Aspirations and Explorations: Good Practices of the Campaign Against Child Trafficking in Southeast Asia

Asia Against Child Trafficking (Asia ACTs)
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*Printing of this document was made possible through the funding support of Terres des Hommes-Netherlands and Oak Foundation. Excerpts from the publication maybe freely reproduced provided that due knowledge is given to the source and publisher.*

Printed in the Philippines
July 2009
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in Southeast Asia

Asia Against Child Trafficking (Asia ACTs)
with funding support from
Terre des Hommes-Netherlands and Oak Foundation
We give praise and thanks to the Almighty for making us
Hear the tiny voices that have been silenced
Find the small bodies that have been hidden and beaten
Aid those whose small shoulders have been over-burdened
We give thanks to the Almighty
for hearts that feel the pain and joy of those who have suffered
for the energy to get our tasks done
and the Spirit showing us how to live and care for one another
In Memory of Director Finardo G. Cabilao, Philippine Social Welfare Attache to Malaysia and Mr. Lor Soknal, Programme Coordinator of Vulnerable Children Assistance Organization
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Message

During the past eight years (2001-2009), Asia Against Child Trafficking (Asia ACTs), a broad network of more than 125 different NGOs from seven Southeast Asian countries campaigned together to protect children from trafficking. The network developed the "Southeast Asian Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Children Victims of Trafficking" from a human rights perspective. The endorsement of these guidelines (albeit with a few revisions) by the 6th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Hanoi (December 2007) was an important stimulus for the network.

Having the Guidelines endorsed by the ASEAN was an important step forward. However, significant policy advocacy had to be done to have the guidelines included in the policies and approaches of the various Southeast Asia governments. For years, the network has made efforts to influence those in authority to ensure the proper treatment and protection of child victims of trafficking by the State. Proudly we can say we attained some encouraging success. These years of campaigning have been very instructive for all members of Asia ACTs that the idea came about to share the experiences with others. Hence this publication, "Aspirations and Explorations: Good Practices of the Campaign Against Child Trafficking in Southeast Asia".

We have collected 22 good practices of the campaign against child trafficking from 5 countries in Southeast Asia but selected only 16 stories for the purpose of the book. The anthology embodies our eagerness to share our experiences with others. Ultimately, we hope that the compilation will contribute to strengthen the movement against child trafficking and to encourage child rights workers never to falter in their mission.

I want to thank, in particular, the Asia ACTs Secretariat for their coordinating role and encouragement in the anti-trafficking campaign in Southeast Asia. Special thanks go to the country networks, like Indonesia ACTs, Cambodia ACTs, Burma ACT, Philippines Against Child Trafficking, Ho Chi Minh City Child Welfare Foundation, Child Trafficking Watch-Thailand and Village Focus International for their tireless promotion of the guidelines in their countries.

Frans van Dijk
Regional Director for South East Asia
Terre des Hommes - Netherlands
Aspirations and Explorations: Good Practices of the Campaign Against Child Trafficking in Southeast Asia is a documentation of Asia ACTs’ commitment in combating child trafficking. Recognizing the urgent need to address the issue on child trafficking, seven focal country networks decided to tread on a journey to protect children from being exploited due to trafficking and to uphold the rights of those who have been victimized.

After eight years of hard work, Asia ACTs takes a pause to look back and put into writing each of the country partners’ journey to stop child trafficking in Southeast Asia. This document aims to encourage other international and local organizations especially those taking on anti-trafficking initiatives, legislative bodies, and the civil society to embark on a journey with us to protect the children and the children victims of trafficking.

The stories from the field were written under specific themes common to our country partners. This document presents their distinct experiences, various strategies and processes that have created positive results.

The essence of this document also lies within the dedicated country partners and their networks that continue to work hard both at the national and local level. This two-pronged approach as practiced by Cambodia ACTs and the Philippines Against Child Trafficking (PACT) has led to the adoption and implementation of the Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Trafficked Children. For Indonesia ACTs, its policy advocacy mechanisms were set in place to ensure the incorporation of the human rights standards into the country’s law trafficking.

Understanding the complexity and sensitivity of handling trafficked children, PACT has expanded its network and allied with other non-government organizations and government agencies to advocate for the establishment, reactivation and strengthening of referral system and provide better services to trafficked victims. On the other hand, Cambodia ACTs shares its story on building allies among the young people.

Burma ACT shares its rich experience in empowering community leaders, community members and the vulnerable children through awareness-raising. In its effort to impart information through trainings and workshops, Burma ACT has capacitated the community with knowledge and organizing skills which are considered as fundamental factors in addressing child trafficking and other grave issues.

The story from Ho Chi Minh Child Welfare Foundation is an example of how people with different capacities can complement each other and work together to do greater things for their community and children. It also tells the story of how a functioning child protection mechanism works for the recovery and reintegration of trafficked victims.
Lastly, Asia ACTs believes in providing opportunities for children to participate in various aspects that affect their lives, such as decision-making, self-expression and protection mechanisms. When children are in a group, they project an innate strength and confidence that motivate the community or the adults to be more proactive in protecting their children. In Indonesia, children were given an opportunity to convey their message about child trafficking. The Declaration of Indonesian Children is one of the positive outcomes of the National Children Summit which was organized by Indonesia ACTs.

The stories of the country partners focus on these five themes: Policy Advocacy, Alliance Building, Awareness Raising, Child Protection Network and Child Participation. Through these stories, we have relived our experiences and rekindled the strength within and among us. And through “Aspirations and Explorations: Good Practices of the Campaign Against Child Trafficking in Southeast Asia,” we hope to share this strength and inspire more people to stop child trafficking.

Amihan V. Abueva  
Regional Coordinator  
Asia ACTs
Acknowledgement

The book on good practices of the campaign in Southeast Asia emerged from the eight years of experience, service, passion and commitment of the Asia ACTs network. The documentation was made possible through the grant provided by Terre des Hommes – Netherlands and Oak Foundation. Although the different campaign strategies are interlinked, the stories and documentations are classified into five major categories or themes.

Documentation and validation of these stories were made possible through the close collaboration and guidance of country focal points: Aung Myo Min, Chea Pyden, Emmy Lucy Smith, Muhammad Jailani, Hening Budiyawati, Juthamas Rajchaprasit, Santiphong Moonfong, Huynh Kiem Tien and Marcelina Carpizo. Thanks to your painstaking efforts.

Our heartfelt gratitude to the external evaluators and writers, and the country partners and campaign secretariat that produced the good practices, namely, Cambodia Against Child Trafficking: Song Saran and Chheang Chheangkeang; Indonesia Against Child Trafficking: Dewi, Yuli and Atik; Philippines Against Child Trafficking: Sally Ujano, Sheila Formento, Vida Subingsubing and Nancy Trani; the staff of Ho Chi Minh City Child Welfare Foundation; the Human Rights Education Institute of Burma; and the staff of TDH-Netherlands, most especially Ruth Eveline, Nur Janna, Herni Susanti, Stella Echano and Hem Chanpiseth.

Many thanks to the members of the Technical Working Group: Khun Siriporn Skrobanek and (Ret) Usec. Lourdes Balanon, for their constructive criticisms and suggestions. Our deepest gratitude to Mr. Frans Van Dijk, the Regional Director of TDH-NL Southeast Asia Office who accompanied us and shared with us his time, energy, wisdom and unwavering support.

Last but not the least, to our families and friends who have put up with the long hours of work and frequent trips, thank you for understanding.

Congratulations to all of us!

Asia ACTs Secretariat
Prologue

Child trafficking is the recruitment, transport, transfer, harbouring or receipt of children by means of threat, force, coercion, deception and abuse of power or position. Trafficking in boys and girls for commercial sexual exploitation, for begging and solicitation, for child marriage, for forced labour, for illegal adoptions, for drug trade and for other illicit activities, continue to exist in Southeast Asia.

Asia ACTs was established in 2001 when representatives from seven countries—Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam—joined together to respond to the urgent issue of child trafficking. At the time, the trafficking in children and women was the third most profitable criminal activity in Asia and the rest of the world, next to illegal drugs and arms trafficking. To achieve its goals, Asia ACTs adopted several strategies: to increase public awareness of the problem, to conduct community education campaign, to organize child protection network, to conduct research on child trafficking, to provide direct services for child victims of trafficking through its partners, to establish and strengthen partner NGOs, to lobby for laws that address trafficking in the national and regional levels.

