEF embarked on research on child marriage in recognition of the problem facing children in Malaysia, recognizing that this would require a multi-sectoral intervention to prevent and respond to child marriage as a form of violence against children. The study helped to provide an evidence base for the ongoing public debate around child marriage. The Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development invited UNICEF to develop an action plan towards ending child marriage, including identification of specific areas where UNICEF could contribute technical support.

Government officials, most recently the Prime Minister, have proposed legal reforms towards ending child marriage. Their statements recognize that comprehensive sexuality education is a mechanism to combat teen pregnancy, noting that this also leads to early marriage. The Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, among other government partners, has cited UNICEF’s study in her comments, as well as the outcomes of the U Report, thus strengthening partnerships on this issue and allowing important information, opinions and evidence to be shared in the public debate.

In 2019 progress in support of a Road Map to end Child Marriage has proceeded during two meetings in January and February where the Government endorsed the identified drivers of child marriage and outlined recommendations to address these drivers. Development of an advocacy brief on child marriage will proceed as a first priority.

How will we know the intervention worked?

Success can be measured through the implementaiton of the Road Map on Child Marriage, noting this is a multi sectoral tool that outlines proposed actions and commitments of different government partners. Implementaiton of the Road Map will also demonstrate government commitment and action through policy development and implementation of campaigns designed to address social and cultural attitudes around child marriage, and to strengthen implementaiton of comprehensive sexuality education.

What you should know…

The media story of the 11-year-old girl created space for UNICEF to share information, talk about what they had learned and hoped to achieve, and to seek additional and active partnerships to build on this progress. A key lesson learned is the importance of being prepared to respond to opportunities for advocacy by undertaking research and data collection, sharing study findings, and proposing solutions to problems.

Efforts were made to link the work being done in Malaysia with similar ongoing efforts in neighbouring countries, such as Viet Nam and Bangladesh. This helped to demonstrate commonality of purpose and to promote south-to-south learning.

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Useful links:
Malaysia
Inclusive playgrounds for all

Why is the intervention important?
Accessible and inclusive public outdoor spaces are virtually non-existent in Malaysia resulting in children with disabilities being unable to interact in a safe space with their peers and siblings without disabilities.

In a recent UNICEF study, ‘Childhood Disability in Malaysia: A Study of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice’ (2016), stigma, lack of opportunity and low acceptance were highlighted as the main societal barriers for children with disabilities. As a result, children with disabilities and their families are one of the most vulnerable, marginalised, excluded and discriminated groups in Malaysia. The study stresses the need to create an inclusive society for all by removing physical and attitudinal barriers that compound their segregation and challenge children with disabilities and their families daily.

The right to play is enshrined in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities also guarantees equal access to play for children with disabilities. However, in Malaysia, the spaces and structures set up for children’s play are often not accessible to children with disabilities and their needs are not considered in the design of playgrounds and parks. The resulting lack of interaction between children with and without disabilities reinforces the attitudinal barriers, prejudices and discrimination that relegates children with disabilities to the margins of society and places them at greater risk of violence.

What is the intervention?
This intervention aims to fill the gap in the provision of safe and inclusive spaces for children with disabilities to play in Malaysia, alongside their peers without disabilities. It addresses some of the underlying factors that make children with disabilities more vulnerable to violence. Negative social, cultural and economic factors – not disability – increase isolation, discrimination and marginalisation. This dramatically increases the risk of violence experienced by children with disabilities at home, in school and within the community.

The non-existence of safe play spaces for children with disabilities led UNICEF Malaysia to engage with stakeholders to build a model inclusive playground space not only for children with disabilities and their families but also for children without disabilities.

UNICEF sought out cooperation from the private sector, in particular property developers responsible for building townships across Malaysia, in order to build Malaysia’s first inclusive playground space to use as a best business practice for the future. As a result, UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Sime Darby Property, one of Malaysia’s largest private property developers, to design and build the model inclusive playground space in the new township of Elmina, Shah Alam, Selangor.

In addition, the initiative will develop a Best Business Practice Circular and Guidance Toolkit aimed at property developers and municipal councils. The aim will be to encourage others to adopt the inclusive universal design principles and highlight areas of good practice.
What is the expected impact?

This intervention seeks to:

- Improve the infrastructure of public spaces making them more inclusive for all.
- Create opportunities for children with disabilities to be visible and interact with their peers.
- Ensure participation of children with disabilities in the planning, design and implementation phases.
- Promote youth-led participation activities to change social norms.
- Inspire the private sector and government stakeholders to become “inclusion champions” by committing to make spaces that are inclusive for the needs of all children.

Beyond this, it is expected that the resulting inclusion of children with disabilities in play spaces, alongside children without disabilities, will make them less vulnerable to violence. It will do this not only at a social interaction level, which breaks down isolation and marginalisation barriers, but also at a systemic level where infrastructure barriers compound risks of stigma, discrimination and ultimately increased risk of exposure to violence. In this case, it will occur when the corporate sector property developer and local authority municipality adopts universal design principles and disability-inclusive programming as their standard operating procedures. By establishing disability-inclusive norms in society, children with disabilities will have better access to mainstream services, safer environments to develop and grow, and positive outcomes.

How will we know the intervention worked?

Success in this initiative will be measured through the following indicators:

- Other property developers and municipal authorities endorsing and using the open source Best Business Practice Circular and Guidance Toolkit.
- Increase in number of inclusive playgrounds designed and built in Malaysia.
- Increase in children with disabilities accessing playgrounds.

- Public increased understanding and acceptance towards children with disabilities.
- UNICEF implemented communication campaign designed to address social and cultural attitudes around inclusion and human diversity.

These indicators will be monitored on a regular basis through project management meetings between UNICEF and Sime Darby Property to ensure that the project is on track to meeting its key milestones. There is also a plan use U-Report to test youth perceptions of the importance of inclusion in play and leisure activities. A pre- and post-poll will be issued to a test group prior to the opening of the newly-built playground.

What you should know...

The adoption and utilization of the Best Business Practice Circular and Guidance Toolkit at ministerial, municipal and corporate sector level enables this initiative to move beyond the isolated design and build of one playground. The ideal implementation strategy for this would be a tri-party (UNICEF/property developer/Municipal Authority) communication campaign alongside the publication of the circular and toolkit. This document will be produced in multiple reader-friendly and inclusive formats, designed specifically for each target audience. It will be shared widely to encourage and enable other stakeholders to adopt inclusive principles when designing and building public spaces for children with and without disabilities.

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Useful links:

Philippines
Developing a national response plan to address online sexual exploitation and abuse of children

Why is the intervention important?
More than half of Filipino youths regularly use the Internet and own devices with Internet accessibility. The expansion of access and convenience of information and communication technology provides important information and learning opportunities for children, but also poses a potential protection risk for children, including online sexual exploitation and abuse.

