

**ASEAN Regional Plan of Action  
on the Elimination of Violence against Children  
(ASEAN RPA on EVAC)**



one vision  
one identity  
one community



**ASEAN Regional Plan of Action  
on the Elimination of Violence against Children  
(ASEAN RPA on EVAC)**

The ASEAN Secretariat  
Jakarta

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States of the Association are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

For inquiries, contact:  
The ASEAN Secretariat  
Community Relations Division  
70A Jalan Sisingamangaraja  
Jakarta 12110  
Indonesia  
Phone : (62 21) 724-3372, 726-2991  
Fax : (62 21) 739-8234, 724-3504  
E-mail : [public@asean.org](mailto:public@asean.org)

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>THE DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN ASEAN</b>	<b>i</b>
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## **Part I: ASEAN RPA on EVAC**


<b>I. Background and Rationale</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>II. Definition , Forms of Violence Against Children</b>	
(a) Definition of a child	5
(b) Definition of the word “Violence”	5
(c) Forms of violence against children	5
(d) Vulnerable groups of children	8
<b>III. Situation of VAC in AMS</b>	
(a) General situation	11
(b) Recent achievements and challenges (as reported by AMS)	12
<b>IV. International and Regional Commitments on EVAC</b>	
(a) International Commitments	13
(b) Regional Commitments	14
<b>V. Guiding Principles</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>VI. Time Frame</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>VII. Policy Statement and Ultimate Goal</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>VIII. Objectives</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>IX. ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence Against Children</b>	<b>20</b>
ACTION 1: Prevention	20
ACTION 2: Protection, Responses and Support Services	22

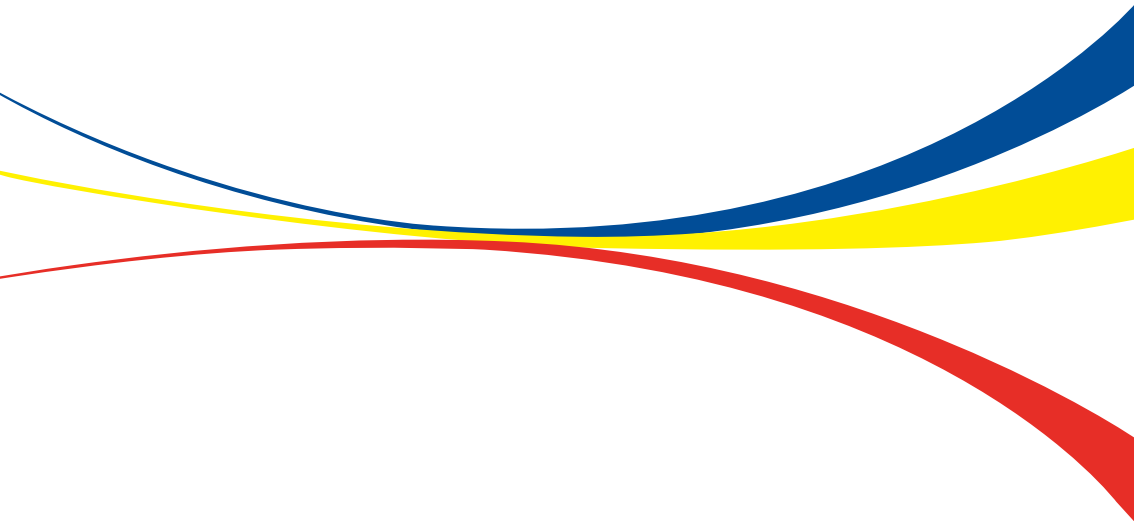
ACTION 3: Legal Framework, Prosecution and Justice System	24
ACTION 4: Capacity Building	27
ACTION 5: Research and Data Collection	29
ACTION 6: Management, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation	30
ACTION 7: Partnership and Collaboration	30
ACTION 8: Review and Communication	32
<b>X. Priority Areas for the First Five Years</b>	<b>33</b>

## **Part II: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

<b>I.</b> Recent Achievements and Challenges (as reported by ASEAN Member States)	39
<b>II.</b> International Human Right Instruments which AMS should consider ratifying, if not already done	52
<b>III.</b> List of Documents used in the draft of ASEAN RPA on EVAC	54
<b>IV.</b> Drafting Process of ASEAN RPA on EVAC	64
<b>V.</b> Thailand Working Group (TWG)	67
<b>VI.</b> Joint ACWC - SOMSWD Working Group (ASWG) on Drafting of ASEAN RPA on EVAC	70
<b>VII.</b> ACWC Representatives	72
<b>VIII.</b> SOMSWD Focal Point	74

THE DECLARATION  
ON THE ELIMINATION  
OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
AND ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE  
AGAINST CHILDREN IN ASEAN







## **THE DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN ASEAN**

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit;

**UPHOLDING** the goals, purposes and principles of ASEAN as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015);

**REAFFIRMING** the goals and commitments of ASEAN to eliminating violence against women and monitor their progress as reflected in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region adopted at the 37<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) on 30 June 2004;

**FURTHER REAFFIRMING** the importance and general principles of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD adopted at the 21<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 18 November 2012; and the commitments of ASEAN as reflected in the ASEAN Leaders’ Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons in Southeast Asia adopted at the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 8 May 2011; the Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and



Development of ASEAN Women and Children adopted at the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 28 October 2010; the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 29 November 2004; the Declaration on the Commitments for Children in ASEAN adopted at the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare (AMRSW) on 2 August 2001; the Resolution on the ASEAN Plan of Action for Children adopted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> AMRSW Meeting on 2 December 1993; and the Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region adopted at the 21<sup>st</sup> AMM on 5 July 1988;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the commitments of individual ASEAN Member States to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) that have been ratified by all ASEAN Member States; the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (Vienna Declaration); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA), BPFA+5 Outcome Document; the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action for Child Survival, Protection and Development; A World Fit For Children Declaration; and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

**RECALLING** resolutions relating to the elimination of violence against women and children of the United Nations General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), and 1889 (2009) on Women, Peace and Security;

**WELCOMING** the adoption of the Terms of Reference and Work Plan (2012-2016) of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and children in ASEAN taking into consideration the regional and national contexts bearing in mind the different historical, political, socio-cultural, religious, legal and economic backgrounds in the region;

**RECOGNISING** that ASEAN Member States shall take all appropriate measures to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedom and to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the importance of intensifying efforts of ASEAN Member States to promote the rights of women and children, as well as to prevent and protect them from and respond to all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation of women and children particularly for those who are in vulnerable situations, including domestic violence, women and children who are sexually exploited, women and children with disabilities, women and children living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, women and children in conflict with laws, cyber pornography and cyber prostitution, trafficking in women and children, women and children in disasters, women and children in armed conflict, women and children in refugee camps, women and children on the move, stateless women and children, migrant women and children, women and children belonging to ethnic and/or indigenous groups, children in early marriage, physical abuse of children, bullying, discrimination against women and children in mass and social media, and others;

**RECOGNISING** that violence against women and violence against children occur irrespective of the stages of the life cycle, whether at home, in school, in the workplace, in public or private spaces (including cyber space) as a result of gender bias, discriminatory and harmful traditional practices and must be eliminated as they impair human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and children;

**EMPHASISING** that the rights of children to special protection and care are different than those of women, given that parents have the responsibilities in the upbringing and development of their children and to protect them from violence, abuse, maltreatment and

exploitation, and the obligations of state parties to assist parents in these efforts;

**DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT:**

ASEAN Member States, individually and/or collectively, express common resolve to eliminate violence against women and violence against children in the region through the following measures:

1. Strengthen and, where necessary, enact or amend national legislations for the elimination of violence against women and violence against children, and to enhance the protection, services, rehabilitation, education and training, recovery and reintegration of victims/survivors;
2. Integrate legislations, policies and measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women and violence against children and to protect and assist the victims/survivors in the national development plans and programmes with time- bound targets, adequate resources, and gender responsive planning and budgeting;
3. Strengthen a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach to promote the rights of women and children and adopt a gender responsive, child sensitive, and age-responsive approach to eliminate violence against women and violence against children in the region which includes effective laws, legislations, policies and measures to:
  - Investigate, prosecute, punish and, where appropriate, rehabilitate perpetrators;
  - Protect women and children victims/survivors and witnesses;
  - Provide victims/survivors with access to justice, legal assistance, protection, social welfare services, education, and health services, including counseling and peer-to-peer support mechanisms, rehabilitation, recovery, and reintegration into the community, and consider provision

of programme for families to properly give support to victims/ survivors;

- Instill awareness to prevent re-victimization of women and children from any form of violence and ensure it does not occur anywhere through various programmes, such as provision and promotion of vocational training and employment opportunities of women who are victims/survivors, access to reproductive health services, education and other basic social services;
  - Promote family support services, parenting education, education and public awareness on the rights of women and children and the nature and causes of violence against women and violence against children to encourage active public participation in the prevention and elimination of violence;
  - Create an enabling environment for the participation of women and children, including victims/survivors, in the prevention and elimination of violence against women and violence against children;
  - Develop effective strategies to eliminate harmful practices which perpetuate gender stereotyping, violence against women and violence against children;
4. Strengthen the existing national mechanisms, with the assistance, where necessary, of the ACWC and other related stakeholders, in implementing, monitoring and reporting the implementation of the Concluding Observations and Recommendations of CEDAW, CRC and other Treaty Bodies as well as the accepted recommendations under the Universal Periodic Review Process of the United Nations Human Rights Council related to the elimination of all forms of violence against women and violence against children;
5. Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement officers, policy makers, social workers, health personnel, and other

stakeholders to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate gender responsive and child friendly legislations, policies and measures for women and children victims of violence;