Through the years of implementation, Asia ACTs recognized that “three years was not enough to uncover the exact extent of child trafficking within and across the countries in Southeast Asia. The campaign had just begun to unravel the push and pull factors of child trafficking: growing deprivation and marginalization of the poor; discrimination against women and children; restrictive migration laws; ignorance regarding the realities and dangers of trafficking and insufficient penalties against traffickers, among other factors like the opening up of Asian markets. Indeed, human trafficking was the dark face of globalization.”

Thus, Asia ACTs continued its programmes, taking on the drafting and lobbying for the Human Rights Standards for Trafficked Children as its main focus, realizing that no human rights standards for the trafficked children have been drafted by any governments in the region.

To this day, Asia ACTs is probably the only NGO network in Southeast Asia that has made Human Rights Standards for Trafficked Children a major campaign issue.

After eight years, Asia ACTs’ reason for existence still holds true—with a big difference, because partner countries can proudly say that the campaign in each country has made a difference. Governments in majority of member countries have enacted laws to protect children against child trafficking, and adopted the Human Rights Guidelines. Thousands of villages in the region have been enlightened about the dangers of child trafficking and have been taking concrete action to protect children.

With the regional projects nearing its conclusion, it becomes imperative then to identify specific techniques, practices, methodologies and approaches that has been proven effective and are
worthwhile to share with others for replication, again in contribution to the overall goal.

According to a report written by Mike Dottridge, “When it comes to trafficking in persons and trafficking in children, the term ‘good practice’ is not limited to services provided to people who have already been trafficked, but also used to refer to initiatives to prevent trafficking and to various law enforcement practices.” Further more he mentioned that “…there are no internationally recognized procedures to follow before a particular service or strategy is labelled a ‘good practice’, nor has any single organization been given the task of assessing what should be labelled as good practice or recognized as a repository for information about good practice. Instead, a multitude of organizations use the term, each following different procedures and standards to conclude what constitutes ‘good practice’.

The result is that it is difficult to know what ‘good practices’ are. It is safe to believe that they have been thoroughly tested and evaluated and in what circumstances they are likely to be replicable with success. Practitioners must, instead, depend on common sense and the reputation of the organization concerned.”

**The process we went through**

In October 2008, the Asia ACTs network conducted a workshop in Hanoi that generated common themes and criteria for identification of good practices of the campaign.

**Common Themes**

1. Capacity building for children, government, NGOs, civil society
2. Partnership and networking for sharing of resources, coordination, collaboration, cooperation and commitment
3. Mobilization and participation
4. Good governance
5. Child protection network/referral system
6. Policy advocacy
7. Awareness raising
8. Institutional building
9. Sustainability

**Criteria:**

1. Implemented from a human rights/child rights perspective
2. Encourages participation from wider groups of people (including children and mass media)
3. Promotes stronger communication and coordination; has good cooperation between government and NGOs; involves collaboration of different groups; involves partnership between different actors; enhances awareness and mobilizes people to action
4. Promotes empowerment of community and children  
5. Shows accountability and transparency  
6. Demonstrated level of sustainability  
7. Proven and effective solution to the problem of child trafficking  
8. Has a solid program framework (clear plan of action, can influence attitude and perception of specific target groups; information collection and analysis; acceptance of service providers towards victims; piloting and identification of factors contributing for replications; has potential for replications  
9. Has solid policy base  
10. Capacity building of service providers (has initiatives to build capacities in communities, governments, etc.)

How do we conclude that the particular activities constitute “good practice”? Again, it was discussed in Dottridge’s report that: “…activities in question must be evaluated. Assessing what is good practice implies well organized monitoring and evaluation of initiatives to stop children from being trafficked, as well as checking on the impact of the initiatives – whether that they have had the desired impact and also that they have had other, unintended or less desirable effects.” Thus it is therefore imperative that the documentation on good practices will likewise include the evaluation on the implementation of the campaign and of the regional projects, in general.

The results of the Hanoi Workshop were taken into account in coming up with the proposed process of documenting the good practices. In the follow up Regional Workshop on Good Practices held in Chiangmai in April 2009, country focal points presented the process they went through in documenting the stories of the good practices.

In general, a similar process was adopted by the country networks: partners were invited to submit papers on good practice based on the set criteria; screening committee was formed to short list; external evaluators did validation through various approaches and helped out in writing the stories.

Through the help of a Technical Working Group, the Asia ACTs network has agreed to collapse the themes from nine to five themes namely: policy advocacy, alliance building, awareness raising, child protection network and child participation.

The chosen stories on the good practices were presented to partners of Cambodia ACTs, Ho Chi Minh Child Welfare Foundation, Philippines Against Child Trafficking and Burma Against Child Trafficking.

In the spirit of critical self-reflection and sincere desire to continue its objectives in the 8th year of the campaign, Asia ACTs publishes this documentation on the good practices and learning experiences in carrying out anti-child trafficking programmes. The collection of good practices and learning experiences affirms the correctness of Asia ACTs’ objectives. The publication is a milestone that marks an end of one phase and a new beginning for the Asia ACTs campaign against child trafficking.
ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children

WE, the Heads of States/Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, members of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations, hereinafter referred to as ASEAN.

REAFFIRMING the Ha Noi Declaration of 1998 and the Ha Noi Plan of Action, which, among others, committed to intensify individual and collective efforts to address transnational crimes, including the trafficking in persons;

EXPRESSING the urgent need for a comprehensive regional approach to prevent and to combat trafficking in persons, particularly women and children;

ACKNOWLEDGING that social, economic and other factors that cause people to migrate also make them vulnerable to trafficking in persons;

RECOGNIZING that the immorality and inhumanity of this common concern elicits the need to strengthen legislative, law enforcement and judicial responses to ensure deterrent action is taken against persons involved in individual or syndicated activities of trafficking in persons, particularly women and children;

APPRECIATING that a successful campaign against the scourge of trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, requires continuing dialogue, exchange of information and cooperation among ASEAN;

REAFFIRMING ASEAN’s unwavering desire to embrace the spirit behind the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its relevant protocols as it reflects the commitment of the Member States of the United Nations to prevent and combat transnational organized crime;

REAFFIRMING through this Declaration a commitment to human development and security, and the improvement of the quality of life of the peoples of ASEAN;

HEREBY DECLARE, to the extent permitted by their respective domestic laws and policies, to undertake concerted efforts to effectively address an emerging regional problem, namely the trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, through the following measures:
1. To establish a regional focal network to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, in the ASEAN region;

2. To adopt measures to protect the integrity of their respective passports, official travel documents, identity and other official travel documents from fraud;

3. To regular exchange of views, information sharing on relevant migratory flows, trends and patterns, strengthening of border controls and monitoring mechanisms, and the enactment of applicable and necessary legislations;

4. To intensify cooperation among our respective immigration and other laws enforcement authorities;

5. To distinguish victims of trafficking in persons from the perpetrators, and identify the countries of origin and nationalities of such victims and thereafter ensure that such victims are treated humanely and provided with such essential medical and other forms of assistance deemed appropriate by the respective receiving recipient country, including prompt repatriation to their respective countries of origin;

6. To undertake actions to respect and safeguard the dignity and human rights of genuine victims of trafficking in persons;

7. To undertake coercive actions/ measures against individual and/or syndicate engaged in trafficking in persons and shall offer one another the widest possible assistance to punish such activities; and

8. To take measures to strengthen regional and international cooperation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons. All Member Countries reaffirm their commitment to accomplish the elements of this Declaration through maximum efforts by such appropriate instruments as may be necessary and consistent with their respective national laws and policies.

ADOPTED by the Heads of State/ Government of ASEAN Member Countries on this Twenty-ninth Day of November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic.
Policy advocacy is the efforts to influence those in authority to develop and implement rules, guiding principles or procedures to guide or control institutional, community, and sometimes individual behavior. Interest groups and individuals undertake policy advocacy to influence policy makers to create policies, to reform policies and to ensure policies are implemented. Advocacy may include ways such as discussing problems directly with policy makers, delivering messages through the media or strengthening the ability of local organizations to lobby.