According to the Philippines’ National Bureau of Investigation and police attachés of foreign embassies in Manila, the country ranks among the top 10 countries with the highest levels of online sexual exploitation of children. An alarming 80 per cent of reports received by the Department of Justice’s Office of Cybercrimes are on online sexual exploitation of children. Additional data from the Philippine National Baseline Survey on Violence against Children (2015) revealed that 30.4 per cent of children experienced verbal abuse over the internet or mobile phone and 20.6 per cent were shown photos or videos of sex organs or sexual activities. To address this problem, the Government of the Philippines developed a National Response Plan to Prevent and Address Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children (2017-2020).

What is the intervention?
The Response Plan is designed to support the Government’s response to the increasingly prevalent issue of child online sexual exploitation and abuse and aims to implement several child protection laws, including the Anti-Child Pornography Act, the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, the Special Protection of Children against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act, and the Cybercrime Prevention Act. It details the key result areas, core programmes and planned outcomes that will guide child online protection work within a three-year planning period from 2017 to 2020. The key result areas focus on advocacy and prevention; protection, recovery and reintegration; law enforcement and prosecution; research, monitoring and management information systems; and networking and partnerships. The Response Plan was developed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Philippine Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography, and the Department of Justice, with support from UNICEF and the Asia Foundation.

What is the expected impact?
It is expected that implementation of the Response Plan will reduce the incidence of online sexual exploitation and abuse of children in the Philippines as a result of streamlined, responsive, cross-sector advocacy and prevention strategies and strengthened law enforcement and effective investigation and prosecution of offenders. It is also expected that programmes and services at the national and local levels will be strengthened and coordinated to effectively respond to cases of child online exploitation and abuse.

17 Demographic Research and Development Foundation and University of the Philippines Population Institute, ‘Young adult fertility and sexuality study 4: Key findings’; Quezon City, 2014: www.drdf.org.ph/yafs4/key_findings#sec-3A
How will we know the intervention worked?

The Inter-Agency Council against Child Pornography, led by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the National Response Plan. Regular updates on implementation are reported during the Council’s quarterly meeting.

A mid-term review will be conducted in 2019 to assess which programmes and projects have been implemented, challenges or constraints that prevented implementation of some programmes, how to address them and ways forward.

What you should know…

A multi-sectoral and consultative process ensured development of the most effective responses and strategies to address the problem of online sexual exploitation and abuse of children in the Philippines. It also highlighted opportunities for collaboration and helped to avoid duplication of efforts. Involvement of children and young people in the development of the Response Plan, as well as implementation of the programmes and projects, has also been integral to its success.

Publication and dissemination of the Response Plan was hindered by the fact that, despite being implemented by stakeholders, it has yet to be published and disseminated to the public for information and potential collaboration. This includes other government agencies and stakeholders who were not part of the development process. To date, the communication and advocacy plan has also not yet been developed on account of re-organization within agencies. This has likely affected implementation of the Response Plan and its overall goal of lowering incidences of online sexual exploitation and abuse of children.

The diverse membership of the Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography provided opportunities to influence the development of further legislation to protection children online. For example, having the government champion for the Free Internet in Public Places Act as a member of the Council led to the inclusion of child safeguarding policies in the legislation. It also led to increased evidence generation as members of the Council joined Research Advisory Boards and Programme Management Committees for at least two national studies specified within the Response Plan, namely the Philippine Kids Online Survey (2019) and the National Study on Child Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (2019).

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Useful links

- Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography: https://www.iacacp.gov.ph/
- National baseline study on violence against children in the Philippines. Executive summary: https://www.unicef.org/philippines/PHL_NBSVAC_Results_ES.pdf
- Cybersafe Asia: http://www.cybersafe.asia/
Papua New Guinea
Parenting for Child Development Programme: Reducing harsh discipline and improving family wellbeing

Why is the intervention important?
Significant numbers of children in Papua New Guinea are exposed to high levels of violence. While nationally representative data on the prevalence and consequences of violence against children is lacking, small-scale research\(^1\) indicates that 75 per cent of children in the country experience violence at home. According to a youth and crime survey\(^2\), 39 per cent of youth aged 13 to 24 had grown up witnessing violence between family members. A further study\(^3\) reported that 94 per cent of preparators of child sexual abuse are known to their victims.

Parenting programmes have shown promise in preventing violence and neglect of children, as well as improving child health and educational outcomes in high income countries. However, there are few parenting programmes that are culturally appropriate, evidence-based and affordable for low- and middle-income countries like Papua New Guinea.

What is the intervention?
The Parenting for Child Development programme (P4CD) is a prevention programme that works with communities to improve parenting practices and support the wellbeing of children. The programme targets reductions in harsh parenting, including corporal punishment and neglect in early childhood, in order to reduce violence, abuse and neglect in future generations. It aims to build sustainable capacity for volunteer workers to deliver a programme that is consistent with child protection policies and that can be developed as a universal preventive programme alongside and as part of services provided by the church and government.

Volunteers from communities who are recruited by the church as facilitators deliver the P4CD community programme. Facilitators are supported by team leaders in each parish and by coordinators who oversee the programme at the diocese/ archdiocese level. Their role is to work with the team leaders to promote the programme in the community and to set up and run workshops for groups of parents. They are guided and supported by team leaders who oversee data gathering and provide reports to coordinators on parental attendance at sessions, successful completion of activities, and responses of parents to the activities.

The P4CD programme was developed through an iterative process of research, consultation, training and review. The programme’s resources and content were piloted and tested for acceptability through workshops involving key stakeholders, partners and volunteers joining the programme as future facilitators. These are all people with experience in the targeted communities and knowledge about the services and programmes of the church and government.

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\(^3\) Child Fund, Gender-based violence in our community, 2013.
What was the impact?

At the end of the initial pilot programme, there were significant reductions in parent reports of harsh parenting, including verbal abuse, corporal punishment, psychological control or abuse and neglect. There were also significant improvements in family wellbeing, including improvements in parent confidence and self-efficacy and in reports of children being well cared for. In addition, there were significant reductions in reports of violence by a spouse. These improvements were observed across all demographic groups, including men, women and caregivers of different ages and educational backgrounds.

How will we know the intervention worked?

An evaluation\(^{21}\) of the programme in communities selected for the pilot was conducted by the Menzies School of Health Research. The evaluation consisted of two components. The first was a process evaluation, which tested the feasibility of the strategy for implementation and the acceptability of the programme in diverse communities. The second was an evaluation of impact and outcomes, which evaluated the impact of participation on parents’ knowledge of child development, parenting practices, family relationships and family wellbeing. This involved a mix of reviews, session observations, pre- and post-programme questionnaires and focus group discussions. Overall, the findings suggested that P4CD was a promising programme that is potentially capable of achieving significant improvements in parent knowledge and positive changes in parenting practices.

What you should know…

The format of the P4CD programme and its approach to parent education was decided after extensive consultation and consideration of the needs of participating families, as well as practices of families participating in community and church activities.