6. Encourage research and data collection and analysis in confidential concerning all forms of violence against women and violence against children to support the formulation and effective implementation of laws, policies and programmes to eliminate violence against women and violence against children for better protection of the victims/survivors in the region;
7. Strengthen the provision of support social welfare services to women and children victims/survivors of violence and their families in ASEAN through the establishment of an ACWC network of social services to facilitate the promotion of good practices, sharing of information, exchange of experts, social workers and service providers, including NGOs;
8. Strengthen partnerships with external parties at international, regional, national and local levels, including ASEAN Dialogue Partners, UN Agencies, civil society, community-based organisations, academia, philanthrops and private entities, in the work for the elimination of violence against women and violence against children in ASEAN and to mobilise resources to assist the victims/survivors;

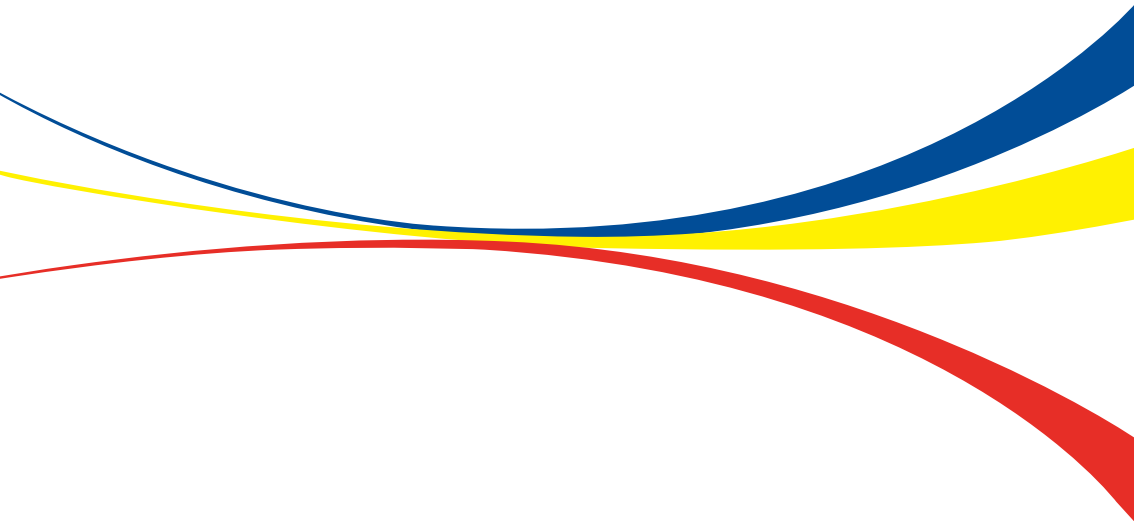
**WE TASK** the relevant ASEAN bodies, in particular the ACWC, to promote the implementation of this Declaration and review its progress through appropriate instruments and actions with the support of ASEAN Member States.

**ADOPTED** in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam this Ninth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Thirteen, in a single original copy, in the English Language.

# Part I

*ASEAN RPA on EVAC*





## I. Background and Rationale

The elimination of violence against children (VAC) is a challenge in all countries and in every society, race, class and culture. It is a violation of human rights, upheld in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which prescribes that every child has the right to survive, grow and be protected from all forms of violence. All children have the right to be respected for their human dignity, physical and psychological integrity and to equal protection. The Convention specifies that it is the obligation of the State parties to address and eliminate the widespread prevalence and incidence of violence against children. In the UN Secretary-General's Study, "World Report on Violence against Children", published in 2006, Mr. Paulo Sergio Pinheiro outlined what has to be done to confront the major challenge of VAC. It acknowledges the primary responsibility of State parties to prevent and respond to violence against children, to uphold the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other treaties. As a follow up to the recommendations of the 2006 UN study on VAC, the UN General Assembly entrusted to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children, Ms. Marta Santos Pais (appointed in 2009), the mandate of promoting global advocacy to accelerate progress in children's protection from violence worldwide, and monitoring progress achieved across regions. The Special Representative has called for preventive and responsive mechanisms to address violence against children worldwide which includes the development of regional initiatives to prevent and respond to violence against children as framework for national plans and strategies.

ASEAN Member States (AMS) have contributed to the UN study on VAC. The ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) in its July 2011 meeting, identified elimination of violence against children



(EVAC) as one of the priority areas in its 2012 -2016 ACWC Work Plan. In 2013, the ASEAN Leaders adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the Elimination of Violence against Children, and in that Declaration ACWC was tasked to promote the implementation of the Declaration. Further, in 2014, at the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting in Myanmar, ACWC endorsed the proposal to develop an ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children (ASEAN RPA on EVAC).

The ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) is an important sectoral body. SOMSWD oversees the welfare and development of children in ASEAN. Hence, all activities undertaken under the ASEAN cooperation on social welfare and development come under the purview of SOMSWD. SOMSWD has been working closely with ACWC, including working jointly in the formulation of the ASEAN RPA on EVAC.

## II. Definitions, Forms of Violence Against Children, and Vulnerable Groups of Children

### a) Definition of a child

In accordance with the Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC), a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.

### b) Definition of violence

Guided by article 19 of the CRC , the term violence represents any act on children which causes harm, injury, abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment, and/or exploitation whether accepted as “tradition” or disguised as “discipline”, including hindering child development.

### c) Forms of violence against children

The following are forms of violence which are addressed by the CRC and further considered by the Committee on the Rights of the Child’s General Comment No. 8 “The right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment” and General Comment No. 13 “The Right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence:

**Physical violence** against children is the deliberate use of physical force with the potential of causing harm which can be fatal or non-fatal by adults or other children. Physical violence includes, but not limited, to the following:

- i) All forms of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment, (E.g. burning, scalding, branding and forced ingestion);
- ii) All forms of corporal punishment such as slapping, spanking, caning, whipping, flogging, pulling/boxing

ears, and forcing children to stay in uncomfortable positions. It involves hitting ('smacking', head 'knuckling', choking) children with the hand or with an implement – a whip, stick, belt, shoe, wooden spoon, or other objects. It can also involve kicking, shaking or throwing children, scratching, pinching, biting, pulling hair or, drugging, burning, scalding, forced ingestion. Physical violence may also be associated with harmful traditional practices, such as child and forced marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting, so-called honour crimes, as well as torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment.

- iii) Physical bullying and hazing by adults and other children.

**Sexual violence** comprises of sexual activity or attempted sexual activity imposed by an adult on a child. It involves inducement or coercion, threats or force on a child to engage in any sexual activity. Though children of sexual victimization may not experience physical force or restraint, they are not spared from its psychological impacts. Sexual activities committed on a child by another child, if the child offender uses power, threat or other means of pressure, are also considered as sexual violence or abuse. Sexual violence includes, but are not limited, to the following:

- i) Fondling, rape and sexual assault;
- ii) Use of children in commercial sexual abuse and exploitation (e.g. sale of children for sexual purposes, pornography, prostitution particularly in tourism, sexual slavery, trafficking);
- iii) Cybercrime-Online/cyber sexual exploitation and abuse or through digital technology (e.g. grooming,

indecent images of children taken through coercion, threats, force or persuasion or through peer-to-peer sharing, and use of children in audio or visual images of child abuse);

- iv) Forced and/or child marriage

**Mental violence** is often described as psychological maltreatment, mental abuse, verbal abuse and emotional abuse or neglect. This includes, but not limited to, the following:

- i) All forms of persistent harmful interactions with a child (e.g. conveying to children that they are worthless, unloved and unwanted);
- ii) All forms of verbal abuse (e.g. insults, name-calling, humiliation, belittling, ridiculing and gossips);
- iii) All forms of violation of privacy and breach of confidentiality that causes harmful psychological impact on a child;
- iv) Scaring, terrorizing and threatening, exploiting and corrupting, spurning and rejecting, isolating, ignoring and favouritism;
- v) Denying emotional responsiveness, neglecting mental health, medical and educational needs;
- vi) Exposure to domestic violence or hostile treatment;
- vii) Placement in solitary confinement, isolation or humiliating or degrading conditions of detention;
- viii) Psychological bullying, (e.g. cyber bullying through mobile phones and the Internet and hazing by adults or other children);
- ix) Forced and / or child marriage

**Neglect** or **negligent treatment** means the failure to meet children's physical and psychological needs, to protect them from danger and to obtain medical, birth registration and other services when those responsible for their care have the means, knowledge and access to services to do so. It includes, but are not limited to the following:

- i) Physical neglect (e.g. failure to protect a child from harm, including consistent lack of supervision, failure to provide a child with basic necessities such as adequate food, shelter, clothing and basic medical care);
- ii) Psychological or emotional neglect which includes lack of any emotional support and love, chronic inattention, caregivers' inability to respond to young children's cues and signals, and exposure to violence or drug or alcohol abuse;
- iii) Neglect of a child's physical or mental health (e.g. withholding essential medical care);
- iv) Neglect of a child's social needs (e.g. denial of right to play, leisure and social interactions);
- v) Educational neglect (e.g. failure to comply with laws requiring caregivers to secure their children's education through attendance at school);
- vi) Abandonment (deliberately act of leaving the child without parental care)

**d) Vulnerable groups of children**

With reference to General Comment No.13, examples of children potentially vulnerable or exposed to violence include, but are not limited to:

- i) Children not living with their biological parents and are in various forms of alternative care;
- ii) Children not registered at birth, children living on the street or homeless;
- iii) Children involved with the justice system; children deprived of liberty and children who are accompanying their parents/guardians in detention, prison or shelter homes;
- iv) Children with disabilities – whether physical, sensory, learning or psychosocial disabilities;
- v) Children with chronic illness, children affected by HIV/AIDS or children from parents living with HIV/AIDS; or serious behavioural problem;
- vi) Indigenous children, children from ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities, and children from the lesbian, gay, transgender or transsexual community;
- vii) Children in early or forced marriage; children who are themselves caretakers and head of households;
- viii) Child laborers especially those in worst forms of child labour;
- ix) Children who are themselves or whose parents are migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless or are displaced and/or trafficked;
- x) Children who had experienced or witnessed violence in the home and in communities;
- xi) Children in low socio-economic urban environments where guns, weapons, drugs and alcohol are easily accessible;

- xii) Children living in emergencies (e.g. natural disasters, social and armed conflicts) accident-prone areas and toxic environments;
- xiii) Children who are unwanted, born prematurely or part of a multiple birth;
- xiv) Children exposed to ICTs without adequate safeguards, supervision or empowerment to protect them selves.

### III. Situation of VAC in AMS

#### a) General Situation

AMS have demonstrated significant commitment to and progress in addressing VAC, both at the national and sub-national levels. Progressive efforts to enact national laws and implement related policies on VAC have shown clear commitment from the AMS to the prevention and elimination of VAC. Despite these initiatives, implementation and progress have been uneven. For instance, a comprehensive legal ban on all forms of VAC, which is a key component of a comprehensive strategy to safeguard and protect the right of the child to freedom from violence, is not yet in place in all AMS<sup>1</sup>.

However, some AMS have yet to develop National Plans of Action (NPA) to support the implementation of these laws and policies. Response mechanisms and services for children, who are victims of violence include shelters, hotlines and helplines, one-stop crisis centres, and dedicated women's and children's desks in police stations, hospitals/medical centers are in various implementation phases and structures in several AMS. These services are accessible and provided by the Government and/or civil society organizations, religious groups and others. Most AMS have also conducted VAC awareness raising campaigns to further improve the knowledge and understanding of the consequences of VAC.

A 2012 systematic review of research on violence in East Asia and the Pacific commissioned by UNICEF has shed light on this hidden phenomenon. Credible research estimates the prevalence of physical abuse among boys and girls in the region to range

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<sup>1</sup> See, "Legal Protection from Violence - Analysis of Domestic Laws Related to Violence against Children in ASEAN Member States" UNICEF, SRSG-VAC and Coram Children's Legal Centre, 2015



from 10% to 30.3%; sexual abuse from 1.7% to 11.6%; emotional abuse from 31.3% to 68.5%; and child labour from 6.5% to 56%. Furthermore, three out of four children in the region experience violent discipline at the hands of teachers or parents.

While there have been intensified efforts to strengthen the availability of reliable and comprehensive data on VAC, many cases remain largely undocumented. Challenges with data gaps and analysis, evidence-based studies, and reporting and monitoring have been recognized but require further attention from many AMS. A key objective is to use data as evidence to make VAC and its many consequences more visible, bringing about a better understanding of its magnitude and nature and developing policy and effective programmes

**b) Recent achievements and challenges (reported by AMS; please see Part II)**

## IV. International and Regional Commitments on EVAC

### a) International Commitments

The protection of children from all forms of violence is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and is a core UN and international human rights issue.

General Comment No. 13 (2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence and General Comment No. 8 (2006) on the right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment in adopting measures to combat all forms of violence against children have been issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and provide further description and details on VAC. Moreover, in the field of justice for children, several international standards exist such as the UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (Riyadh Guidelines), the UN Standard Minimum rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules) and most recently the UN Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (the “UN Model Strategies”) to guide the justice system in the elimination of violence against children.

Furthermore, VAC is at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs *“promises to strive for a better world that is just, equitable and inclusive and the commitment to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and thereby to benefit all, in particular the children of the world, youth and future generations of the world, without distinction of any kind such as age, disability, culture, race, ethnicity, origin, migratory status, religion, economic or other status.”* Recognizing

the importance of building peaceful and inclusive societies, Goal 16 and target 16.2 highlights the need to work towards ending “abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.” This is the global framework for the commitment of ending all forms of VAC.

## **b) Regional Commitments**

The CRC and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) have been ratified by all AMS. These commitments have been reflected in the Resolution on the ASEAN Plan of Action for Children in 1993, Declaration on the Commitments for Children in ASEAN in 2001, the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration in 2012, and the Declaration of Elimination of Violence against Women and Elimination of Violence against Children in 2013. The purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter, including the Cha-am, Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015), the Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children 2010, have adopted the elimination of violence against children and women.

All member states of ASEAN should consider ratifying and /or promote the implementation of other international instruments that are relevant in their efforts to protect all children from violence and eliminate VAC. These include the three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the ILO Convention Nos. 138 on minimum age of employment, 182 concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, , 189 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers, and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons,

Especially Women and Children, and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. The ten (10) AMS should also consider withdrawing their reservations to the CRC.

## V. Guiding Principles

The ASEAN RPA on EVAC is guided by the fundamental principle highlighted by the UN Study on VAC that “no violence against children is justifiable. All violence against children is preventable.” Protecting children from violence requires a comprehensive approach across the child’s life cycle and in various settings since many types of violence are linked to factors such as poverty, disparities, conflicts, lack of education, gender and other forms of inequities, harmful traditional attitudes and practices and social norms.

### a) A child rights-based and gender sensitive approach

- i) The goal of all AMS policies should be to establish and champion respect for the dignity, life, survival, well-being, health, development, protection, participation and non-discrimination of the child as a rights-bearing person.
- ii) All AMS shall take adequate and all necessary measures to realise the rights of children to protection from all forms of violence without discrimination of any kind.
- iii) All AMS should emphasize that the interpretation and safeguard of a child’s best interests must be consistent with the provisions in the CRC, including the obligation to protect children from all forms of violence.
- iv) All AMS shall ensure that gender equality, protection from discrimination and social inclusion are addressed as a core focus in all actions for prevention of and response to violence against children.

- v) All AMS shall renew their determination and primary responsibility as key stakeholders to consistently promote a rights-based approach in working for and with children in prevention of and response to violence against children.

**b) A multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary Approach**

- i) All AMS shall recognize violence as a priority and as a cross-cultural concern in the development agenda.
- ii) All AMS shall establish a multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional response to the multi-faceted issue of VAC. It calls for concerted prevention initiatives, respect for and fulfilment of children's rights at all times.
- iii) All AMS shall establish a coordinating and monitoring framework on violence against children for all child rights-based measures to protect children from violence in all its forms and to support a protective environment for children.
- iv) All AMS shall promote strong leadership and commitment from all governments and civil society organizations and private/business sectors to ensure implementation of the ASEAN RPA on EVAC.
- v) All AMS shall establish a system to periodically review and evaluate the roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies in ensuring the protection of children from violence and the impact of measures adopted.

**c) A participatory approach**

- i) All AMS shall recognize, respect and promote Article 12 (the right to be heard) of the CRC which calls for the right of the child's opinion to be heard, and given due weight in matters which affect the children, they must be enabled to exercise their right to express their views freely according to their evolving capacity.
- ii) All AMS shall promote awareness to the public at large including vulnerable children and child victims on the harmful effects of VAC through information by all appropriate means, education and training, on the different forms of violence, preventive and response measures to ensure children's protection.
- iii) All AMS shall take all measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of children, to ensure the recognition of their dignity, to promote their safety and self-reliance, and to facilitate their active participation in the community.
- iv) All AMS shall take all measures to ensure that children are vested with the right to channel complaint by providing communication procedures, systems, and mechanisms for children to lodge complaint.

**d) Due diligence**

All AMS shall act to eliminate VAC with due diligence. This would mean that AMS shall commit to take all reasonable measures to prevent, prosecute and provide recovery for victims/survivors.

## **VI. Time Frame**

This RPA on EVAC covers a period of ten (10) years (2016-2025).