The practice of effective policy advocacy is delineated in the A-Frame Approach that constitutes the following steps:

**Analysis:** To have impact on public policy, the networks have to begin with accurate information and in-depth understanding of the issues, the policies and the implementation or non-implementation of those policies, the stakeholders and the channels of access to influential people and decision-makers. The networks must have strong foundation of knowledge on these elements, so that the advocacy can become more persuasive.

**Strategy:** The policy advocacy effort of the networks needs a strategy. Building from the analysis phase, the strategy enables the networks to direct, to plan, to focus on the set specific goals and to situate the advocacy efforts towards the direction of those goals and objectives.

**Coalition-building:** Creating alliances and partnerships reinforces the advocacy efforts. It must be clear among the networks that the events, activities, messages, and materials are designed with the objectives, audiences, partnerships and resources. These elements must be planned to have high positive impact on the policy-makers and very high participation by all coalition members.

**Communication:** It is important to keep all the partners together in carrying out the advocacy. Partners must know and repeat messages consistently, using credible materials developed over and over to ensure the unrelenting attention and concern on the issue.

**Evaluation:** Monitoring and assessment of the advocacy efforts must be built in the program. An advocacy team from the network needs to measure regularly and objectively what has been accomplished and what more remains to be done.

**Continuity:** The network must plan for continuity and look toward long term goals, keeping the partnership together and ensuring that data are continuously gathered to analyze changing situations. Policy advocacy must be viewed as an ongoing process rather than a single policy or piece of legislation.
Protecting the Bamboo Shoots
Cambodia ACTs and Cambodia National Council for Children

Introduction:


Ultimately, on 14 December 2007, His Excellency Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, approved the Decision on the Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Trafficked Children of the Kingdom of Cambodia. He publicly appealed to all parents, guardians, relevant ministries, development partners and civil society to give attention to children, who were described as “the bamboo shoots which shall grow as the pillars of national development…” The Prime Minister urged all concerned to prevent the children “from falling into any debauchery tricks by perpetrators targeting them from commercial, sexual and labour exploitation and other criminal acts.” He called on all development agencies and the public to continue supporting the CNCC.

On the broader country-scale, efforts to promote children and women’s human rights within an anti-trafficking context appear to be gaining momentum. Cambodia has chalked up a notable record in laying down legal and institutional environment by which joint government and civil society can address trafficking issues. Policy advocacy by Cambodian civil society with the government, with strong technical and financial support from the international community, has contributed towards setting up such milieu.

The process:

Government’s adoption of the Guidelines was the culmination of Cambodia ACT’s policy advocacy with the CNCC. The process of adoption began with the Seminar Workshop on the Southeast Asian Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Children Victims of Trafficking in March 2006, sponsored by Asia ACTs. The draft of the Guidelines was completed during the seminar-workshop.

Part of the Cambodian delegation at the time was H.E. San Arun, then the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs. The delegation discussed the prospects for a Cambodia ACTs-CNCC cooperation to draft and adopt similar guidelines for Cambodia.

The need for such policy was brought to the government’s attention. A Working Group to draft the Guidelines was organized, led by the Minister of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth. H.E. Nim Tout, supported by the current Minister of Women’s Affairs, H.E. Dr. Ing
Kantha Phavi, and with representation from the various line ministries (labour, interior, justice, education, tourism and planning). Civil society representation was brought in with non-government organizations and network, such as Cambodia ACTs, ECPAT Cambodia, Coalition to Address Sexual Exploitation of Children in Cambodia (COSECAM) and the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP). The Working Group met four times to draft the guidelines which went through several reviews and revision.

The final draft was finally presented at the national level consultation on September 2006. The draft was sent to CNCC and the Council of Ministers for further review, and then to the National Assembly for deliberation. Finally, it was approved in December 2007.

Two levels of policy advocacy:

Policy advocacy as practiced by Cambodia ACTs members require coordination at the high-levels of government where policies are being enacted or where authority is exercised to push subordinate agencies to mainstream already established laws or adopted policies. Policy advocacy at the higher-levels of the Ministry, National Assembly and the national executive bodies requires more substantial networking, partnership and collaboration.

As the process for drafting and approval of the Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Trafficked Children of Cambodia has shown, the active involvement of high-level personalities within the national government ministry is crucial. In this case the endorsement of the Minister of MOWA, HE Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi, the active involvement of the Secretary General of CNCC, Ms. Chan Haran Vadey, and the CNCC Chairman HE Ith Samheng, speed up the process. Nevertheless, it took nearly two years before the draft became a decision.

Meanwhile, localized policy advocacy using the Village Safety Net Program (VSNP) requires the preparation of evidence-based information which is the result of the consultations done with VSN stakeholders at the communities, citizens, commune council members, district governors and children. It is also the result of monitoring done by local stakeholders on cases of trafficking, domestic violence, school drop-outs, migrant child labour and the resulting behaviour change brought about by awareness raising, counselling and sensitization activities. Stakeholders, including children, are trained to present the evidence-based information. Consultations are then sought with the Provincial Governor, who has the authority to issue the Provincial Decree to the provincial line ministry offices and to the district-to-commune authorities. Support and cooperation of the provincial authority should be obtained at the onset of the action program’s implementation. A formal partnership can be the means to obtain the support of the authorities. The setting-up of a functional Secretariat is a way to cement the relationship. Regular visits and consultations by staff ensure that the relationship is sustained. The local authorities are asked to conduct feedback sessions to communities on the actions they have taken on the community-action plan. Lastly, media
must cover developments and the carrying out of obligations by the governors, sector officials and communities.

**Necessary conditions:**

- Cooperation and support of various stakeholders
- High-level authorities support to local actions
- Clearly defined advocacy issue
- Clear set of advocacy targets
- Forming Lobby/Advocacy Bloc
- Availability of Resources

**Achievements and accomplishments:**

Localized policy advocacy resulted in the adoption of the VSN program by districts, communes and villages where Cambodia ACTs operates. The VSN set up a community plan for children. It has coordinated actions overseen by the District Governor and implemented by relevant District offices, Commune Councils, School Administrators, teachers, village committees, adult and children peer groups. The VSN have set up the platform for cooperation, provided adequate awareness of trafficking and built up stakeholders’ capacity to respond according to their responsibilities.

The adoption of the Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Trafficked Children of the Kingdom of Cambodia remains as a distinct accomplishment of Cambodia ACTs in terms of high-level policy advocacy. Clinching the government’s adoption is, however, only half of the advocacy effort. Legislation and written guidelines are good on paper but it is the actual implementation that addresses the main issue of trafficking. Cambodia ACTs and the CNCC are currently preparing plans for the dissemination of the Guidelines to relevant government offices, non-government organizations and civil society from national to local levels.
Ensuring the Best Interests of Children in the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act
Institut Perempuan

Introduction:

Indonesia ACTs considers giving birth to UU Pemberantasan Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang No. 21 Year 2007 (UU PTPPO) or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act as a collective learning process. It is also an engagement to regulate the Act to warrant its adherence to the human rights standards.

The advocacy of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act in Indonesia started in year 2000 with a research on children and migrant workers. Although the academic manuscript was completed in 2002, the Parliament ignored it. Then, in 2004, the President instructed the Parliament to discuss the Act. At first, the drafting of the Act was given to the Third Commission of the Parliament because of its link with the issue of immigration. Eventually, the mandate to discuss the Act went to the Eighth Commission because of its closer relation to society’s welfare than to immigration. These dynamics were continuously monitored by members of Indonesia ACTs and its networks.

The process:

There were points of contention throughout the legal drafting process. In the early stage, for instance, the draft did not use the definition of trafficking as stated in the Palermo Protocol. It had no strict differentiation between child and adult victims of trafficking. Moreover, important child rights principles were not explicitly included in its provisions.

Indonesia ACTs employed several strategies in advocating the UU PTPPO/Anti-Trafficking in Persons ACT.