Acknowledging that fathers have significant influence on children’s development, both directly and indirectly through their influence on the way a mother parent, the P4CD programme was open to both male and female caregivers attending alone and as couples.

The implementation of P4CD requires a robust system for monitoring the programme, the appropriateness of recruitment, the integrity and quality of programme delivery, and the attendance and retention of participants, with an assessment of their satisfaction and learning responses.

Collaboration and integration with government agencies responsible for health, education and child protection and their programmes will be important for securing resources, building capacity and strengthening the funding base to support the programme into the future. It will also strengthen the connection of P4CD with other services for children and families.

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Thailand
Parenting for Lifelong Health for Young Children

Why is the intervention important?
Parenting programmes that strengthen families through the development and reinforcement of positive parenting practices and enhancement of positive parent-child relations are an effective strategy to reduce the risk of violence against children. These interventions promote parenting behaviours that build functional parenting competencies of parents or caregivers to connect and provide adequate support and care for their children. Parenting interventions have also been shown to be effective in preventing and treating child disruptive behaviour and reducing maternal mental health problems.

Although there is much evidence on the effectiveness of parenting programmes in high-income countries, there are currently few evidence-based interventions that are well-suited for low- and middle-income countries. To respond to this need, Parenting for Lifelong Health for children aged 2 to 9 years was developed based on programmes that have been tested in the UK, US, Australia, the Netherlands and Hong Kong.

What is the intervention?
The aim of this project is to adapt, pilot and test the Parenting for Lifelong Health programme for children aged 2 to 9 years with low-income families in Thailand. In order to determine the cultural appropriateness, feasibility, and effectiveness of the parenting intervention in reducing the risk of violence against children and improving positive parenting behaviour in the Thai context, a feasibility study and randomized controlled trial is being implemented in a selected province in North Eastern Thailand. The project is taking place in close collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health.

The project’s objectives are:

1. To determine the needs of parents, primary caregivers, and public health practitioners in receiving and providing parenting services for violence prevention and improving positive parenting behaviour.
2. To adapt the Parenting for Lifelong Health for children aged 2 to 9 years programme format and materials so that they are appropriate to the cultural context and the capacity for public health services in Thailand.
3. To test the adapted programme in hospital settings in Thailand in order to assess intervention acceptability, impact on parenting behaviours, and potential for scaling-up.
4. To build the knowledge and skills of public health practitioners to deliver high quality parenting education and support.

What will the findings tell us?
The parenting intervention programme is expected to result in improvements in positive parenting behaviour for families who participate in the

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programme in comparison to an inactive control condition of standard care at the time of the intervention.

Specifically, for the primary outcome, child maltreatment (physical and emotional abuse) is expected to be reduced. For secondary outcomes, the following is expected to increase: positive parenting; child monitoring and supervision; and parent-child relationships. The following is also expected to be reduced: dysfunctional parenting, child neglect, parental depression, anxiety and stress, child behaviour problems, negative attitudes toward punishment, parent daily report on child behaviour and parenting, and intimate partner violence.

How will we know the intervention worked?

The University of Oxford will evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention by comparing the outcome effects between the intervention group (60 families) and the control group (60 families) at two time points post-intervention: one month and three months. The outcomes to be assessed include reductions in incidents of violence against children; reductions in risk factors for violence, including negative child behaviours; and improvements in parent-child interactions.

The findings from the outcome evaluation will be shared with the Thai Government and other stakeholders at the national and provincial levels to discuss the impact of the programme, the cost of the programme per participating family, any revisions that may be needed, and whether it should and can be scaled up to other areas.

What you should know...

Parenting for Lifelong Health is an international collaboration between individuals from the World Health Organization, UNICEF, Stellenbosch University, Bangor University, University of Cape Town, University of Oxford, and University of Reading. It brings together academic and development professionals with expertise in the design and evaluation of parenting interventions in low- and middle-income countries.

Parenting for Lifelong Health focuses on the development and evaluation of the parenting programme for young children to prevent violence against children (physical violence, emotional violence and child neglect) during early childhood, to strengthen positive parenting, and to reduce parental stress while improving social support. Thailand is the second country in Asia and the first country in the Greater Mekong Sub-region that will be piloting and testing a Parenting for Lifelong Health programme. Globally, the programme is being delivered to an estimated 300,000 families in Cote D’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, South Sudan, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Thailand, the Philippines, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

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Useful links:

For more information about the Parenting for Lifelong Health programme visit: www.who.int/violence_injury_prevent ion/violence/child/plh/en/

For specific information about the programme in Thailand visit: www.spi.ox.ac.uk/parenting-for-lifelong-health-thailand
Mongolia
An integrated Graduation Approach to end violence against children resulting from extreme poverty

Why is the intervention important?
The impact of extreme poverty on children’s overall development is significant. In Mongolia, 1 in 3 people (29.6 per cent) were estimated to be living in poverty in 2016 – an increase from 21.6 per cent in 2014. According to a baseline survey conducted by World Vision in 2018, 35 per cent of households are unable to provide the most basic needs (shelter, food and clothing) for their children, and 37 per cent of households are without an income-earning adult. The same study revealed that 53 per cent of the most vulnerable children experienced negative forms of discipline (physical and psychological) by a parent or other caregiver in the past month. The World Health Organisation’s INSPIRE Framework identifies social protection, parent and caregiver support and household income and economic strengthening as some of the solutions to end violence against children resulting from extreme poverty. World Vision Mongolia’s Ultra-Poor Graduation programme provides such an integrated approach to ending child poverty.

What is the intervention?
The Graduation Approach works to graduate the most vulnerable families in Mongolia out of extreme poverty and into self-reliance, targeting vulnerable, economically excluded and chronically food-insecure families. The intervention takes an integrated approach by addressing extreme poverty, child malnutrition, unemployment, child labour and violence against children. In Mongolia, this typically starts with the provision of direct food aid, followed by the promotion of regular savings, technical, vocational and social skills development (including training for parents on positive discipline practices) and provision of productive assets and regular confidence building coaching. Goals are set for targeted ultra-poor households to graduate to sustainable livelihoods within a stipulated time frame (normally 18 to 36 months). Currently, World Vision Mongolia is using the Graduation Approach to impact over 4,200 households across Mongolia and this number will increase in 2019.

To increase its potential to reduce violence against children, the Graduation Approach is complemented by World Vision’s Home Visitor project model. The Home Visitor model works to empower vulnerable households to improve the care and protection that children need to thrive in extremely difficult or risky circumstances. It aims to prevent the abuse, exploitation and neglect of children by identifying and supporting at-risk families. The model provides a platform for community volunteers (serving as home visitors) to develop supportive relationships with the most vulnerable children and their families and connects them to social networks and relevant services within the community.

What is the expected impact?