## **VII. Policy Statement and Ultimate Goal**

AMS have a policy of zero tolerance for any form of VAC. The ultimate goal of this plan is therefore the elimination of all forms of VAC in the ASEAN Member States.

## **VIII. Objectives**

The objectives of this Regional Plan of Action are:

- a. ASEAN has institutionalised EVAC policies and sustained support across pillars and sectors;
- b. AMS have effective prevention and protection services supported by national EVAC legal framework and institutional mechanisms.



## IX. Regional Plan of Action on Violence Against Children

The following actions will be adopted at regional and national levels the implementation of which will be considered in accordance with regional and national contexts and circumstances:

### **ACTION 1: Prevention**

1. (a.) Develop ASEAN Guideline on non-violent approach to nurture, care, and development of children in all settings (e.g. home, school, community, juvenile justice center, alternative care institutions). (Regional)  
  
(b.) Contextualise the ASEAN Guideline (as it appears in No.1) for suitable application and implementation in respective AMS and provide free and easy access to information and support to parents, caregivers, and communities to improve their skills and understanding on positive discipline, ensure non-violent interactive communication and relationship with children, child nurture, child care, and promote an enabling environment for effective child development and learning.
2. Raise awareness among all sectors of society on the harmful effects of all forms of violence against children through formal and informal education (e.g. traditional and social media) to promote change in attitudes, behaviours and practices. (National)
3. (a) Develop child safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure that all stakeholders safeguard children from all forms of violence. (National)

- (b) For organisations, institutions, and agencies working with and for children to develop policies and procedures that prevent their staff and personnel from abusing children. (National)
4. Develop a comprehensive child focused and holistic prevention strategy, applicable in multiple contexts (development, crisis, conflict, emergency preparedness and disasters) which include the establishment of a strong child-centered and gender sensitive protection system. (National)
  5. Prioritise prevention policies and intervention measures to mitigate and address the underlying causes of all forms of violence against children and develop programmes to ensure all children receive appropriate care either from their own families, caregivers, or community/faith-based alternatives. (National)
  6. Promote the deinstitutionalisation of children especially those aged three years and under to reduce violence by strengthening the implementation of alternative family care services (e.g. adoption, foster and kinship care, and legal guardianship). (National)
  7. Strengthen leadership and governance for child specific budgeting and policies for violence prevention, to include among others, birth registration and documentation of undocumented children. (National)
  8. Establish a national birth registration system for all children. (National)
  9. Develop preventive measures against violence in cyberspace (e.g. bullying and sexual exploitations) and ensure that these measures are extended to all settings including homes, schools, communities, and the business sector. (National)

## **ACTION 2: Protection, Responses and Support Services**

10. Develop regional guidelines in compliance with international standards on child protection systems, including quality care, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration, support services, remedies and compensation where appropriate for child victims/survivors in all situations (e.g. natural disasters, social-political unrest and armed conflict). (Regional)
11. Establish or strengthen national, bilateral and regional mechanisms to effectively coordinate among States and non-State entities all responses and support services for child victims/survivors and their families, and in cross-border cases, there should be a referral system and coordinated social services between the countries. (National)
12. Create and/or strengthen a child and gender sensitive reporting and complaint mechanism for children and/or their representatives to file their VAC grievances and enable such mechanism to facilitate effective and timely remedies (National).
13. Establish and/or strengthen community based networks for early detection, intervention and response to protect children at risk, and children affected by violence, including collection of relevant information for further utilization in planning, programming, monitoring and evaluation. (National)
14. Establish or/and strengthen national toll free 24-hour telephone help lines to receive and respond to all calls on VAC, as part of the national child protection system. This help line network provides emergency

rescue, initial counselling or advice, information on relevant services available and referral to appropriate agencies for assistance and other remedies.(National)

15. Improve protective and supportive services for children affected by violence including physical and psychosocial rehabilitation, counselling services in school and in community, appointment of guardian(s), legal assistance, shelter/housing, provision of life skills development, peer to peer and family supports. (National)
16. Create supportive and appropriate interventions for children and their families experiencing violence with alternative options, services and referrals, in compliance with international standards. (National)
17. Strengthen protective measures for children in conflict with the law by adopting restorative justice approaches, such as diversion and other alternatives to judicial proceedings and detention, reintegration strategies and ensuring that deprivation of liberty is only a measure of last resort and for the shortest time possible.(National)
18. Create special protective measures for children in early childhood who have been victims of violent acts or maltreatment as well as provide effective interventions to abusive parents and caregivers. (National)
19. Create special protective measures for increasing the protection of children with disabilities in the AMS.
20. Review/strengthen protective policies and measures for stateless, migrant, and asylum-seeking children who are victims of violence. (Regional)

### **ACTION 3: Legal Framework, Prosecution and Justice System**

#### **a) Law reform**

21. Prohibit in law and regulations all forms of violence against children in all settings including when associated with the use of ICTs. More specifically: (National)
22. Undertake a legislative review to ensure that legislation relevant to children's protection from violence, are in full conformity with applicable international human rights standards, including but not limited to the CRC and its optional Protocols. (National)
23. Encourage to enact legislation to promote the implementation of positive discipline for children and to prohibit violence against children, including corporal punishment within the family, schools, and other settings including in the juvenile justice system. (National)
24. Repeal all status offenses that treat children as criminals instead of victims especially children working in the streets and other street situations, the use of children by adults in illicit activities or children engaged in prostitution and other high-risk situations, and take all necessary measures to protect them from violence and provide rehabilitation and reintegration services. (National)
25. Criminalize forced labour and ensure compliance with international standards on child labour particularly ILO Convention no. 138 and 182 on minimum age of employment and hazardous forms of child labour and

provide special protection to domestic child workers given its invisible nature. (National)

26. Consider raising the minimum age of marriage to 18 years and provide programmes of care and protection including reproductive health services for teenage parents and their children. Consider repealing legislation which condones, allows, or leads to harmful practices on children. . (National)
27. Promulgate and/or amend relevant laws to address cybercrime related to VAC with relevant provisions to ensure children's safety and protection, and promote adequate penalties to perpetrators wherever they may be located and promote transnational cooperation. (National)
28. Ensure that no person below 18 years of age should be subjected to death penalty, life imprisonment without possibility of release, torture or other cruel, degrading and inhuman forms of treatment or punishment and provide rehabilitation services in compliance with CRC and international standards on juvenile justice. (National)

#### **b) Child sensitive justice system**

29. Establish a child-sensitive justice system that will protect the rights of children in civil, criminal and other proceedings both formal and informal. More specifically: (National)
30. Reduce the recourse to judicial proceedings and deprivation of liberty through diversion and other alternative measures, and in addition, protect children from all forms of violence through development of laws, policies, capacities and quality

alternatives to judicial proceedings and deprivation of liberty.(National)

31. Develop, establish and/or improve child- sensitive procedures in line with the UN Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime as well as the development of outreach, multi-disciplinary services, counselling, and legal aid to support children and their families, in seeking redress for rights violations.(National)
32. Ensure the best interest of the child is given primary consideration in all actions, including when in custody and care arrangements, guardianship, adoption, foster care, and other family and child protection matters.(National)

### **c) Accountability**

33. Establish/Develop legal procedures for adequate and effective accountability mechanisms to provide redress for children. (National)
34. Establish and/or strengthen independent national human rights institutions or its equivalent to accept and file complaint from either children who are victims of violence or their representatives. (National)
35. Include detailed provisions on accountability such as mandatory reporting by professionals and organizations on their observations and information regarding violence against children. (National)
36. Provide regular evaluation and monitoring of the law and its implementation. (National)

37. Prevent impunity for perpetrators who committed violence against children and provide rehabilitation services to prevent victimization of more children. (National)
38. Ensure civil remedies are available not only to punish perpetrators but to contribute to the recovery of the victims, such as paying for the education of the child, reparation, and access to services such as psychosocial counselling. (National)
39. Encourage ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure. (National)

**d) Regional co-operation (in legislation)**

40. Establish coherent extraterritorial jurisdiction for offences and transnational crimes related to violence against children such as trafficking in persons, sale of children, child prostitution, child grooming, child pornography, parental abduction and other related grave offences against children. (Regional)

**ACTION 4: Capacity Building**

41. Develop ASEAN guidelines on pre- and in-service curricula, training programmes, and teaching and learning materials on protective services for child victims/survivors of VAC in accordance with the international standards. (Regional)
42. Develop advocacy materials for various audience (e.g., parliamentarians, helpline personnel, emergency responders, humanitarian actors, community leaders, leaders of faith-based organisations, people in business,



relevant public employees, prosecutors, law enforcers, media staff and civil society organisations) to generate awareness and support on EVAC. (National)

43. Develop creative ways for capacity-building using arts and cultural practices both among duty bearers and children. (National)
44. Develop/strengthen an accreditation system in coordination with educational and training institutions for the professionalization of service providers involved in EVAC. (National)
45. Include child rights and VAC issues in training programmes for education personnel, health care workers, child care workers, social workers, medical personnel, law enforcement and justice personnel to provide them with necessary knowledge and skills to adequately prevent, recognize, and respond to cases of VAC. (National)
46. Strengthen relevant national and regional capacity building institutions through staff development, research, and adequate resource allocation in order to efficiently and effectively provide training and technical assistance on EVAC for all who work with and for children. Promote and support cross-fertilization of national and regional experiences, good practices and lessons learned on EVAC through exchange visits, workshops and documentation (Regional/National)
47. Collect, disseminate, adapt and replicate good practices (including those that build on the strength and resilience of local communities, families and children) and education materials on EVAC. (Regional/National)