*It strengthened the child protection perspective of the parliament, government, women’s rights activists and Indonesia ACTs members.*

The Indonesian government has recognized the issue of trafficking since the implementation of Presidential Decree Number 88, 2002 about National Action Plan of P3A. However, in the discussion of RUU PTPPO, the criminal act of child trafficking was not included. The RUU only covered the criminal act of human trafficking. Therefore, strengthening the child protection perspective of the Parliament and the government in this case was very important to make sure that the Law adopted the Human Rights Standards. To ensure this, Indonesia ACTs distributed position papers, attended discussions and conducted media campaigns through press releases and press conferences.
Indonesia ACTs also supported the process of drafting related regulations like Government Decree, Presidential Decree, Decree of the Head of National Police Department including Minimum Standards of Services for trafficking victims and the Standard Operational Procedure. Through meetings, the government, especially the Ministry of Women Empowerment, learned about the Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Children Victims of Trafficking. These meetings were also beneficial to build cooperation with the government, for example, in exchanging information on the process of the advocacy. The government also granted Indonesia ACTs the chance to give input and to be involved in drafting the law. Indonesia ACTs urged the government to give venue for the participation of communities in the formulation of the law.

*Indonesia ACTs conducted discussions, joined press conferences, published press releases and participated in lobbying.*

It is important to note that human rights activists in Indonesia have a weak understanding of child rights protection. Social movements and human rights activists are accustomed to working on a specific issue which tend to limit their understanding of human rights. Thus, it is essential to strengthen the perspective of activists, especially the women’s rights activists, on child protection.

*Indonesia ACTs expanded its network.*

Advocacy conducted by expanding the network resulted in the incorporation of child rights perspective in UU PTPPO/ Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act. Each group of advocates contributed to strengthening the perspective of parliament members on the rights of children, women and migrant workers.

*It participated in formulating the draft of UU PTPPO.*

Indonesia ACTs joined in the legislation process by attending hearings, lobbying and alliance building with the main authors of the national law—the Ministry of Women Empowerment, Law and Human Rights Department and parliament members from Golkar Party and Amanat Nasional Party.

In the process, Indonesia ACTs also involved children community educators. Using the Guidelines, Indonesia ACTs worked to incorporate the child rights perspective in the Anti-Trafficking Law.

*Indonesia ACTs managed the process to maintain substance.*

The alliance organized discussions with stakeholders including government, members of parliament, police department and NGOs. As a result, the Panitia Kerja or working committee of the parliament became open to suggestions.
It continued the process of integrating the child rights perspective.  

While the parliament has accommodated some of the important points about child trafficking, the Anti-Trafficking Law of Indonesia does not entirely contains human trafficking per se. It does not provide specific definition on child trafficking which is substantially different from human trafficking. Indonesia ACTs sees that UU PTPPO is one of the examples of the law in which children have no complete protection which they are entitled to.  

Up to the last discussion of the draft, Indonesia ACTs together with parliament members from Indonesia Democratic Party of Struggle continued to fight for the incorporation of the definition of child trafficking in the national Anti-Trafficking Law, but most parliament members said it would not be possible because it was already the deadline for the legalization of the draft. To break the deadlock, the assembly leader suggested that parliament members take a break and listen to some lobbying points.  

This gave opportunity for further lobbying and as a result of lobbying, child trafficking would be included in Government Decree or Presidential Decree to be produced as the mandate of the UU PTPPO. Thus, Indonesia ACTs would continue to oversee the process of the implementation of UU PTPPO.  

Another result was the incorporation of child rights principles in one of the articles of Government Decree on Procedure and Mechanism of Integrated Service for Witness and/or Victims of Human Trafficking Number 9, 2008. Moreover, the Decree of Ministry of Women Empowerment Number 01, 2009 on Minimum Standard of Services in Integrated Service Center in City or District for Witness and/or Victims of Human Trafficking was made according to the Guidelines published by Indonesia ACTs.  

The process have been rough sailing for Indonesia ACTs, but no matter how difficult, the alliance will continue to disseminate the information to the communities, to encourage them to continue the fight against child trafficking and to lobby for the integration of the Human Rights Standards in the national law.
Introduction:

In 2003, the government approved Republic Act 9208, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003. Yet, there was a need for guidelines for the protection of children who are victims of trafficking in the Philippines. The Asia ACTs Secretariat, Philippines Against Child Trafficking (PACT) and its partner organizations are the principal advocates of the Philippine Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Children Victims of Trafficking.

There are three main reasons why there is a need for a Philippine Human Rights Standards for the treatment of trafficked children: Firstly, the Anti-Trafficking Law (RA 9208) is not focused on child trafficking. There were only a few provisions in the law that relate to children. Secondly, as a State Party to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the country must have a guideline that will focus on the human rights approach in treating trafficked children. Thirdly, the service providers are not knowledgeable about the human rights issues or standards that require the appropriate measures and treatment of victimized children. The guidelines are important because these provide principles, directions in the conduct of action, the handling and management of the victims especially for the agency, groups or persons who provide the direct services to trafficked children.

Victims of trafficking are not aware of their rights and have very limited access to information. It can thus happen that they may also be “victimized” by the institutions that are supposed to protect them.

The process:

As early as 2003, Asia ACTs partners, while aiming to urge the governments in Southeast Asia to immediately implement the human rights standards for trafficked children, realized that such guidelines were not yet available, at least in the region. Through the support of Terre des Hommes-Germany, Asia Partnership for Human Development and UNICEF Manila, Asia ACTs convened a regional workshop in Bohol, Philippines in 2004, solely for the drafting of the guidelines with several international instruments as main references, for example, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography; the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Recommended

A series of roundtable discussions and trainings with various agencies on the Philippine Guidelines were conducted. Survivors of child trafficking also shared experiences and gave recommendations to enrich its formulations. Finally, in July 2008, the IACAT adopted the Philippine Guidelines for the Protection of Trafficked Children with the avowed duty to cascade it down to the local levels.

Two-pronged approach:

ASIA-ACTs and PACT carried out policy advocacy by a two-pronged approach: policy advocacies at the national level, for macro legislations to bring about institutionalization of law and structure; and, policy campaigns at the local level, for local governance to fully take effect.

To illustrate local policy advocacy, Asia ACTs and PACT in Davao City, Southern Philippines, through its local partner, Child Alert-Mindanao, helped popularize the Philippine Guidelines in three barangays. The community education session was attended by about thirty-five participants, composed of local government officials and staff of local government agencies. Through the December 12 Day Against Child Trafficking commemoration, the same partner organizations were able to reach about 90% of the 184 community level officials. Moreover, local level campaigns were inexpensive. Community education sessions were found to cost only about 20 pesos per person.

Beyond RA 9208 and the Philippine Guidelines, campaigns on the ground-- consisting of community education, local network organizing for resource mobilization, comprehensive information dissemination and implementation of popular media, were essential in consolidating efforts against child trafficking. Hence, spirited advocates and champions reside not only at the macro level but, most importantly, also at the local levels; each supporting the effort of the other.

PACT supported a series of three-day trainings and disseminated copies of the Philippine Guidelines. It conducted community education workshops as opportunities to enhance understanding of children’s rights. It launched information dissemination on the Guidelines with NGOs, social workers, Philippine National Police, direct service providers, policy advocates and government officials at the local level.

Prominent persons with influence and authority played an important role in lobbying for policy approval. Former Undersecretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development,
Lourdes Balanon, was one of those responsible for including the Philippine Guidelines in the IACAT agenda. She described the strategies practised by the networks:

“Consultations transpire with stakeholders at all levels from national to local, from decision makers to service providers, from adults to children in communities, from government to NGOs, to society as a whole. It is important to have coordination and cooperation between government and NGOs, to identify support person or groups in government who can ‘champion’ your cause, and has access, or is in the decision making level. Development of IEC materials and use of tri-media for advocacy is important. Messages should be clear. Identify friends in the media to assist in awareness raising and dissemination of information”.
Adoption of the Guidelines to Protect the Rights of Children Victims of Trafficking by ASEAN: The Untold Story

The Asia ACTs network was happily surprised when the draft South East Asian Guidelines to Protect the Rights of Children Victims of Trafficking was approved and adopted in the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare Development held in Ha Noi in December 2007. Such worthwhile endeavour was well received by other groups also aiming for the eradication of child trafficking.