It is expected that families graduating out of poverty through the Graduation Approach will see a marked reduction in the use of violence against children. While the initial pilot did not directly explore the impact of the Approach on reducing violence against children, the evaluation did show a considerable decrease in the number of households living under the poverty line – from 99 per cent in 2016 to 26 per cent in 2018. During that time, average household income increased from $56 to $379 per month and average household income per person increased from $14 to $97 per month.

How will we know the intervention worked?

A baseline survey was conducted in early 2018 to measure key goal and outcome indicators of the livelihoods and child protection programmes. An end-line survey will also be conducted in 2020. These surveys will help to evaluate the effectiveness of the Graduation Approach in reducing violence against children. In addition, World Vision Mongolia will conduct a specific study to explore the correlation between the Graduation Approach and reductions in violence against children in 2019.

What you should know…

The promotion of regular saving among vulnerable families, through participation in savings groups, allows beneficiaries to meet regularly and provides an opportunity for raising awareness about violence against children. During savings group meetings, project officers conduct training sessions with parents on topics such as good parenting techniques, positive discipline, and positive family dynamics.

Partnering with business and economic sector partners, as well as social welfare and health sector partners, are key to the success of the Graduation Approach.

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Useful links:

Timor-Leste
Income and economic strengthening through Savings and Internal Lending Communities

Why is the intervention important?
Timor-Leste became an independent nation in 1999 after 24 years of conflict that left many in the country without access to basic services and few options for livelihoods. The limited number of formal financial institutions in the country after post-independence made it difficult for families, especially those residing in rural areas, to access affordable loans to help rebuild their lives. Despite the emergence of a few savings group associations and cooperatives in the years to follow, most operated in urban areas and were thus out of reach for families living in remote locations.

Interventions aimed at strengthening household income, such as saving groups, have been shown to benefit children by reducing intimate partner violence, thereby minimizing the likelihood that children witness such violence and suffer the consequences. In addition, increasing women’s access to economic resources strengthens household economic status in ways that can prevent the abuse and neglect of children.

What is the intervention?
In 2014, Catholic Relief Services introduced families in Timor-Leste to Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILCs) – a holistic, savings-led microfinance approach that provides a safe place for poor households to save and borrow to increase their income. The goal is to help these households better manage their existing resources by teaching them basic financial management skills.

Facilitating savings services enables the poor and vulnerable to build up useful lump sums without incurring excessive debt or interest charges. Moreover, the SILC process helps protect members’ limited resources by shifting their money from poorly protected informal locations (e.g. under the mattress) to investments in group members’ businesses. This provides a positive return on their savings. The accumulation of savings and the subsequent ability to access flexible credit through an internal lending mechanism leads to investments in productive activities (ranging from agricultural production to small businesses) and the acquisition of assets to achieve greater household resilience.

SILC groups are owned and managed by their members. This ensures the long-term sustainability and financial independence of the groups. Participation in SILC increases social cohesion by building trust among members. Unlike microfinance institutions, SILC allows members to use their loans to help smooth household income in periods of difficulty, leading to greater financial inclusion of marginalized groups such as rural farmers, women, and vulnerable youth, who are often excluded from formal financial services.

In Timor-Leste, there are around 354 SILC groups, with a total of 7,102 members. Most members – 63.2 per cent – are women. The total individual

savings held by the groups amount to around US$390,813 with additional savings of $31,746 in emergency funds (known as the social fund).

In Timor Leste, one of the projects, TOMAK, is piloting a Gender-Transformative Approach, using the donor Adam Smith International’s Household Decision-making Curriculum, which consists of up to 12 training sessions covering topics such as family visioning, couples working as a team, spousal support, and anger prevention and management. Together, savings groups and gender-transformative trainings will encourage shared financial household decision-making and help to promote positive attitudes towards gender equality. Furthermore, they create safe spaces for cross-gender dialogue between women and men and help to build mutual understanding of the challenges and opportunities that each face.

What is the expected impact?

Implementation of savings groups, along with the Gender-Transformative Approach, is expected to increase women’s economic and social empowerment and reduce the incidence of intimate partner violence and thus result in safer and healthier environments for children.

In other countries, where similar integrated programmes have been implemented, evaluation results have shown a 24 to 30 per cent increase in joint decision-making regarding finances in the home. Other outcomes have included an increase in shared responsibilities, with some husbands of SILC members now carrying out child caretaking duties, and lower workload for some women as they collaborate with their husbands and other family members.

Evidence from integrated women’s empowerment programming indicates that savings groups, in combination with gender dialogues (such as the SILC plus Gender-Transformative Approach), can have a positive impact on gender relations within the household, as well as a reduction of intimate partner violence.

How will we know the intervention worked?

The evaluation methodology in Timor-Leste will include baseline and end-line surveys of members of randomly sampled SILC groups compared with members of SILC groups accompanied by the Gender-Transformative Approach.

What you should know...

Engaging male partners of women SILC members can help to improve gender relations in homes and communities, thus helping to strengthen families. Integrating savings groups with domestic violence counselling can also be useful in addressing intimate partner violence in Timor-Leste. Scheduling home visits with couples for domestic violence counselling can be challenging. Conducting SILC plus the Gender-Transformative Approach after savings meetings could resolve scheduling difficulties and link conflict resolution strategies to one main cause of domestic conflict: money.

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Useful links:
For more information on Catholic Relief Services’ SILCs visit: crs.org/silc

26 Catholic Relief Services, Income and Economic Strengthening through SILC and Gender Transformative Approach in Zambia and Timor Leste, PPT presentation, 2018.

Cambodia
3PC: Partnering to build a stronger child protection system

Why is the intervention important?

Despite increased Government commitment to address violence against children in Cambodia, many children remain at risk due to inadequate protection. Approximately 1 in 2 children have experienced severe beating, 1 in 4 children have experienced emotional abuse, and 1 in 20 girls and boys have been sexually assaulted. Additionally, 1 in 350 Cambodian children live in an institution, despite almost 80 per cent of them having at least one parent. Cambodia’s child protection services remain ad hoc, fragmented and insufficient to the need, and the country lacks a coordinated and systematic approach to responding to cases of violence, exploitation and abuse of children.

This intervention aims to coordinate the work of government, multi-lateral agencies and NGOs to maximise the limited systems and resources to provide a coordinated response to violence against children.

What is the intervention?

The Partnership Programme for the Protection of Children (3PC) is a holistic intervention aimed at reducing violence against children by strengthening all aspects of Cambodia’s child protection system. Its overarching goal is to strengthen civil society’s involvement and coordination in child protection systems building, with the objective of strengthening child protection through civil society organizations’ enhanced capacity, coordination with and contribution to national and sub-national protection responses. The programme is designed under three broad areas: prevention, response and capacity/system building.

The tripartite partnership was initiated in 2011 by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, UNICEF Cambodia and Friends International. In turn, these three main partners coordinate 10 NGOs and 40 community-based organizations working across the country. Approximately 19 services are provided by 3PC partners.