48. Strengthen parents' and other caregivers' knowledge and skills on child rights and non- violent approach to child care as well as strengthen access to relevant social protection measures. (National)
49. Build the capacity and resilience of children and support their active participation in the EVAC process. (National)
50. Build skills to uphold children's rights and gender equality principles, including in peaceful conflict resolution in all capacity building programmes/activities, and change gender stereotyping and social norms on the acceptability of VAC. (National)

#### **ACTION 5: Research and Data Collection**

51. Develop and strengthen national system for disaggregated data collection, analysis, sharing and dissemination on VAC using international indicators and research protocols to be used for policy, formulation, planning and programme development on EVAC Ensure that the data is regularly updated and analysed. (National).
52. Conduct a regional study on interventions/ programmes to prevent and eliminate VAC, including reviewing advocacy, legal and policy developments, identifying persisting and emerging challenges and highlighting areas for priority action. (Regional)
53. Develop research agenda on EVAC. (Regional/National)

## **ACTION 6: Management, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation**

54. Develop and/or strengthen national plan of actions to eliminate all forms of VAC with participation of all relevant stakeholders, including children, at all stages of the process and ensure coordinating mechanism for its implementation. (National)
55. Provide adequate technical support, human and financial resources for effective implementation of the national plan of actions . (National)
56. Establish an effective monitoring and evaluation system for EVAC to evaluate progress, based on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and international indicators jointly agreed by ACWC and SOMSWD.(Regional/National)
57. Create or incorporate a coordination mechanism into existing structures to prevent and respond to VAC in disasters and conflict situations.(National)

## **ACTION 7: Partnership and Collaboration**

58. Cooperate with and seek technical assistance from UN agencies and other relevant offices within the UN system, especially the SRSG-VAC, in support of the integration of policy responses to relevant international instruments, effective capacity building, knowledge sharing, and resource mobilization related to EVAC. (Regional/National)

59. Cooperate with and seek assistance from regional and international civil society organisations, other relevant international agencies, inter-regional organizations, the private sector and external partners of AMS in the implementation of RPA on EVAC. (Regional/National)
60. Strengthen and expand cross-border collaboration among AMS through bilateral and multilateral agreements and cooperation programmes to monitor, prevent and respond to cross-border violence against children, including online violence. (Regional/National)
61. Promote and exchange information, experiences, good practices, lessons learned and expertise among AMS on EVAC. (Regional/National)
62. Ensure the participation of all stakeholders, especially children and young people in appropriate programmes/ activities related to EVAC. (Regional/National)
63. Promote and support meaningful and active participation of children and young people and integrate their views into policies, plans and programmes to end violence against children. Support children's forums and networks. (Regional/National)
64. Strengthen the collaboration of ACWC with other relevant ASEAN bodies, civil society organisations and private sector on EVAC. (Regional)
65. Engage the active and safe participation of children in addressing discrimination, prevention of and response to violation of their rights to a childhood free from violence. (Regional/National)

66. Promote campaigns and initiatives on elimination of violence against children in ASEAN in collaboration with the media, civil society organisations and private sector. (Regional/National)

### **ACTION 8: Regional Review and Communication**

67. ACWC Representatives to report annually to ACWC on the progress of the implementation of the RPA on EVAC as well as National Plan of Actions on EVAC and other actions at the national levels. ACWC and SOMSWD to share and disseminate annual reports on the progress of the implementation of the RPA on EVAC.
68. ACWC jointly with SOMSWD shall undertake a midterm review after five years using the guiding principles of the RPA on EVAC to enhance the Plan based on identified gaps and emerging issues.(Regional)
69. ACWC and SOMSWD shall communicate the results of the review to all relevant stakeholders and the public using all types of media.(Regional/National)

## X. Priority Areas for the First Five Years

It has been recommended that the following projects be selected as priorities in the first five years:

### Action 1: Prevention

Develop ASEAN Guideline on the non-violent approach to nurture, care, for the development of children in all settings (e.g. home, school, community, juvenile justice center, alternative care institutions). (Regional)

*Indicator: ASEAN guideline for non-violent child nurturing developed*

Raise awareness among all sectors of society on the harmful effects of all forms of violence against children through formal and informal education (e.g. traditional and social media) to promote change in attitudes, behaviours and practices) (National)

*Indicator: Number of AMS conducting awareness raising campaigns on all forms of VAC*

Promote the deinstitutionalization of children especially those aged three years and under to reduce violence by strengthening the implementation of alternative family care services (e.g. adoption, foster and kinship care, and legal guardianship). (National)

*Indicator: Number of AMS with alternative family care services*

Develop preventive measures against violence in cyberspace (e.g. bullying and sexual exploitations) and ensure that these measures are extended to all settings including homes, schools, communities, and the business sector. (National)

*Indicator: Number of AMS which developed preventive measures against violence in cyberspace*

## **Action 2: Protection, Response and Support Services**

Create and/or strengthen a child and gender sensitive reporting and complaint mechanism for children and/or their representatives to file their VAC grievances and enable such mechanism to facilitate effective and timely remedies (National)

*Indicator: Number of AMS providing such services and number of services available by type and by setting*

Improve protective and supportive services for children affected by violence including physical and psychosocial rehabilitation, counselling services in school and in community, appointment of guardian(s), legal assistance, shelter/housing, provision of life skills development, peer to peer and family supports. (National)

*Indicator: Number of AMS providing protective services, number of services by type of VAC and by setting*

## **Action 3: Legal Framework, Prosecution and Justice System**

Undertake a legislative review to ensure that legislation relevant to children's protection from violence, are in full conformity with applicable international human rights standards, including but not limited to the CRC and its optional Protocols. (National)

*Indicator: Number of AMS that undertake a legislative review on VAC vis-à-vis applicable international human rights standards.*

Reduce the recourse to judicial proceedings and deprivation of liberty through diversion and other alternative measures, and in

addition, protect children from all forms of violence through development of laws, policies, capacities and quality alternatives to judicial proceedings and deprivation of liberty.

*Indicator: Number of AMS which implement diversion programmes and/or other alternative measures to judicial proceedings and detention.*

#### **Action 4: Capacity Building**

Develop advocacy materials for various audiences (e.g., parliamentarians, helpline personnel, emergency responders, humanitarian actors, community leaders, leaders of faith-based organisations, people in business, relevant public employees, prosecutors, law enforcers and, media staff and civil society organisations) to generate awareness and support EVAC. (National)

*Indicator: Number of advocacy materials developed.*

#### **Action 5: Research and Data Collection**

Develop and strengthen national system for disaggregated data collection, analysis, sharing and dissemination on VAC using international indicators and research protocols including survey and administrative data, to be used for policy, formulation, planning and programme development on EVAC. Ensure that the data is regularly updated and analysed.

*Indicator: Number of countries with disaggregated data on VAC*

#### **Action 6: Management, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation**

Develop and/or strengthen national plan of actions to eliminate all forms of VAC with participation of all relevant stakeholders, including children, at all stages of the process and ensure coordinating mechanism for its implementation. (National)



*Indicator: Number of AMS with national plans of action on EVAC developed / strengthened with participation of all relevant stakeholders including children at all stages of the process with a coordinating mechanism for implementation*

Create or incorporate a coordination mechanism into existing structures to prevent and respond to VAC in disasters and conflict situations. (National)

*Indicator: Number of AMS with coordination mechanisms at national and local levels that prevent and respond to VAC in disasters and conflict situations.*

### **Action 7: Partnership and Collaboration**

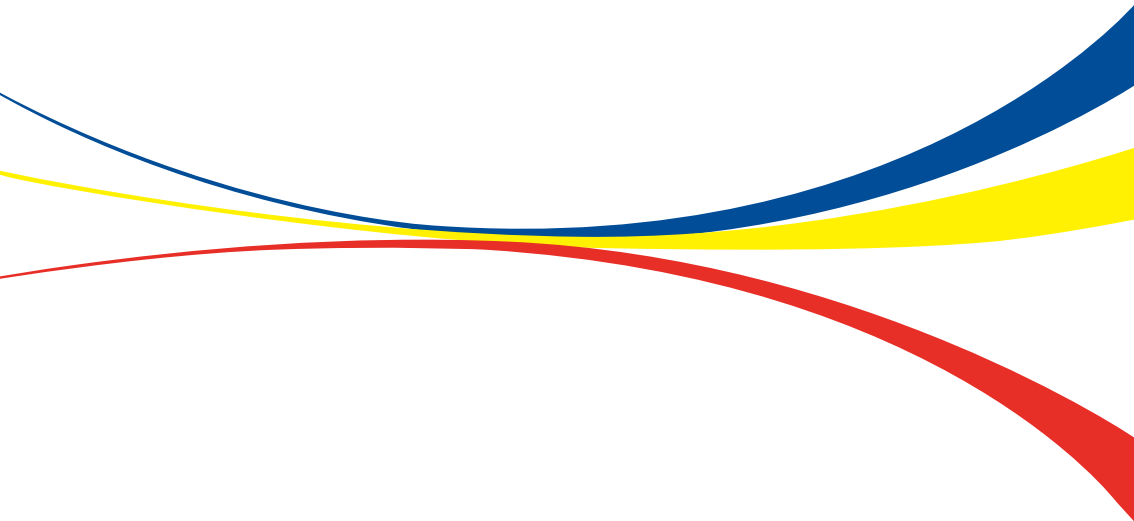
Cooperate with and seek technical assistance from UN agencies and other relevant offices within the UN system, especially the SRSG-VAC, in support of the integration of policy responses to relevant international instruments, effective capacity building, knowledge sharing, and resource mobilization related to EVAC. (Regional/National)