The decision making in the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare Development takes several processes. In relation to proposed policies, the copy of the document should be sent to countries for study/comments/clearance. Lobbying with the ASEAN Secretariat is important to make sure that discussion on the draft policy will be part of the agenda in the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM). The discussion at this level is very important because it will determine whether the draft policy will be endorsed to the next ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for approval.

The process and the concurring partners in government

The collaboration between the Department of Social and Development (DSWD)-Philippines and Asia ACTs in relation to the human rights standards started in 2005 when Asia ACTs Regional Coordinator Amihan Abueva had requested that the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) be a full partner in organizing the workshop on the Philippine Guidelines. Since the first draft of South East Asian Guidelines had already been drafted by that time, Asia ACTs also sought the support of the DSWD in lobbying for the adoption of the guidelines at the ASEAN, especially through the DSWD representatives attending the Senior Officials Meeting in the ASEAN on Social Welfare Development, which is the ASEAN body responsible for children’s concerns.

The ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting happens yearly while the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development happens every three years. In ASEAN, hosting is done alphabetically by country. Thus, for December 2007, the meeting was set to be held in Vietnam.

When Lourdes Balanon, then the Undersecretary of the DSWD, attended the ASEAN Ministers’ Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD) in Bangkok in December 2004, she had forwarded the draft document to the ASEAN Secretariat responsible for Social Welfare and Development, to request the inclusion of the discussion on the Guidelines on the Rights of Trafficked Children at the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (ASOMSWD) on October 2005. The said draft, known to Asia ACTs network as the Bohol Document, was drafted in August 2004. It was very timely indeed that Usec. Balanon
was able to submit the draft Guidelines to the ASEAN Secretariat a week or so before she retired from DSWD.

The ASEAN Secretariat usually has to give copies of matters in the agenda before the meeting for the study of the ASEAN Senior Officials and there will be discussions and clearance on each respective government’s position on the matter.

Usec Balanon, being the senior official in the DSWD responsible for policy and programs, used to attend all of the Senior Officials Meetings. When she retired, Mr. Finard Cabilao, the then Director of the Social Technology Bureau of the DSWD was the one sent to attend in behalf of the Philippines. Usec. Balanon requested Director Cabilao to ensure that the draft Guidelines would be discussed in the agenda in preparation for the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development.

With Director Cabilao taking the cudgels of lobbying in support of the Guidelines, he then took on the responsibility of promoting the Guidelines when he attended the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (ASOMSWD) held in Kuala Lumpur on October 2005. The Senior Officials requested more time to consult with their constituents and higher officials. However, as standard operating procedure, countries, are to officially give their comments to the ASEAN Secretariat, which shall be forwarded to the proponent country, in this case, the Philippines, for consideration. These comments are usually discussed during the next Senior Officials Meeting.

In the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (ASOMSWD), held in Myanmar on November 2006 the comments and suggestions of the countries on the draft Southeast Asian Guidelines were discussed specifically on the:

* use of the words “have the right to” vis-à-vis “should be entitled to” in relation to the statement on the principle of non-discrimination. The ASEAN has included a statement imposing responsibility to the country of origin, transit and destination to make the trafficked child free from any stigma brought about by trafficking.

* the inclusion of the multi-disciplinary approach
"Alliance building" is the process of selecting the most effective members for the team and bringing these members together. Alliance members may consist of individuals, organizations, businesses or other groups. These include policy makers, town councils, community development councils (CDCs), civil society, academe and the private sector.

An alliance is defined as a credible group of individuals brought together to accomplish a specific goal or purpose which will benefit all members of the group in some way.

People enter into formal alliances for a variety of reasons.

- In response to a threat: Individuals, groups, and organizations will sometimes band together in an attempt to preserve security and stability in response to a threat, real or perceived.

- In cases of similar or shared beliefs: People or groups which share common beliefs or goals may also form alliances. Although alliances have historically formed in reaction to a threat, increasingly, nations and other organized bodies are using alliances as proactive tools to solve problems.

- Economic interdependence: Groups, which rely on each other financially, or which make financial exchanges, may form alliances.

- Groups share the same members: Alliances are sometimes formed when group members of one organization are involved or somehow associated with another organization. People will often move in and out of both circles. The “insiders” can use their knowledge of these organizations to emphasize joint areas of responsibilities, vision, and goals; thereby, identifying possible alliance members.

Alliances emerge when one or more parties take it upon themselves to further their own interests beyond what they could accomplish individually. Alliance formation not only involves organizations that have similar interests; some also enlist members based on personalities and personal interests. There can be a single reason or host of reasons that influence allies to collaborate with one another. Thus, on the one hand, there are circumstances such as threats, economic interdependence, commonalties, and similarities in group membership that can lead to alliance formation. On the other hand, there are human or personal factors.
**Introduction:**

Region 9, which encompasses the Zamboanga Peninsula in Southern Philippines, is considered a hot spot in child trafficking, where children from poor rural communities are recruited and forced to work in hard labour camps and prostitution dens within the country or across borders. Women and girls are usually brought to Brunei or Malaysia, where they are forced to work as prostitutes in small karaoke bars. Some are sold for cheap labour or for marriage to foreigners. There are cases of trafficked women and children from Zamboanga City shipped through the Philippine backdoor—the Zamboanga-Bongao-Sabah route. From 2004 to 2006 alone, various agencies in Zamboanga City posted 675 cases of human trafficking.

In recent years, government agencies and NGOs started to work more closely together, realizing that the menace is too great a threat to be addressed by any single institution alone. On the government side, different institutions coalesced to form the Regional Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (RIACAT). On the civil society side, NGOs banded together to form Philippines Against Child Trafficking (PACT) network. These two network worked hand in hand, constantly coordinating with each other, if not jointly implementing projects and campaigns.

Although much is yet to be done, the convergence in Zamboanga has led to the sharing of resources, information and expertise. The referral network has been growing strong. The blending of approaches on handling trafficked children has resulted to positive changes on the role of the duty bearers. With their efforts to integrate initiatives, stakeholders in Zamboanga can lay claim to many a small yet profound victory. Right now, their concerted efforts have distinguished the region as having the first conviction of a human trafficker in the history of the Philippines.

**Organizations involved in the alliance:**

There are various government and non-government institutions on the frontlines of anti-child trafficking campaigns.

The City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) of Zamboanga City have been the de facto regional crisis centres for trafficked persons in Region 9, administering social services and enforcing laws on child protection. The Zamboanga CSWDO has also been facilitating the coordination of government agencies, NGOs and private sectors regarding resource mobilization.
and implementation of welfare and relief programs. The PNP has fully activated its Women’s and Children’s Desk, catering to a wide range of cases from violence against women to child trafficking.

*Katilingban para sa Kalambuan, Inc.* or Community for Progress is a non-stock and non-profit organization founded in 1995 to help poor communities in Zamboanga City. KKI is currently serving sixteen urban poor communities in Zamboanga City. In 2001, KKI launched its campaign against child trafficking with the Centre for Peace and Development – Western Mindanao State University (WMSU). Community campaigns were conducted with support from Asia-ACTs and ECPAT Philippines. KKI has been active in the rescue, shelter and education of street children, and children who are victims of child trafficking. With the support of its partners, the organization established *Tanglaw Buhay* (life’s guiding light), a centre for trafficked children.

*Akay Kalinga* (caring support) has implemented various projects on anti-child trafficking campaigns. Akay Kalinga is a member of PACT and a program component of KKI since 2002, when there was no shelter yet for trafficked children. It has assisted in the rescue of trafficked children, has provided support for case litigation and has also given educational assistance through the NGO networks.

*Center for Peace and Development – Western Mindanao State University (WMSU)* has been active in the campaign against child trafficking since 2001. The Center for Peace and Development (CPD) is a venue for engaging individuals, groups and organizations in the peace and development process. With its objective of promoting cooperative action in response to urgent social development concerns in the region, the CPD has established continuing partnerships with organizations such as KKI. The CPD is active in peace education, research, technical support, trainings, advocacy and community assistance services.

*Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Network (CAPIN)* is a special program of the Catholic Archdiocese of Zamboanga. CAPIN is a multi-sectoral alliance that involves law enforcers, shelters, service providers and private foundations involved in child protection. The network aims to provide integrated service delivery to victims of child abuse and their immediate family.

*Integrated Resource Development for Tri-people (IRDT)* is a non-government and non-profit organization organized in July 2004. It is engaged in integrated community development work that caters to the needs of indigenous peoples residing in conflict-ridden areas.

The *Holy Rosary Family Centre (CCF)* serves indigent families by giving socio-economic assistance like livestock rearing, farming, providing employment opportunities and the operation of small businesses such as stores, laundry service and food processing. The
centre is active in education programs, early child development, youth development and the provision of basic health services.

While these organizations are the more visible entities involved in anti-child trafficking in the region, there are also other institutions, and individuals, actively contributing to the campaigns.

**The convergence process:**

When KKI and WMSU launched the anti-child trafficking campaign in 2002, partners from the government offices and NGOs joined in. They participated in the December 12 Day Against Child Trafficking activities.

On 3 August 2005, various government agencies in Region 9 joined forces to form the RIACAT. This facilitated the formation of local IACATs to which the Violence Against Women Councils (VAWC) were merged. The City Government of Zamboanga and the Province of Zamboanga del Sur activated their respective Councils for the Welfare of Children.

In 2007, NGOs and private individuals united to form the PACT-Zamboanga City network—composed of KKI, CPD-WMSU, DSWD, CSWD, PNP, Holy Rosary Family Center-CCF, Human Development and Empowerment Services (HDES) and IRDT. PACT Zamboanga City was consolidated with the support of Asia ACTs and the painstaking work of the designated PACT Coordinator.

Eventually, the IACAT and PACT joined forces. KKI, WMSU and PACT became official members of the IACAT where they became key figures in encouraging other organizations and government agencies to intensify campaigns and implement projects either jointly or in coordination with each other. The IACAT and PACT maintained bilateral partnerships to be able to share information and resources for more effective anti-trafficking campaigns.

**Alliance to strengthen child protection:**

The efforts of the IACAT have resulted in successful child protection campaigns in Zamboanga. For one, Zamboanga now has the distinction of having the first and the second conviction on human trafficking in the entire Philippines (November 29, 2005 - People of the Philippines vs Hadja Jarma and March 27, 2007 - People of the Philippines vs Rosie Ociel, et.al).

Civil society groups have also been very active in the wide-scale advocacy of the RA 9208 and the strengthening of child protection networks in numerous barangays in Zamboanga.
NGOs have worked closely with the IACAT and through its own network, the PACT. With the support of Asia ACTS, the PACT network in Zamboanga through its local partner, the Akay Kalinga (caring support), has implemented various projects on anti-child trafficking campaigns. It has assisted in the rescue of trafficked children and provided support for case litigation; and it has also provided educational assistance through the NGO networks.

The convergence of the different stakeholders in Zamboanga City has also been streamlining and strengthening the referral system. For instance, the CSWDO women and children's desk were usually overloaded with cases of abuse and trafficking, largely because of the wide range of concerns it caters to. With the convergence of resources, the CSWDO has been referring trafficked children to NGOs like KKI- Tanglaw Buhay, where they can be attended more adequately. In centres like the Tanglaw Buhay of KKI, trafficked children are given shelter, food, clothing, counselling, and later on, trainings on life skills and livelihood. Reciprocally, NGOs refer abused children to government agencies such as the DSWD or PNP for medico-legal testing and other services that they cannot themselves provide.

The IACAT also provided services on paralegal assistance, orientation on the proper recruitment process, work placement guidelines, and capability training for direct service providers. Initial efforts have also been made for the conversion of the Lingap Center in Zamboanga into a Halfway Home for Trafficked Victims.

In cooperation with its agency members, the council also conducted coordinated raids and rescue in suspected KTV Bars. It led to the creation of Anti-Bugaw (pimp) Groups composed of barangay community leaders. It also embarked on a wide-scale advocacy against anti-trafficking for barangay leaders under the city’s Gender and Development (GAD) funds. Meanwhile, through the city IACAT, a one-stop delivery of services for repatriated victims of human trafficking has been initiated, specifically for victims from Malaysia.

Sustaining Convergence:

In December 2008, Zamboanga City stakeholders composed of the IACAT, PACT, KKI, WMSU, and TDH-Netherlands signed a memorandum of understanding which states that all signatories commit to adopt and implement the Philippine Guidelines for the Protection of Trafficked Children. An important part of the agreement states that the adoption of the guidelines will help ensure the rights of the trafficked child from the time of rescue to the point of reintegration to the community.

The government agencies and NGOs of Zamboanga have also been moving towards convergence even in terms of campaign materials and training approaches. Information, education and campaign (IEC) materials such as flyers, posters, radio plugs and audio-visual presentations are shared among partners. Training modules and actual conduct of trainings
are provided to network members. In recent PACT-supported trainings and orientations, capability building approaches were standardized, leading to common approaches in handling trafficked children. KKI, on its own, has also conducted similar trainings and orientations.

This process of standardization among different duty-bearers reduced the ‘re-victimization’ of children due to repeated interviews and tests. It also streamlined the processing of trafficking cases, thereby reducing costs and expediting the filing of cases.

The integration of approaches on handling cases of trafficked children, the institutionalized sharing of resources and expertise and the sustained coordination of project implementation are far from done; however, the different stakeholders - both on the government and NGO side – are moving towards the right direction of long term convergence.
Working Together Towards Smoother Implementation of Actions Against Trafficking

Children and Life Association

Introduction:

The children introduced themselves after the traditional greetings. They were about fifteen to seventeen years old, and talked about social issues in the community. They may be young, but they were very knowledgeable about domestic and social issues. It was apparent that they have developed a strong bond, as they shared and helped one another in explaining some points. This shared bond extended to the adult members of the child protection network.

How was such a bond established when it was clear that they came from different villages and schools? The children explained: “We children have undergone several trainings together. In helping out during the awareness-raising activities of the project, our eyes were opened to the situation of others. We started asking questions. We looked for the answers. The trainings and the common tasks we shared naturally established a rapport among us, and with the adults and other peer groups.”

CLA implemented the one-year project in Kamchay Mear district, Prey Veng province composed of 8 communes and 129 villages. The Child Protection Network is composed of the Deputy District Governor, District Social Affairs Office, District Police, District Education Office, and the focal person in the Commune Council. The Village Safety Nets is composed of school teachers, school directors, the elderly, peer educators, village police, staff of health posts and village chiefs. The Children’s Network is composed of students.

The process and achievements:

The various organizations have been involved in monitoring child trafficking cases and in conducting meetings and workshops, as enumerated below:

Educating local authorities, communities and children about anti-child trafficking, violence against children, domestic violence and laws relating to the said issues and child rights in Cambodia;

Supporting and assisting networks and focal points focused on the issues of child trafficking and violence against women and children;

Building the capacity of local leaders to sustain programs of Cambodia ACTs and the local government regarding safe migration, child trafficking and domestic violence; and
Training sessions to increase the quality of work performed by CPNs.

**Emerging Good Practice:**

The training process provided the opportunity to build relationships. During this period, members spent time with one another, the Cambodia ACTs staff and CLA project officers spent time with one another in meetings and in training workshops.

Many stakeholders expressed appreciation for the opportunity they had to become acquainted with Cambodia ACTs goals and strategies prior to implementation. One commune official was quoted saying, “When a relationship is beginning, individuals are limited by their own views and experiences. The Cambodia ACTs project gave them the opportunity to arrive at a common understanding and knowledge and even of basic concepts”.

CLA received high praise for its thoughtful inclusion of the local leaders and officials as well as children in its various initiatives. Members of the CPN and officers from the district and commune government agencies were given the opportunity to engage in the planning and execution of awareness-raising programs as well as participation on monitoring activities and workshops.

The capacity building brought changes in communication, knowledge and understanding, community awareness and skills of CPN members, stakeholders and beneficiaries.
CHAPTER 3:

AWARENESS-RAISING
"Awareness-raising is a process which opens opportunities for information exchange in order to improve mutual understanding and to develop competencies and skills necessary to enable changes in social attitude and behaviour."