The 3PC programme is designed to meet the specific needs of girls and boys through a child-centred modality, ensuring that half the beneficiaries are girls. Child protection issues are detected early through proactive measures, such as outreach workers and ChildSafe agents, particularly at hot-spots where at-risk children are more likely to be found. They are also detected through reactive measures, such as when community members themselves reach out for help, generally through a hotline. These are substantiated by case workers who then refer children and/or families to appropriate support services.

What was the impact?

Through the 3PC programme, 4,972 vulnerable families, comprising 29,244 children, have benefitted from preventive and response services such as counselling, income generation support,
health care support, food support, and temporary shelter. For example, since 2016, 4,295 people have received vocational training (in areas such as mechanics, plumbing, electricity, hairdressing and hospitality) and 2,378 were placed in employment.

Furthermore, in coordination with the Government, more than 1,000 children have been supported for reintegration by 3PC partners from residential care back to their families and communities. Work carried out by 3PC partners has also contributed to the reduction in the number of residential care institutions across Cambodia from 406 in 2015 to 265 in 2018 – a decline of 35 per cent. According to 2018 data, there are 7,634 children reported to be living in residential care institutions, a reduction of around 54 per cent since 2015.30

Monitoring data from an end of year survey in 2017 also showed that participants in alcohol support groups, supported by the programme, reported both reduced drinking (58 per cent reported high impact and 29 per cent average impact) and reduced violence in their families (74 per cent reported high impact and 11 per cent report average impact).

Furthermore, capacities have been built among key stakeholders, models strengthened, and data generated, contributing to incremental strengthening of the child protection system in Cambodia. For example, a partnership between government and 3PC social workers has established basic case management and strengthened sectoral collaboration. Networks formed as part of 3PC are expected to continue beyond the life of the project.

How do we know the intervention worked?

The programme is monitored at various levels by the Government, UNICEF, Friends International and the implementing partners themselves through field visits and review meetings. The partners report against a standard monitoring framework using harmonized reporting templates. Both quantitative and qualitative data are collected, and quarterly reports are produced.

Several studies and assessments have also been conducted for learning and evaluation. For example, a 2015 independent evaluation commissioned by USAID found that 3PC achieved significant results at all levels of the alternative care system in Cambodia. According to UNICEF’s formative evaluation of child protection in 2018, many beneficiaries expressed appreciation for the support provided by 3PC partners and, in several cases, support appeared to make a meaningful difference to beneficiaries’ lives and reduced the likelihood of violence and separation.

What you should know…

Emerging success stories show that the systematic partnership modality between government and NGOs is not only feasible, but also necessary, for resource constrained contexts like Cambodia. A critical learning has been that social work case management is in its early stages and needs significant financial and technical investment for it to work effectively.

Some of the challenges faced by the programme include the tendency towards increased debt among vulnerable families, partly due to the increase in unregulated micro-credit offerings in the country. It has also been difficult to access rural populations, and to tackle violence in new settings such as online sexual exploitation.

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Useful links:
For more information about the 3PC partnership programme visit:
China
Strengthening the role of civil society organizations in implementation of the Anti-Domestic Violence Law

Why is the intervention important?
Evidence shows that 24.7 per cent of households in China have varying degrees of domestic violence, and women and children are the main victims. China’s first Anti-Domestic Violence Law, enacted in March 2016, has provided a clear understanding of what constitutes domestic violence and includes legal provisions for those who are victimized by domestic violence, including children. The Law recognizes civil society organizations (CSOs) as important stakeholders playing an active role in its implementation. It also emphasizes the role of CSOs in the fulfilment of legal provisions to prevent domestic violence and protect the lawful rights of family members. This includes performing effective anti-domestic violence work (Article 4) and providing services, such as family relationship guidance, and domestic violence prevention knowledge education (Article 9) within communities.

Given that the law is new, many local CSOs are under-equipped to perform their roles and responsibilities as stipulated in the law. For example, there is an inconsistent understanding and adoption of the necessary reporting mechanisms, case management and due process in judicial proceedings, which lead to gaps in providing comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence. There is therefore an imminent need to strengthen the capacity of CSOs so that they can fulfill their roles in this anti-domestic violence movement.

What is the intervention?
World Vision will provide technical and organizational support to CSOs to increase their capacity to provide quality, accountable and inclusive child protection services. The intervention consists of two components. The first involves sensitizing CSOs on their roles as stipulated under the Anti-Domestic Violence Law. The second component entails the empowerment of CSOs with knowledge and skills in handling domestic violence cases pertaining to children.

Government actors and duty bearers are involved throughout the process from development and piloting of standardized case management modules. The set of case management tutorials are disseminated through a series of training, which effectively demonstrates what CSOs can do when faced with domestic violence cases. It aims to equip local CSOs with knowledge of the legal provisions in the Law, their roles and responsibilities in advocating for the rights of victims, the use of tools and guidelines in case management, and due process in judicial proceedings, including assessment and documentation of cases to support judicial processes.

The project aims to encourage constructive dialogue between CSOs (service providers) and government stakeholders. It will allow the Government to provide necessary support to CSOs,

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whilst enabling CSOs to understand government expectations in relation to their roles.

**What is the expected impact?**

The intervention is expected to increase the capacity and efficiency of all actors, especially CSOs, involved in case management at the local level. The standardized modules are expected to clarify the roles and responsibilities of duty bearers so that they can better handle domestic violence cases and support victims to access legal assistance, as well as providing a safe environment.

So far, the trainings have attracted a wide range of CSO workers, including social workers, counsellors, lawyers and frontline workers from the Women’s Federation and Civil Affairs Department. A total of 259 participants have been trained across 174 CSOs/government departments. This has enabled dialogue across different government departments with the understanding that the Anti-domestic Violence Law needs to be implemented with efforts from expertise across different sectors. As a follow up to one of the trainings, over 60 per cent of participants expressed that the case management manual was deemed helpful in their daily work.

**How will we know the intervention worked?**

The intervention will adopt the INSPIRE indicator 3.5 under ‘implementation and enforcement of laws’: awareness of laws banning violence against children. It will measure the percentage of female and male adults who are aware of the Domestic Violence Law using two specific activity indicators: a) the number of social workers from local CSOs who undergo child protection training on domestic violence, and b) the number of interagency stakeholder meetings held on child protection.

To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention, participating CSOs are required to have an action plan to promote the law in their target area. In building workable procedures to handle domestic violence cases with different law enforcers, including local police, court and government counterparts, selected CSOs will support the development and piloting of standardized case management modules.

**What you should know…**

As of October 2018, two trainings have been held in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Science’s Institute of Psychology and Shenzhen Pengxing Domestic Violence Protection Center. During the recruitment stage of the first training, more than 200 applications were received in the first day of open recruitment – double the intended capacity. Over half of the participants expressed that they have come across domestic violence cases in their work suggesting there is a huge demand for support in this area.