*Indicator: Number of technical assistance provided by UN agencies and other relevant offices within the UN system as well as other agencies working on children.*

# Part II

*ADDITIONAL INFORMATION*





## **I. Recent Achievements and Challenges (as reported by AMS)**

### **(1) Brunei Darussalam**

#### **a) Significant Initiatives in Recent Years taken at National Level**

1. In March 2013, the Child Online Protection (COP) National Strategy Framework for Brunei Darussalam was set up, consisting of a sound research base and monitoring system; capacity building for raising awareness; strengthening existing legal measures; international cooperation; and working with relevant industries. In compliance with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) COP global initiative, the Framework will address the practical and effective measures for tackling children online based on the five pillars of the ITU COP, namely: Legal Measures; Technical & Procedural Measures; Organizational Structures; Capacity Building; and International Cooperation. Awareness Programmes on COP; Cyber Security; and Internet Etiquette have also been conducted in the country.
2. Penal Code Order (Amended in 2012) Commercial sex with a person under the age of 18, Sexual grooming of a person under the age of 16, activities of those who are gratified by child pornography).
3. Children and Young Persons Act (Cap 219) has been fully implemented with effect from 1 March 2010. This Act provides for the protection and rehabilitation of children and the establishment of the Juvenile Courts and Action Teams on Child Protection.

The latter has been enumerated for the purposes of coordinating locally- based services to families, children and young persons in cases where children or young persons are or are suspected of being in need of protection. To ensure that children are protected whilst under police custody, this Act prohibits them from being associated with adult offenders. It also ensures protection of their identity in any court proceedings.

**b) Gaps and challenges**

1. The need for more sex disaggregated data and the need for technical support in engendering statistical system.
2. Other challenges faced involved lack of expertise with regard to children with disability, data availability and lack of awareness as listed below.
3. The need to strengthen existing mechanism of data collection and indicators disaggregated by gender, age and urban and rural areas. This covers all children up to the age of 18 years with specific emphasis on those who are particularly vulnerable and marginalised, including children with disabilities and youth at risk
4. To further increase awareness of children's rights and role/function in family and social settings. To strengthen and systematise the dissemination of the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child through social mobilisation.
5. To further promote on the proper use of technologies, with urgent attention to the internet, television and mobile communications, based on human values, respect for self and others and child rights.

6. To train children to be self-sustainable and in resiliency skills to strengthen them in the face of adversity, particularly children who have been ill-treated and children from dysfunctional families
7. Require technical assistance in term of strengthening the counselling services and training in life skills.
8. Shortage of qualified local health personnel which makes it necessary for Brunei Darussalam to employ foreign doctors, nurses and other allied health professionals.
9. For children with disabilities to strengthen the existing system of data collection disaggregated by disability in accordance with the International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health
10. To improve education and training for children with disabilities.
11. To enhance expertise in developing abilities of persons with disabilities.

## **(2) Cambodia**

### **a) Significant Initiatives in Recent Years taken at National Level**

1. The Royal Government of Cambodia, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSVY), Ministry of Women Affairs (MOWA) and Cambodia National Council for Children in Collaboration with UNICEF Cambodia launched a national survey on Violence against Children in Cambodia.

2. The Royal Government of Cambodia issued Core Commitments to prevent and respond to Violence against Children in Cambodia on 22 October, 2014.
3. The MOSAVY integrated the issues VAW and VAC in the strategic framework and action plan of the ministry.
4. The CNCC developed a National Plan for Child Development (NPCD) in Cambodia, in which the NPCD clearly articulated the issue of VAC, in its Strategy (Strategy 3: Strengthen Child Protection, and Prevent Children from Violence, Drug, Trafficking and Hazardous Work.
5. Highlighted and integrated the VAC issues and responses into national public campaign such as National and International Children's Day, International Women's Day etc.

**b) Gaps and challenges**

1. Limited resources (technically and financially on VAC programme implementation)
2. Coordination Mechanism still mater of issues.
3. Limited service support to the victims including knowledge and education and awareness-raising at the grass-root level.
4. Lack for specific data information on VAC (all types of violence)

**(3) Lao PDR**

**a) Significant Initiatives in Recent Years taken at National Level**

After our leader committed to AESN Declaration on VAW and VAC in 2013.

6. In 2012 the government prepared for conducted National Baseline survey on VAW and VAC. The VAW survey was completed in 2013 and VAC survey was completed in 2014.
7. In 2014, the government has adopted National Plan of Action to prevent and eliminate VAW and VAC 2014-2020
8. In 2015, the National Assembly has adopted the Law on the prevention and eliminate VAW and VAC.
9. In 2015, the government approved long term strategy for women and strategy for mothers and children 2016-2025 and vision to 2030. The five years National Plan of action to implement strategy was also approved for 2016-2020.

**b) Gaps and challenges**

1. Capacity
2. Limited Funding
3. Coordination
4. Communication strategy and public awareness and participation.

**(4) Myanmar**

**a) Significant Initiatives in Recent Years taken at National Level**

1. The Law relating to Early Childhood Care and Development was enacted in 2014.
2. ECCD Policy has been formulated in 2014 and Early Childhood Intervention, one of the tasks of the policy, has also been initiated to consult among stakeholders composing the management team and task force.



3. Myanmar National Social Protection Strategic Plan has been laid down with eight flagships in 2014. It includes Pregnant mothers and child allowance (early 1000 days) and child allowance for nutrition. The important Flagship, Integrated Social Protection Service (ISPS) has been piloted to establish Case Management System in 27 townships towards National System for all vulnerable groups in collaboration with UNICEF, Save the Children and Myanmar Red Cross Society.
4. In terms of Reforming process, the new Child Rights Law (Draft) consisting new chapters such as VAC, Adoption, Alternative care and Diversion in compliance with CRC and in particular, concluding observations is ready to submit to the Parliament.

#### **b) Gaps and challenges**

1. No survey and research findings
2. Unreliable data and information
3. Despite ECCD Policy which cover up to 8 years, there is gap for overall child protection policy.
4. Limited awareness on legal application
5. Strengthen victim assistance
6. Awareness raising to prevent VAC
7. Urgent need for National Plan of Action for Children in Emergency

### **(5) The Philippines**

#### **a) Significant Initiatives in Recent Years taken at National Level**

1. Development of the DepEd Child Protection Policy. Guidelines that sets the standards and the procedure in

addressing violence against children in school (bullying). Said guidelines was incorporated in the Family Development Sessions (FDS) of the Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino program.

2. Capacity building initiative of the DSWD on Positive Discipline with house parents of child caring institutions and social workers
3. Conduct of the “Child Friendly Establishments” and “Child Labor Free Barangay” both pertaining to prevention of child labor
4. On-going initiative on the conduct of the National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children (NBS VAC)

#### **b) Gaps and challenges**

1. Provide effective violence prevention, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration services for children. Community-based prevention and diversion programs must be developed to create positive and non-violent environments for children and their families at home, in school, and other settings.
2. Develop and enhance the capacity of all who work for and with children and families in promoting non-violence. Programs must be developed to equip them with knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary for the prevention of violence against children in all settings.
3. Educate parents, children, caregivers, policy-makers, sector workers (i.e. police, judiciary, educators and health workers) and the public at large on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and on existing laws and policies related to the prevention of violence against children. Specific campaigns should be undertaken to raise community awareness on the effects of violence against

children, to advocate change in harmful social and cultural norms, and to promote gender equity/equality, non-discrimination, the fostering of positive, non-violent relationships with children, and the breaking of the culture of silence on violence in all settings.

## **(6) Singapore**

### **a) Significant Initiatives in Recent Years taken at National Level**

1. Increasing Sector Competency Through Training by the Social Service Institute
  - 1.1 Singapore is currently developing a training framework, targeted at professionals in the social service, educational, health and criminal justice sectors to build competencies in the use of Child and Adolescents Needs and Strengths (CANS) Tool. CANS is a multi-purpose tool developed for children's services to support decision making, improvement and monitoring of service outcomes.
  - 1.2 Communities of Practice will also be established for practitioners to develop and exchange best practices, as well as to promote client-centric and safe inter-agency practices in the management of family violence and child protection cases.
2. Establishing Child Protection Specialist Centres (CPSCs)
  - 2.1 Two community-based child protection specialist centres were established in 2013 to provide specialised assessment and interventions for cases with moderate child protection concern.
  - 2.2 CPSCs adopt a child-centric, family-focused and community-based approach in keeping children safe

with their families. As part of their intervention, the CPSCs also provide intensive home-based parenting sessions or counselling for children and their families.

