

VUFO - NGO Resource Centre
CHILD RIGHTS WORKING GROUP

Meeting minutes

18th March, 2016, from 9 - 11.30 AM

Chaired by Plan International and VACR

Venue: UNICEF Office, 304 Kim Ma, Ba Dinh, Hanoi

Participants: NGORC, IMC, SD for Health, Hagar, UNICEF, VVOB, MACDI, ChildFund, Oxinh Club, Action Aid, Plan International, VACR, Cefacom, MSD Vietnam, World Vision Vietnam

KEY CONTENT AND FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

1. Updates information on follow up actions which related to CRC report preparation process:

Thematic reports focusing on key issues facing vulnerable children's groups

- Ethnic Minority children
- Children engaged in or affected by migration
- Children with disability
- Child labour
- Gender discrimination against children
- Child migration: include children who are left behind due to migration domestic & international

Action points:

- Template for collecting data to prepare for the dialog with National Assembly will be circulated again for all CRWG members - deadline 31 of March, 2016.
- CRWG members indicate which topics they would like to work on and communicate with the group
- Continue to collect data as agreed template

2. Budget analysis for research on child protection:

- Review and agree on the final ToR
- Budget allocation: Policy Environment Analysis; Budget Performance Analysis: identify rules and mechanisms in a various ways.
- There will be 5000 USD from Child Fund and it could be more.
- UNICEF and Action Aid would also contribute in term of financing for this study
- It will focusing on budget allocation and expenditure
- Center institution Economic Management (under MPI) is recommended by Thuy for this study

Action points:

- The latest version of TOR will be sent to all CRWG members for comments/inputs by Pham Lan – Unicef – deadline: 31 of March.
- CRWG members provide comments/inputs, particularly on two things: Research questions; Selecting study geographic areas; CRWG also propose potential consultant(s) for this study.
- If any organizations have any budget analysis tools/documents... please share with the entire group as well.

3. Child Marriage issues and solutions:

- This topic is one marginalized area- currently it's not hot enough to make one specific project . *ChildFund introduced their case study and questioned what do to other organizations do in order to prevent early child marriage*. Child Fund, World Vision, Plan are interested in working on child marriage prevention, UNICEF has conducted a clip on that issue and found some root causes of child marriage. World Vision conducted a survey in Quang Ngai, Plan has implemented child marriage prevention project in Ha Giang for 4 years and will continue in next 4 years.
- Sometimes it is a tradition for certain minority groups. Even girls seduce the boys . We should discuss this in the national workshop and raise awareness within the ethnic group.
- We also should have a dialogue with the community: Will we comply with the central government's direction or stay with the tradition? Child marriage is a very difficult social problem. It is not only due to the tradition for certain groups but also numerous social-economic barriers.

Q. what do other organizations do? What is the best solution?

- WVV-evidence:
- In 2014, child marriage survey was conducted in Quang Ngai. There are evidences of changing in perception of people in terms of child marriage. The average marriage age has increased from 14 to 16 years old. This is a heavy concern in remote/mountainous areas
- We still need more research in other provinces: We should look for information and consolidate evidences

Action points:

- Organizations interested in this topic will work together for sharing and planning what we should do to address the issues
- CRWG members share documents, research, survey... about child marriage to all groups for learning

4. Child law

- The child law is expected to be approved in this April.
- There are many changes between the latest version with the version we worked on some months ago.
- Positive changes: child right committee will be lead by Prime Minister, child protection and child participation chapter
- Negative changes: child friendly justice and independent child right monitoring

Action points:

- The latest version and consolidated comments from National Assembly members will be sent out to all CRWG members for comments and inputs. (Pham Lan) A meeting with Mr. Huu – UNICEF’s consultant for advising National Assembly members will be organized .
- CRWG members will provide comments and inputs and send directly to Pham Lan for consolidation.

5. Study on the roll of CSO on child protection – Capacity gap analysis by UNICEF:

Target: protect child rights and organizations, we also play an implicit role to mobilize CSOs, since the role of CSOs is huge . Unicef aims to work with: Law Association ; Inform CSOs, inform & strategic planning support ; Inform partners about CSOs’ work. Unicef focuses on:

1. Train CSOs in Vietnam
2. Analyze challenges and difficulties of CSOs and recommendation (legal environment and capacity building)

Please click the link below for detail presentation: http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/webfm_send/10112

- Timeline: July
- 2 consultations will be organized: 1 for planning and 1 for draft report

Action points:

- TOR will be shared for inputs and comments
- The organizations will share relevant research to Pham Lan (World Vision, NGORC...)

6. Child Helpline :

World Vision will discuss with Child Helpline directly

Child Fund will share innovative methods of counseling/help (e.g. Facebook, web-based counseling...)

7. Agreed plan for 2016

- Prepare for policy dialog with National Assembly on child right.
- Conduct a research on budget analysis for child protection.
- Continue to advocate/comment/input for the child law

8. Child Helpline :

- World Vision will discuss with Child Helpline directly
- Child Fund will share innovative methods of counseling/help (e.g. Facebook, web-based counseling...)