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Kiribati

Strengthening the child protection system in a small multi-island developing state

What is the intervention?

Developed over several years, this intervention has focused on establishing a child protection system contextualised to the unique cultural, social, geographical and economic situation of Kiribati. It has sought to provide prevention and response services to children in need of care and protection throughout the country. The programme builds on the existing social welfare structure and on the positive traditional values, practices and social organisation found in Kiribati society. It acknowledges and further defines the respective roles and responsibilities of families, communities, faith-based and traditional community leaders and organisations, NGO’s and government agencies, and strengthens the capacity of and linkages between formal and informal child protection structures.

The intervention began with a child protection baseline study in 2008 to better understand the key child protection issues and existing responses. The next step involved designing the child protection system, which was elaborated in the Children, Young People and Family Welfare System Policy (2012). This was followed in 2013 by a human resources strategy, implementation plan and costing plan, as well as a Children, Young People and Family Welfare Act (2013), which defined the mandates, roles and responsibilities of actors under the child protection system. For implementation, a case management information system was introduced in 2015 and Inter-Agency Guidelines and Pathways for Referral of Children in need of care and protection were developed in 2018. This will be accompanied by skills-based training in social work with children and management, monitoring and supervision for social welfare officers in 2019.

Why is the intervention important?

Violence affects a significant number of children in the island country of Kiribati. According to a baseline survey conducted by UNICEF in 2008, around 81 per cent of adults used corporal punishment to discipline their children at home. A study in 2010 also found that 68 per cent of women were subjected to intimate partner violence. Exposure to intimate partner violence not only puts children at risk of physical violence but increases the likelihood that they will suffer psychological and emotional problems over the short and long term.

Many children in Kiribati are also exposed to violence at school. The 2008 Child Protection Baseline research found that 40 per cent of education personnel admit that teachers use corporal punishment at school. In addition, the Global School-based Health Survey (2011) found that 37 per cent of children aged 13 to 15 experienced bullying, 35 per cent had been in a physical fight and 58 per cent reported having a severe injury in the past year. In a country with 110,000 inhabitants spread across 21 different islands, preventing and responding to child protection concerns is a challenge.

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32 UNICEF Pacific, Protecting me with love and care: A baseline report for creating a future free from violence, abuse and exploitation of girls and boys in Kiribati, 2009.
33 Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Kiribati family health and support study: A study on violence against women and children, 2010.
34 WHO, Global School-based Health Survey, 2011.
What is the expected impact?

The intervention is expected to increase the availability, accessibility and quality of child protection services across the island state of Kiribati in order to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation and abuse of children. It is also expected to broaden understanding and awareness of child protection concerns among child protection actors, including social welfare officers, and communities.

A steady increase in access to child protection services in Kiribati has already been observed over the past few years. The number of child protection cases handled by social welfare officers increased from 31 in 2015 to 45 in 2016 and 76 in 2017, representing an annual increase of 45 per cent and 68 per cent, respectively (see Figure 1). This does not necessarily indicate a higher prevalence of cases, but rather increased awareness of child protection issues and the need for reporting. It may also reflect the increased trust of community leaders and the population in the services provided.

![Figure 1. Number of child protection cases managed by social welfare officers, by gender and year](image)

How will we know the intervention worked?

The case record system will provide quantitative information on access to services and supervision reports will provide qualitative information on case management practices. The effectiveness of community-based mechanisms in linking communities to services will be measured by pre- and post-intervention knowledge, attitude and practice surveys.

What you should know...

To ensure institutionalization and sustainability, the child protection system and tools were developed with wide participation and consultation, as well as users’ involvement. The system was adapted to the social, cultural and geographical context of the country, as well as the available economic resources, with the assumption that realistic costing will help to ensure gradual inclusion of the system in the national budget. In addition, prevention and response services, supported by practical user-friendly guidelines and tools and skills-based training, will be embedded in the social welfare system. Furthermore, it proved important for community-based child protection mechanisms to be set up as an outcome of an awareness raising process about child development and child protection, through a bottom up rather than a top down approach.

In the context of Kiribati, it was also important to ensure effective collaboration with programmes working towards the elimination of violence against women, which are currently receiving a high level of investment in the Pacific. This enabled greater leveraging of resources, for example through the Gender-based Violence Victim Support Fund, which was also used for children in need of care and protection. It was also important for inter-agency guidelines on responses to gender-based violence to clearly state that children’s cases need to be handled according to child protection guidelines with social welfare officers as the core case managers.

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Useful links:

For more information about UNICEF and its work for children in the Pacific visit
http://www.unicefpacific.org/
Follow UNICEF on Twitter and Facebook
Papua New Guinea
Hospital-based Family Support Centres

Why is the intervention important?
Violence against children is common across Papua New Guinea. According to a study carried out by the Medical Research Institute in 1994, around 70 per cent of children in the country reported having experienced physical abuse during their lifetime, and around 80 per cent reported experiencing emotional abuse. As many as 50 per cent of children had experienced some form of sexual violence. A more recent study in 2012 revealed that 85 per cent of men who were fathers reported beating their children. In Port Moresby, 29 per cent of children are beaten at least once a week by male family members. Although most reported cases of violence against children involve a male perpetrator, violence by women is also a concern.

In 2001, a report commissioned by the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee recommended that a ‘one stop shop’ model should be used to deliver services to victims of violence under comprehensive care protocols. It was suggested to locate these ‘one stop shops’ in hospitals given that victims of violence are likely to seek health assistance as a first priority, and health professionals could help to address identified referral gaps so that women and children could seek treatment, counselling and legal advice under one roof. Family Support Centres were developed in response to this recommendation.

What is the intervention?
Family Support Centres are part of the Government’s strategy to provide multi-sectoral and integrated support to survivors of violence. The purpose of these Centres is to:

1. Provide client centred care for the medical and psychosocial needs of survivors.
2. Create strong linkages and improve access to justice for survivors.
3. Assist in the prevention of violence through advocacy and community education.

The first Family Support Centre was established at Lae hospital in 2003, with the support of Soroptimists International. In 2004, the first government-funded Centre was established at Port Moresby General Hospital. Since then, a total of 15 Family Support Centres have been established in 13 provinces throughout the country. UNICEF has provided support to nine of these Centres.

The Comprehensive Care Package for survivors of family and sexual violence, delivered through Family Support Centres, includes medical treatment involving: acute management of mental and physical (if any) injury; early provision of the correct emergency medications to reduce chances of contracting sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and Hepatitis B; and timely provision of emergency contraception (for those at risk) avoiding possible conception from an episode of rape. Comprehensive care also entails providing

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the survivor with early and ongoing psycho-social support through appropriate emergency counselling to help deal with trauma, and assisting survivors with legal assistance to access the justice system if they choose to. Referrals are also made, where needed, for assistance with finding emergency shelter and livelihood support to enable women to leave abusive family members.