Sheldon Shaeffer
Director, UNESCO Bangkok
March 2006

(CLAs) received high praise for its thoughtful inclusion of the local leaders and officials as well as children in its various initiatives. The efforts of the members of Child Protection Network ultimately leads to a positive change in actions and behaviours. These changes may be sought by stakeholders in individuals, groups, organisations, communities or societies. To raise public awareness of a topic or issue is to inform a community’s attitudes, behaviours and beliefs with the intention of influencing them positively in the achievement of a defined purpose or goal…”

The theory and practice of public awareness-raising are derived from the tenets of mass communication and social change marketing, also called social marketing. Social marketing refers to the practice of selling an idea with the purpose of changing attitudes and actions of specific audiences. It may include messages about public health, education, environmental concerns and social inclusion. Selling an idea is a difficult thing even if it enjoys the endorsement of civil society or government. There are tried and tested strategies and approaches in providing information and in promoting understanding of an issue, which may be achieved even with limited resources. Changing attitudes is much harder to do and may not be attained simply through awareness-raising. In fact, changing people’s behaviour is the most challenging task in human affairs, but it is not impossible to achieve.

Campaigning is a complex process and may be seen as a broadly organised effort to change practices, policies or behaviours. It is based on the ability of stakeholders to communicate the same message in many ways to a variety of audiences. Asia ACTs’ programme is involved heavily with awareness-raising campaigns. The sphere of work includes the December 12 commemoration, media work, public campaign and information dissemination. An important component of the programme is community education which is a continuous campaign to raise awareness in local communities regarding child protection network and mechanisms.

A campaign will typically involve four key actions: researching the issue, mobilising support and supporters, informing the public and lobbying decision-makers.

A well-planned awareness-raising campaign is arguably one of the most efficient and effective means of communicating information about a particular topic or issue to a large and geographically dispersed body of people; for example, the public of a country or a specific community within that country.
Community Mobilization in Anti-Child Trafficking Efforts at the Thai-Burma Border

Burma ACTs

Introduction:

The annual Burma ACT anti-child trafficking day, held on December 12 of every year in the Thai-Burma border town of Mae Sot, is a remarkable event that demonstrates community solidarity. The 2008 event was no exception; over 2,700 migrant students brought together parents, community members and community leaders to promote their message of “Children Speak Out Against Trafficking.” Members from all levels of the community united to organize a powerful event supporting Burma ACT’s fight against child trafficking. Included in the participants were student activists, NGO workers, community leaders, local authorities and a sizeable audience of concerned and/or vulnerable Burmese migrants.

The event embodied the type of multi-level approach and collaboration necessary for effective anti-child trafficking campaign. Just as a macro-level campaign requires advocacy efforts geared towards communities, local authorities, national governments and international bodies, an effective grassroots campaign likewise demands a multi-tiered strategy within communities themselves.

Efforts to sensitize local and provincial authorities to the issue of child trafficking are necessary for a successful advocacy campaign. By familiarizing the authorities with the root causes of trafficking, the characteristics of vulnerable groups and the dangerous effects that trafficking can inflict on communities, human rights groups make the ruling powers more receptive to their calls for action. Without these efforts, the appeals are likely to fall on deaf ears. With this in mind, Burma ACT has made great strides in its collaboration with Thai authorities, exemplified in their cooperation in the December 12 events, and has paved the way for future teamwork in the fight against child trafficking.

While awareness must be raised among these government officials, it is also important to devote significant attention to the training and education of local community leaders, who often command more influence in migrant communities than Thai officials do. When individuals have been implicitly recognized as the leaders of their community, their potential as community educators is significant. Local citizens look up to these leaders, and will listen with close attention and respect to the issues these leaders deem important.
The process:

On 12 July 2008, Burma ACT coordinated a meeting among 10 community leaders from three migrant communities in Mae Sod. Primary concerns were ways to improve community networks to ensure children’s protection. Included in the group’s conclusions and recommendations were calls for community leaders to encourage parents to get their children birth certificates, to provide education and alert services related to the risks of child trafficking, to monitor the movements of families, to report suspicious activities and to work with groups such as Burma ACT to better guide activities aimed at preventing child trafficking.

Based on the success of the July meeting, Burma ACT organized a similar session on 31 January 2009, for a new group of leaders from different migrant communities. The issues raised were largely similar to the July meeting of community leaders, though this second group was able to benefit from the hindsight of two community leaders who had attended the July 12 meeting, and attested to the improved strength of child protection networks under the new initiatives. By training and mobilizing these groups of community leaders, Burma ACT is able to significantly improve the community's ability to organize and take action to prevent child trafficking.

This process of working with community leaders is in many ways linked to Burma ACT’s method of “training the trainers”, an effective way of disseminating information and strategies throughout communities to organize networks and for protection against child trafficking. From 3-6 July 2008, a training of trainers (TOT) session was organized to improve the capacities of Burma ACT trainers. After being updated on child trafficking information in the Mekong Region, sharing and exploring various challenges experienced in field work and brainstorming ways to improve techniques and methods in the future, the trainers applied what they had learned to conduct a series of community education trainings at the village level from July 7-8. In these trainings, 427 people, including 187 children from vulnerable Burmese migrant communities, engaged in interactive instruction on issues relating to the dangers of, and protective measures against, child trafficking. By reaching out to these groups through the team of trainers, Burma ACT empowered the community members with the fundamental knowledge necessary to organize together and prevent trafficking in their home community. Without knowing what rights a child is entitled to, or what precautions can be taken to protect these rights, community members would be unable to effectively cooperate and unite in taking action against the threat of child trafficking.

The large participation of children in these community education activities is also significant. For a top-down approach to training and spreading information to reach all relevant members of community, the process must ensure that it reaches all the way down to the community's youngest and most vulnerable members. As the targeted victims
of child trafficking, the community youth must themselves be made aware of the risks and indicators of child trafficking. When children participate more actively, community organizing efforts create more impact. Otherwise, attempts at organizing community action will be largely ineffective if the children do not know how to guard against the threat of traffickers.

**Conclusion:**

In light of these considerations, community organizing efforts in the fight against child trafficking must attempt to reach out to all levels of society. Burma ACT has successfully employed this approach in its anti-child trafficking campaign, making great strides in raising awareness among government officials, community leaders, adult community members and vulnerable children. With such a holistic approach, communities will be better prepared to organize together and prevent the trafficking of their own children.
Village Safety Nets and Raising Awareness about Child Trafficking
Vulnerable Children Assistance Organization (VCAO)

Introduction:

VCAO envisioned that developing Village Safety Net (VSN) is the core component in preventing and protecting children from sexual trafficking and exploitation; therefore, there is consistent effort to mainstream the VSN approach. The approach provides a holistic support in building the life proficiency of vulnerable children for them to gain productive lives. The VSN works in ways to build local capacity, to promote integrated child participation within every programme operation, to encourage evidence-based advocacy and to promote changes in children’s lives.

Supported by a Cambodia ACTs member’s community issues study, a participatory planning approach was conducted where children defined issues that mattered to them. This agenda was presented in a community workshop with other stakeholders. The workshop firmed up commitment from stakeholders to respond to the issues. A follow-up workshop took the stakeholders’ agenda into the community level and served as venue to further train the local authorities and other stakeholders on their responsibilities.

The development agenda was implemented according to the stakeholders’ functional mandates but coordinated through inter-action of stakeholders in the implementing activities and in the summing up workshops. Further capacity building was provided for children and adult facilitators through the Training of Trainers (TOT). Stakeholders monitored the results and impact of their activities—integrated into the workshops, using indicators from the baseline and perceived behaviour changes. Finally, the stakeholders drew up lessons through the summing up workshop.

The Training of Trainers (TOT) encompassed the following topics: child situation in village, priority issues regarding the anti-trafficking programme, discussion on domestic violence, discussion on sexual exploitation and trafficking, discussion on child work and child labour, good parenting and anti-trafficking, among others.