3. Implementing a Trauma-Informed System of Care
  - 3.1 A trauma-informed system of care has been implemented for the entire welfare and protection population, to facilitate a more responsive and effective in the delivery of services to women and children who have experienced violence and trauma.

#### **b) Gaps and challenges**

1. Limited diversity and capacity of care options and services for vulnerable children
  - 1.1 Vulnerable children with child protection needs are placed in either family-based or residential care in Singapore. However, there is a lack of diversity and capacity of care options.
  - 1.2 MSF is looking to grow new care options and services such as family preservation and reunification services to better meet the needs of these children. Initiatives such as the setup of fostering agencies will help to increase the capacity of foster care in Singapore.

### **(7) Thailand**

#### **a) Significant Initiatives in Recent Years taken at National Level**

1. The Protection of Children Born as a Result of Assisted Reproductive Technologies Act of 2015 has been adopted. This Act is to be administered according to the

principle well-being and best interest of a child born as a result of assisted reproductive technologies (ART) to prohibit the commercial surrogacy.

2. Thailand has ratified three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, namely, Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2006), Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts (2006), and Optional Protocol on a Communication Procedure (2012).
3. April 2015, the Government of Thailand introduced a Child Support Grant Scheme which poor and near-poor families with children will receive a monthly allowance of 400 baht per child from 0 to 1 year of age. This cash transfers for children can be highly effective in promoting better nutrition, long-term improvements in health and better educational outcomes among the most vulnerable children. Under this scheme, cash assistance will be provided to parents and caretakers of children born from October 2015 to September 2016. About 135,000 young children in Thailand are expected to share the benefit from this policy.
4. A series of research on elimination of violence against children (EVAC) has been developed to create the database for further policy makers, strategists, or other relevant stakeholders.
5. The training on ending violent against children has been developed in schools, communities and institutions to encourage the non-violent and positive discipline for the children.

## **b) Gaps and challenges**

1. The attitude and value adjustment is importance to end violence against children since there is still some traditional believe.
2. Training in personal development and improving support service in sectors is required.
3. More research should be conduct on the pre-school children, infant, children aged up to 8 years old, in specific issue of the role of community in EVAC.

## **(8) Viet Nam**

### **a) Significant Initiatives in Recent Years taken at National Level**

1. The protection of children in special circumstances in general and prevention of violence against children in particular has been included in and incorporated into the national plans, programmes, specifically:
  - 1.1 Implementation of the National Action Plan for Children 2012-2020 aiming at: Reduced rate of children in special circumstances to less than 5.5% of the total children population in 2015 and to 5% in 2020; increased percentage of children in special circumstances receiving support and care for rehabilitation, reintegration and development opportunities to 80% in 2015 and 85% in 2020; the rate of children subjected to violence is decreased by 20% in 2015 and 40% in 2020;
  - 1.2 Implementation of the National Programme on Child Protection 2011-2015 with focus on prevention of violence against childern in order to:

- Create a living environment in which every child is protected and children in special circumstances and children with high risks are given priority to.
  - Actively prevent, minimize or eliminate the risks that can harm children; minimize the number of children falling into special circumstances and children who are maltreated, abused and exploited.
  - Provide in-time support and recovery for children falling into special circumstances and child victims, create opportunities for their integration into the community and equal opportunities for their development, through the development of a comprehensive and effective child protection system
2. Implement the communication campaign on prevention of VAC nation-wide, particularly in June - the Action Month for Children.
  3. Provide directions for development, consolidation and operation of the child protection system nation-wide.
  4. Issue one Circular guiding the intervention procedures to support the abused child victims

#### **b) Gaps and challenges**

1. Inadequate/lacking of knowledge and skills for child protection, care and education by parents, child caregivers leading to the limitation in the capacity of the families, communities in child protection. In addition, the limited awareness of laws and legislations may also lead to violence against children.
2. Incomplete child protection system. Particularly, lacks of legislation and policies in the child protection services system still that create the conditions for the operation of an effective provision of child protection services; lacks of

a concrete inter-sectoral collaboration mechanism and related legislation on provision of the provision of child protection services; limited coordination role of the labor, invalids and social affairs sector

3. Limited number and capacity of the staff working on child protection and care in localities, particularly the number of social collaborators and workers.



## II. International Human Right Instrument which AMS should consider ratifying, if not already done:

- a) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
- b) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict
- c) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure
- d) The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- e) The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- f) ILO Convention No. 138 on the minimum age for admission to employment and work
- g) ILO Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour, 1999
- h) ILO Convention No. 189 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers, 2011

- i) The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
- j) The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

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#### IV. Drafting Process of ASEAN RPA on EVAC

The drafting process of ASEAN RPA on EVAC was supported, financially and technically by the Royal Thai Government through the Department of Children and Youth, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, UNICEF Thailand Country Office, SAVE the Children, Plan International and World Vision Foundation of Thailand. The drafting process were;

STEP	ACTIONS	DATE
Step 1	Established of the Joint ACWC – SOMSWD Working Group on Drafting ASEAN RPA on EVAC, consisting of ACWC and SOMSWD representatives of Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.	15 Oct 2014 (At the 1 <sup>st</sup> Joint ACWC-ACW meeting)
Step 2	Established of Thailand's Sub-committee Working Group on Drafting RPA on EVAC (TWG) by the appointment of the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, Mr. Yongyuth Yuthavong, the Royal Thai Government.	6 February 2015
Step 3	Collected of all relevant documents/materials on EVAC from UN agencies, ASEAN region, and other regions as well as NGOs and INGOs etc (total 70 documents).	February 2015
Step 5	Consolidated all recommendation by TWG to come up with significant items relevant to ASEAN (as minus one draft)	April 2015

Step 6	Drafted the zero version by TWG based on minus one draft	April 2015
Step 7	<p>Organized of two consultative meetings</p> <p>a) For government authorities, NGO, academic, mass media and civil society (6 May 2015).</p> <p>b) For International NGO, International organization and International community (7 May 2015).</p> <p>c) After those two meeting, TWG and joint ACWC and SOMSWD focal point met into session to consider the recommendation form a) and b) and formulated the first draft of ASEAN RPA on EVAC.</p>	6 – 7 May 2015
Step 8	<p>Sent Draft to all member of ACWC and SOMSWD Focal Point for their comment/recommendation. The deadline to return the responses was 15 July 2015.</p> <p>1) The following countries/organization sent in their response;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MS. Marta Santos Pais, the Special Representative of the Secretary General on violence against children</li> <li>- Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia Laos PDR, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam</li> <li>- Plan International (Cambodia, Philippines and Viet Nam)</li> <li>- Child Rights Coalition Asia</li> </ul>	May – July 2015

Step 9	Incorporated those comment/ recommendation where appropriate by TWG as initial action.	July 2015
Step 10	Organized the joint working group meeting in Bangkok on 29 – 30 July 2015 to consider the draft as appear in step (9). This is the final draft from the working group to be presented in Jakarta. Consultative Meeting to be held jointly by ACWC and SOMSWD Focal Point.	29 – 30 July 2015
Step 11	Propose the draft to the Joint Meeting of ACWC and SOMSWD Focal Point in Jakarta, 27 August 2015	August 2015

## V. Thailand Working Group (TWG)

- 1) Mrs. Saisuree Chutikul Chair of TWG
- 2) Mrs. Rarinthip Sirorat  
Director-General, Department of Children and Youth  
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security  
(MSDHS)
- 3) Mrs. Kanda Vajrabhaya ACWC
- 4) Ms. Usanee Kangwanjit  
Deputy Director-General, Department of Children and  
Youth, Ministry of Social Development and Human  
Security
- 5) Mrs. Supatcha Suttipol  
Director, Children and Youth Protection Division,  
Department of Children and Youth, Ministry of Social  
Development and Human Security (MSDHS)
- 6) Mrs. Orapin Sak-Eiam  
Director, Strategy and Planning Division, Department of  
Children and Youth, Ministry of Social Development and  
Human Security (MSDHS)
- 7) Mrs. Teppawan Pornnawalai  
Children Expert, Department of Children and Youth,  
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security  
(MSDHS)
- 8) Ms. Wimolrat Ratchukool  
Director, ASEAN Division, Office of the Permanent  
Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Human  
Security (MSDHS)