Family Support Centres maintain strong relationships with local police Family and Sexual Violence Units, Sexual Offences Squads, and the Criminal Investigations Unit, as well as District Courts and the Office of Public Prosecution.

What was the impact?
According to an evaluation carried out in 2016, the Family Support Centre approach was found to be closely aligned with national priorities and there was a high level of political commitment, particularly at national level. Most Centres had created an important 'hub' approach from which they were able to refer survivors and provide an essential role in facilitating access to health and justice services. Furthermore, all the provincial level sites had good relationships with relevant services indicating effective coordination.

Family Support Centres are still experiencing some significant challenges, however, especially regarding the provision of services for children. Few of the Centre’s staff have received specialized training in handling cases involving children and more training should be given to staff on child protection issues.

In addition, lack of consistent and comparable data makes it difficult to assess the trends of service users. According to available data, there is a relatively small client load across the Family Support Centres. The uptake of services was found to be around one or two cases per day, which is thought to be due to a lack of awareness of the availability of such services. Between 49 per cent and 74 per cent of cases of violence presenting at the Centres involve children aged under 18.

How do we know the intervention worked?
An independent evaluation of the Family Support Centres was conducted in 2016 to determine the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and contribution to equity of the Family Support Centre approach. The evaluation was based on mixed methods research, with emphasis placed on qualitative rather than quantitative methods.

What you should know…
The Family Support Centre approach has now been endorsed by the Government, and has been successfully integrated into Government policy, resulting in an improvement in available integrated services for women and children. It is defined in the National Department of Health Guidelines for Provincial Health Authority/Hospital Management establishing hospital-based Family Support Centres (2013), which describe them as part of the Government’s strategy to provide multi-sectoral and integrated support to survivors of violence. In October 2006, the Secretary for Health issued a circular that required all Provincial Hospitals to integrate Family Support Centres into their operations. In 2009, all hospital boards were directed by the Secretary of Health to allocate sufficient budgetary funds to enable the establishment and operation of these Centres in all main health centres. This was followed, in 2009, by a further circular directing all hospitals and health centres to remove fees that were being charged for treatment and medical reports for domestic violence, sexual violence and child abuse cases.

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Useful links:
You can access The Independent Formative Evaluation of Family Support Centres in Papua New Guinea here:

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Cambodia
Reducing violence against children through positive discipline in schools

Why is the intervention important?
Corporal punishment is explicitly prohibited in Cambodian schools under the Education Law (2007) and the Sub-Decree on the Teacher Professional Codes. Yet, Cambodian teachers remain among the most frequently reported perpetrators of physical violence.

Cambodia’s Violence Against Children Survey 2013, found that teachers were the most common perpetrators of childhood physical violence outside the home among both females and males. Male teachers were reported as perpetrators more often than female teachers across all groups.

In order to address the ongoing use of physical punishment in schools, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) and UNICEF Cambodia initiated a pilot programme on positive discipline.

What is the intervention?
This intervention involved the development of Cambodia’s first-ever teacher training programme on positive discipline, aimed to foster secure, child-friendly and non-violent relationships between teachers and their students. It was designed with the understanding that if teachers are to stop using physical punishment in schools, they need to be given alternative tools to manage children’s behaviour.

The teacher training package focuses on effective ways to manage classrooms, resolve conflicts non-violently and create positive student-teacher relationships. It includes a revised Child-Friendly Schools manual on Preventing Violence Against Children and three accompanying tool books on positive discipline: 1) A Guide for Facilitators, 2) A Tool Book for Senior School Leaders, and 3) A Tool Book for Primary School Teachers.

In 2015, the training package was piloted in 12 primary schools in three target provinces. The training was rolled out by MoEYS in a cascade manner. Members of District Training and Monitoring Teams from the three provinces were introduced to the Guide for Facilitators via a one-week MoEYS-UNICEF training in Phnom Penh. These District Training and Monitoring Team members subsequently provided training on positive discipline to school directors and teachers from public primary schools in the selected provinces.

What was the impact?
Pre- and post-intervention data suggests a change in positive behaviour by teachers away from corporal punishment, as well as improved learning environments for children. The percentage of students who reported experiencing moderate physical discipline at school decreased from 73.4 per cent to 46.5 per cent. Furthermore, the percentage of students reporting experiences of moderate verbal discipline at school decreased from 52.9 per cent to 32.2 per cent.

Given the positive outcomes of this pilot, the training was scaled up to 804 primary schools by 2018. As a result, it is anticipated that up to 241,200 children have benefited from this initiative.
How do we know the intervention worked?

As part of this initiative, MoEYS and UNICEF worked with the Royal University of Phnom Penh to measure the impact of the training package. Baseline and end-line surveys were conducted pre- and post-intervention to measure the changes in behaviour among teachers in terms of their use of corporal punishment, as well as improvements in the learning environment, as reported by students.

What you should know...

UNICEF’s advocacy efforts have been successful in embedding positive discipline training within the Government’s education system. The training will be integrated into pre-service teacher training with the overall goal of reaching all primary school teachers in Cambodia.

In 2016, MoEYS endorsed a “Child Protection in Schools Policy” with the goal of developing the proper legal mechanisms to protect children from violence in both private and public schools. With support from UNICEF, MoEYS has developed and approved an “Action Plan (2019-2023)” to effectively implement the Child Protection in Schools Policy. This Action Plan will be mandated and implemented in schools in line with existing interventions, including teacher training on positive discipline. UNICEF has also advocated for the Action Plan and training on positive discipline to be reflected in the Ministry’s Education Strategic Plan (2019-2023). In this way, future in-service and pre-service teacher training can be budgeted for and financed by MoEYS.

UNICEF has also worked with MoEYS to sharpen the focus on gender within the teacher training package on positive discipline to ensure that the training can identify and help address key gender dimensions of violence in schools. A revised manual is expected to be rolled out from 2019.

Given the vulnerability of young children (aged 0-5) to the impact of violence, UNICEF will investigate the feasibility of introducing the training at the level of early childhood education. Furthermore, UNICEF will advocate for expanding the training to the lower secondary school level.

UNICEF has also provided technical support to the Ministry of Women’s Affairs to develop a “Positive Parenting Strategic Plan” with the aim of preventing and reducing violence at home as well as identifying risk factors contributing to violence and family separation. Trainings on positive discipline in schools and positive parenting need to be aligned and conducted concurrently in target communities involving parents, caregivers, school support committees, teachers and school directors. These two areas of work are mutually reinforcing in tackling the challenge of violence in schools, and, if conducted in parallel, will serve to increase impact.

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Useful links:

Read more about the impact of this intervention on a school child, a primary school teacher, and a whole classroom.
Indonesia
Antibullying and positive discipline in schools

What is the intervention?
Roots Indonesia works to shift social norms that make bullying acceptable in schools. In each participating school, the programme builds the capacity of 30-40 student agents of change to enable them to identify problems and design and lead activities to combat bullying. Agents of change are selected based on their social network to ensure that the activities are spread to all students in the school. The activities culminate in a school-wide campaign and declaration against bullying. This is designed and implemented by the agents of change, with support from young facilitators from Child Forum – an organization that works to strengthen children’s participation.

At the same time, under the Positive Discipline programme, teachers receive extensive training on the impact of violent punishment, practising positive discipline techniques and the importance of logical and proportionate consequences. The intervention works by building the capacity of district education supervisors who then provide sustained advice, mentoring and training to teachers in schools.

What is the expected impact?
The intervention is expected to reduce the prevalence of bullying in schools in Indonesia and increase the use of positive discipline techniques by teachers. It aims to change social norms among students with regard to bullying, improve the school environment, and increase teacher’s knowledge about positive methods of discipline.

How will we know the intervention worked?
The initial intervention has already been evaluated using a quasi-experimental design. This involved pre- and post-intervention surveys in participating and control schools and focus group discussions, using child-friendly formats, with participating schools. Furthermore, the Roots programme was continuously monitored using facilitator supervision.
tools as well as facilitator diaries and checklists to document the meetings and ensure minimum standards were met.

According to the evaluation, the use of physical punishment by teachers in primary schools in Papua decreased by 16 per cent. In lower secondary schools in South Sulawesi, where the Roots programme was implemented, perpetration of bullying decreased by 29 per cent and bullying victimization decreased by 20 per cent. It must be noted, however, that other factors outside the intervention may also have contributed to the reductions observed.

What you should know...

Designing the programmes with young people and empowering them to identify and implement their own solutions was very powerful. Using social network theory to empower students to select agents of change, rather than using the traditional approach of teachers selecting students, was also innovative and meant that the intervention could diffuse through schools more quickly. Working with young facilitators closer in age to the students was also considered effective as students could open-up and express themselves more easily.

At the same time, given that child and adolescent participation is relatively new in Indonesia, it was important to ensure that teachers understood and were fully on board with the approach in order for it to be effective. It is recommended that activities are sustained with the same group of teachers and students for at least one school year. Shortening the number of sessions may decrease the overall effectiveness.

UNICEF is working with the Government of Indonesia, including Bappenas (the Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning), the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection, the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Religious Affairs, to ensure this intervention is integrated into national priority programmes. So far, the city of Semarang, Central Java and the provinces of South Sulawesi have committed to replicating this programme in schools.

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Useful links:

For more information about the Roots curriculum visit: http://www.betsylevypaluck.com/roots-curriculum/
Sri Lanka
PATHS to change: Developing life skills programmes to reduce peer violence among adolescents

Why is the intervention important?
One of the major causes of violence against children in Sri Lanka is its high acceptance among adolescents, largely a result of dominant social norms and socio-cultural factors that allow violence to perpetuate. This is exacerbated by the lack of skills and knowledge of children and adolescents on how to prevent or protect themselves from violence. This intervention aims to address this issue by creating tools to help improve the life skills of adolescents as an important first layer for prevention of violence against children.

What is the intervention?
The intervention focuses on developing life skills programmes for adolescents so they can be used as tools to reduce violence against peers in Sri Lanka. With support from UNICEF Sri Lanka, the intervention is being implemented by Shanthi Maargam, an NGO working to reduce violence among adolescents. Two existing life skills programmes were selected to be adapted for this intervention: the “PATHS” curriculum and “PARIVARTAN”. The PATHS curriculum was developed by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and identified as an effective education and life-skills development programme in the INSPIRE strategies. “PARIVARTAN” is an initiative developed by the International Centre for Research on Women (India) to reduce harmful attitudes towards women and girls. It teaches young male athletes that violence against women and girls is wrong and the importance of respect for themselves and others. The programme identifies youth leaders and sports coaches from clubs and schools who will facilitate the programme among young male athletes within their communities. They aim to positively influence how young boys think and behave on and off the field during practice sessions, casual conversations or motivational talks.

The first step in the intervention involved adapting, contextualizing and translating the PATHS curriculum into the Sinhala and Tamil languages, with the help of national experts through a vigorous consultation process with multisectoral stakeholders. Adaptation concentrated on age appropriateness, relevance of topics and activities, duration of activities, delivery, language and cultural context.

Pilot testing of the PATHS programme was conducted in one community centre known as the Center of Hope, one school in Colombo, and at Shanthi Maargam Youth Centre. Moreover, Shanthi Maargam has collaborated with a local government body, the Colombo Municipal Council, to implement the PATHS programme over the next four years. Resource persons from the community level and gender specialists have been identified to conduct Training of Trainers during the implementation.

phase. Meanwhile, PARIVARTAN, which engages specifically with male athletes, will select a role model/youth leader from local communities where children between the ages of 12 and 14 play cricket in their community playgrounds.

All stages of the intervention, including lessons learnt and best practices, are being documented and shared with relevant stakeholders for future use. The intervention is being guided by a Steering Committee comprising of specialists and practitioners with experience in child development and violence against children.

**What is the expected impact?**

The implementation of context-specific life skills programmes among adolescents at the school and community levels is expected to reduce aggression and improve social and interpersonal skills among children while boosting educational achievement.

**How will we know the intervention worked?**

To evaluate the effectiveness of the life skills programmes, pre- and post-intervention questionnaires have been developed. Using these questionnaires, as well as verbal interviews, feedback will be collected from participants engaged in the initial pilot testing. In order to validate the findings, a tool is being developed to gather feedback from parents and community members to capture any attitudinal and behaviour changes.

Shanthi Maargam has also conducted three expert consultations to review the contextualized programme content. This feedback was used for the final contextualization of programme content.

**What you should know…**

As Sri Lanka is a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic country, it was vital that the life skills materials were translated into two local languages and contextualized to all parts of the country. As a result, consultations were conducted in four main geographic areas of the country (northern, eastern and southern provinces and in the tea plantation region), covering a diverse population.

Multisectoral engagement was also key. This included networking with government actors in order discuss future possibilities of integrating Positive Youth Development Life Skills in the Sri Lankan education system and informal community settings. Networking also paved the way for smooth implementation and boosted sustainability and credibility of the intervention. Meeting and liaising with government officials made it easier for the team to liaise with other authorities and children’s institutions to introduce the work and take preliminary steps towards implementation.

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**Useful links:**

- For more information on the project’s progress visit: [https://www.facebook.com/Paths-To-Change-1612184525576773/?ref=bookmarks](https://www.facebook.com/Paths-To-Change-1612184525576773/?ref=bookmarks)
- For more information about the original PATHS and PARIVARTAN programmes visit: [https://www.icrw.org/research-programs/parivartan-coaching-boys-into-men/](https://www.icrw.org/research-programs/parivartan-coaching-boys-into-men/)