- 9) Mrs. Panpimol Wipulakorn  
Deputy Director-General, Department of Mental Health,  
Ministry of Public Health
- 10) Dr. Chotisa Pavasuthipaisit  
Department of Mental Health, Ministry of Public Health
- 11) Mr. Suriyadeo Tripathi  
Director, National Institute for Child and Family  
Development, Mahidol University
- 12) Dr. Wimonthip Musikaphan  
National Institute for Child and Family Development,  
Mahidol University
- 13) Emeritus Professor Dr. Pensri Pichaisanih
- 14) Mrs. Sienoi Kashemsantana Ayuddhaya
- 15) Mrs. Srisak Thai-arry  
Commissioner, National Commission on Child and Youth  
Development Promotion
- 16) Save the Children Representative
- 17) Ms. Victoria Juat  
Chef Child Protection, Child Protection Section, UNICEF  
Thailand
- 18) Ms. Grace C. Agcaoili  
Regional Child Protection Specialist,  
UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific  
Regional Office
- 19) Mrs. Chitra Thumborisuth National Director  
World Vision Foundation for Thailand

- 20) Ms. Ticha Nopratkhet  
National Advocacy Coordinator World Vision Foundation  
for Thailand
- 21) Ms. Edelwesiss Silan  
Technical Programme Director, The Border Consortium
- 22) Ms. Pusa Srivilas
- 23) Ms. Sudthida Keophaithool Plan International
- 24) Ms. Sangdao Aree  
Director, International Cooperation Group, Department of  
Children and Youth, Ministry of Social Development and  
Human Security (MSDHS)
- 25) Ms. Ratchadaporn Songsuwon  
Department of Children and Youth, Ministry of Social  
Development and Human Security (MSDHS)
- 26) Mrs. Thienthong Prasanpanich  
Department of Children and Youth, Ministry of Social  
Development and Human Security (MSDHS)
- 27) Mr. Trin Sriwong  
Department of Children and Youth, Ministry of Social  
Development and Human Security (MSDHS)
- 28) Ms. Kamonchanok Saelao  
Department of Children and Youth, Ministry of Social  
Development and Human Security (MSDHS)

## VI. Joint ACWC - SOMSWD Working Group (ASWG) on Drafting of ASEAN RPA on EVAC

### Brunei Darussalam

- 1) Datin Paduka Hajah Intan bte  
Haji Mohd Kassim ACWC  
ACWC Chair / Special Advisor
- 2) Mrs. Saisuree Chutikul ASWG Chair ACWC

### Malaysia

- 3) Dr. Chiam Heng Keng ACWC  
President, Early Childhood Care and  
Education Council Malaysia
- 4) Ms. Laila Khalidah Ismail SOMSWD  
Principle Assistance Secretary, Policy  
Division, the Ministry of Women, Family and  
Community Development

### Philippines

- 5) Ms. Lina B. Laigo ACWC  
Managing Director, Guidance & Counseling  
Center and Constant, Director of PWU-  
Institute of Family Life & Children Studies,  
Philippine Women's University
- 6) Ms. Florita Rubiano Villar SOMSWD  
Undersecretary, Policy and plans group,  
Department of Social Welfare and  
Development

## **Viet Nam**

- 7) Ms. Vu Thi Kim Hoa SOMSWD  
Deputy Director General, Department of Child Protection and Care, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affair
- 8) Ms. Ha Thi Minh Duc ACWC  
Deputy Director General, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affair

## **Thailand**

- 9) Mrs. Kanda Vajrabhaya ACWC
- 10) Ms. Wimolrat Ratchukool SOMSWD  
Director, ASEAN Division, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

## **ASEAN Secretariat**

- 11) Ms. Ajeng Purnama  
Technical Officer, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, ASEAN Secretariat

## **Secretariat**

- 12) Ms. Sangdao Aree  
Director, International Cooperation Group, Department of Children and Youth, MSDHS, Thailand
- 13) Mr. Trin Sriwong  
Department of Children and Youth Development, MSDHS,

## VII. ACWC Representatives

No	Country	Representative on Women's Rights	Representative on Children's Rights
1	<b>Brunei Darussalam</b>	<b>Dayang Hajah Mordiah bte Haji Jackia</b>	<b>Datin Paduka Hajah Intan bte Haji Mohd Kassim</b> (Chair)
2	<b>Cambodia</b>	<b>Mrs. Long Sophally</b> (Vice Chair) Ministry of Women's Affairs	<b>Mrs. Khiev Bory</b> Secretary-General of the Cambodia National Council for Children (CNCC) Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation
3	<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>Ms. Lily Purba</b>	<b>Mr. Ahmad Taufan Damanik</b>
4.	<b>Lao PDR</b>	<b>Ms. Soukphaphone Phanit</b> Director of International Relations Division Lao Women's Union	<b>Ms. Chongchith Chantharanonh</b> Acting Secretary-General National Commission for Mothers and Children Secretariat Office of the Government
5	<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>Dato' Sabariah Hassan</b> Secretary-General Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development	<b>Prof. Datuk Dr. Chiam Heng Keng</b> President Early Childhood Care and Education Council Malaysia

No	Country	Representative on Women's Rights	Representative on Children's Rights
6	<b>Myanmar</b>	<b>Dr Khin Mar Tun</b> Chair, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation	<b>Ms. Rupal Mya</b> Director Department of Social Welfare
7	<b>Philippines</b>	<b>Prof. Aurora Javate-De Dios</b> Executive Director Women and Gender Institute, Miriam College	<b>Mr. Alberto T. Muyot</b> <i>(Waiting for appointment from the Government)</i>
8	<b>Singapore</b>	<b>Mdm (Mrs.). Laura Hwang Cheng Lin</b>	<b>Mr. Koh Choon Hui</b>
9.	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>Mdm. Kanda Vajrabhaya</b>	<b>Dr.Saisuree Chutikul</b>
10	<b>Viet Nam</b>	<b>Ms. Cao Thi Thanh Thuy</b> Deputy Director General International Cooperation Department Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA)	<b>Mr. Dang Hoa Nam</b> Deputy Director General, Child Protection and Care Department Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA)

## VIII. SOMSWD Focal Point

### **Brunei Darussalam**

Ministry of Culture, Youth & Sports Acting  
Director  
Department of Community Development

### **Cambodia**

Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth  
Rehabilitation  
H.E Mr. TOCH Channy  
Director General of Technical Affairs

### **Indonesia**

Ministry of Social Affairs  
Mr. Mu'man Nuryana, M.Sc., Ph.D Head  
Board of Education and Research on Social  
Welfare

### **Lao PDR (SOMSWD Chair)**

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare  
Mr. Chomyaeng PHENGTHAONGSAWAT  
Deputy Director General of Planning and  
Cooperation Department

### **Malaysia**

Ministry of Women, Family and Community  
Development Dato' Sabariah Hassan  
Secretary General

## **Myanmar**

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and  
Resettlement U Soe Kyi  
Director General  
Department of Social Welfare

## **Philippines**

Department of Social Welfare and  
Development Ms. Florita Villar  
Undersecretary for Policy and Plans Group  
Department of Social Welfare and  
Development Batasang Pambansa Complex,  
Constitution Hills Quezon City, Philippines

## **Singapore**

Ministry of Social and Family Development  
(MSF) Mr. Chan Heng Kee  
Permanent Secretary

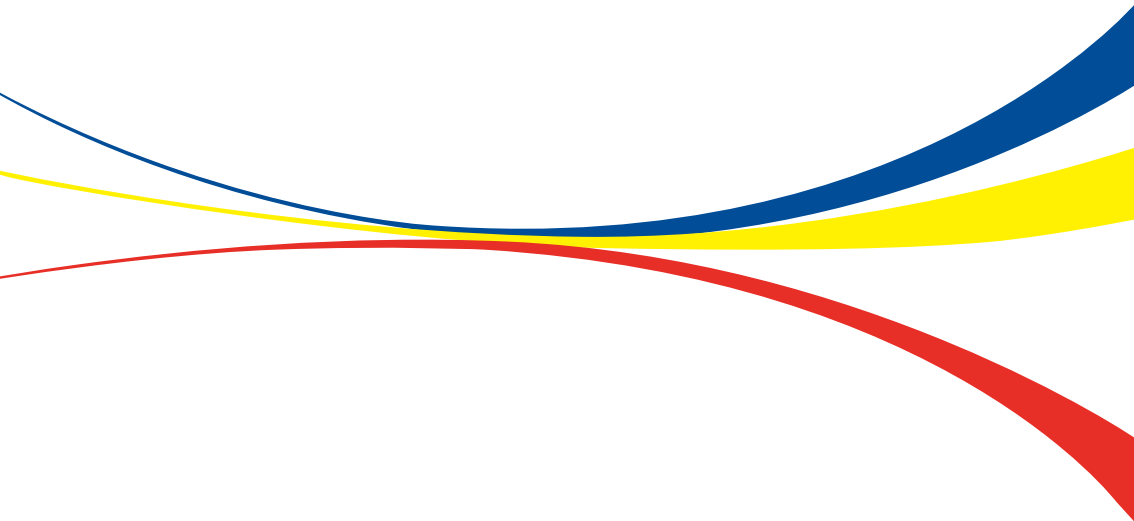
## **Thailand**

Ministry of Social Development and Human Security  
(MSDHS),  
ASEAN Division, Office of the Permanent Secretary  
Ms. Wimolrat Ratchukool  
Director of ASEAN Division

## **Viet Nam**

Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs  
Ms. Le Kim Dung  
Director General  
International Cooperation Department





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