The process:

VCAO, as main instructor for Cambodia ACTs, trained some 25 individuals among the eleven NGO Project Partners through the Training of Trainer (TOT) on anti-child trafficking on 12-16 May 2008 at the health department of Kampong Chhnang province. After the training, the community-level modules and education materials were provided to all trainees.
Staff members of Cambodia ACTs partners replicated the TOT at the project areas and trained a total of 166 local educators from local authorities and child peer groups in 2008. These local teachers carried out their own trainings: 11 sessions for adults and 9 sessions for child peer educators. In another multiplier effect, training is further replicated by the trained community trainers and peer groups to a new set of participants. Some 103 adults were selected from community education to be part of the active network. About 108 awareness-raising activities were conducted by the project’s adult peer networks, reaching some 4,381 people in 2008.

Furthermore, within the VSN’s child peer groups, activities contributed to the reach of the awareness-raising activities. Thirty-eight awareness-raising activities by peer groups were conducted in 2008, reaching some 1,558 people. A total of 110 children were selected and trained as peer educators.

As an approach, the VSN is characterised by the creation of a child-friendly society that seeks to counteract conflict and violence through reconciliation. The VSN builds a system for enabling all people, including children, to help the vulnerable; mobilizing government and local authorities to talk with people and children in the communities through the conduct of workshops at district and provincial levels. It seeks to create peaceful solutions, justice and cooperation through dialogue and participatory methods. It uses functional structures to reach the most vulnerable children within the concept of inclusive education; it uses mediation pressure and the law to counteract abusers. It promotes the concept that the community must take care of its children.

Results:

The network members in Sangkor District in Phnom Penh note concrete results from the capacity building activities. Ms. Chab Sinuon, a woman district police officer noted an improvement in their efficiency to implement anti-trafficking actions:

“We feel more knowledgeable of the laws, policies and related work against trafficking, domestic violence and child labor. We were provided information materials which we can disseminate to the community. We learned from modules which will be of help to our education activities. We have been provided skills to facilitate our own initiatives against trafficking. We are better equipped to settle problems, especially domestic violence, in our own villages and communes.”

The awareness-raising and sensitization activities improved efficiency among community stakeholders. The outcomes were very encouraging: There were reduced cases of trafficking, rape and domestic violence in the project areas. There were changes in the social practices that tended to heighten domestic violence at home or to lead
children to drop out of school, to run away from home and go into child labor. There was a significant decrease in drunkenness, gambling, physical and verbal abuse of children and risky sexual behavior.

The project activities increased the number of children who stayed in school; the campaign for re-enrolment and re-admission has somewhat reduced the number of children who dropped out of school. For example, VCAO project area in Takeo had zero incidence of rape in 2008, about 10% drop in domestic violence and some 50% decrease in the number of school drop-outs.

A lasting impact of the project was that it enabled community adoption of the child protection network in the project areas where Cambodia ACTs partners operate. There are now mechanisms for child-centered development planning, for cooperation and inter-action of development actors to work together against trafficking. The operational guidelines of the VSN approach have been laid down and the awareness on trafficking laws, policies and related issues have taken root among stakeholders, which will ensure sustainability of the approach.
The Story of H
The Women Union in Soc Trang Province

Introduction:

This is the story of H, a young woman in her early twenties, who had the courage to escape an impending life of sexual and domestic slavery. H is a young girl from the countryside of An Thanh Tay commune, Cu Lao Dung district. She wanted to have a better life and to pay for her parents’ debts amounting to tens of millions of Viet Nam Dong. It was also one way to express her filial piety.

H met a go-between who convinced her that she would attain her goals if she married a prosperous man. She wanted to try her luck and went off with other girls to Singapore, to marry a man whose face she had not even seen.

When she saw her prospective husband to be 70 years old, she was panic-stricken and knew that living with such a man was totally unacceptable. She decided to go back to her life of poverty rather than to live in a strange place with an old man. Her desperate reactions forced the go-between to let her go. Coming home for H was so precious that it felt “like receiving gold.”

Meanwhile, the other girls left behind in Singapore were driven into untold misery and suffering. They were helpless because they did not speak or understand the language. They were beaten ruthlessly when they refused to follow orders. One girl experienced being forced to have sex with two men—one was over 70 and the other with mental disorder. “The girls were forced to do both domestic work and to give sexual services to many men,” H said bitterly.

In their village, many girls married foreigners and when they came back, some flaunted their money, but no one dared to tell the negative truth about marriage to foreigners. Not everyone had the courage to expose the physical and the mental wounds, because the victims did not want to break their family’s heart, and to lose face in the community. Thus, more girls were victimized, despite the cautions from print and broadcast media, which regularly reported cases of trafficking.

The process:

When mass media failed to convince vulnerable citizens to be wary of unscrupulous recruiters, awareness-raising through micro media could succeed, especially with the participation of people directly affected by the crime. Survivors of trafficking are the best advocates of anti-trafficking awareness campaigns. H accepted the invitation to participate in the propagandist group of the
commune, recognizing the fact that many people could be victims of trafficking. She decided to recount everything that she had experienced and witnessed, to serve as a warning for other people who may fall into the same situation as she did. “Just hearing the voice of the person who experienced trafficking, the misery and the hurt, can help people become aware faster”.

Community role plays were utilized to re-tell the sorrowful stories. Details from real accounts were chosen carefully; then, roles and scenes were divided among players. The actors used dialogues that were very simple and based on real life experiences of victims. H herself acted on stage and performed with honesty that can only come from true-to-life experience. The role play was so successful and moved the audience to tears.

**Result and conclusion:**

The propagandist group of the commune achieved their objective in community education. Mothers were most especially awakened and became aware of the potential risks regarding their daughters. Details of the play opened the minds of girls who dreamed of changing their lives by marrying foreigners or getting jobs in distant lands. H was very happy upon witnessing the impact of the performances. She felt fulfilled with what she had done for the community.

In awareness-raising education, the “true person, true story” method creates immediate and strong impact. However, it is not easy to expose one’s shame and the decision to do so is a difficult one for the survivor, who is usually motivated by a generous heart and a spirit of great volunteerism. On the technical and artistic aspect of production, it is also important to get good actors to perform the true situation of victims and survivors.
Partnership with Local Government in Awareness-raising Programme
Philippines Against Child Trafficking (PACT)-Camarines Norte

Introduction:

Camarines Norte is a province of the Bicol Peninsula facing the Pacific Ocean. Information drive on child protection in general is strong in Camarines Norte, which is initiated by media-oriented child rights advocates. The strength of advocates in Camarines Norte lies in strong individual initiatives, organizational projects and willingness to unite these efforts with the programmes of the provincial government.

The process:

The campaign against child trafficking in the Bicol Region dates back in Year 2002 when a series of community education and technical assistance were provided by Asia ACTs to the local government units, civil society organizations, the academe and the communities. The community educators training included the basic training on anti-child trafficking, the strengthening of child protection network (CPN) and training on the Philippine Guidelines for the protection of trafficked children. Advocates from the different sectors emerged while they silently continued to build the network for the Philippine campaign.

Consequently, in 2004, the provincial government of Camarines Norte responded and offered counterparts in the mobilization of the first nationwide caravans to commemorate World Day Against Trafficking on December 12.

Since 2004, the partnership of Asia ACTs and PACT in the Bicol region continued and the champions of the initiatives multiplied among the different local government agencies. These included the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office, the officers of the Women’s and Children’s Desk in the Philippine National Police, the prosecutors’ offices, the information offices, and the Provincial Governor’s office. While these initiatives do not seem to have infected yet the entire bureaucracy and the communities at large, what stands out is the commitment of individuals in government who untiringly advocate for the protection of children.

What Camarines Norte offers as a good practice is the demonstration of how partnerships with local government units, particularly at the provincial level, can be developed and nurtured to a point wherein the anti-trafficking and child protection campaign is operational in the local government structure. In doing so, programmes for advocacies, mobilization, as well as the institutionalization of policies are facilitated; likewise, it is able to ensure the participation of individuals, groups, agencies and institutions during the campaign activities, and during the actual conduct of anti-trafficking work and processes for the protection of children.
Meanwhile, the local government continues to work on its Advocacies on the welfare of children. PACT supported this groundwork by providing theatre arts workshops to students and children at risk. The workshops also became a venue for the public to see, hear and appreciate what the children want to impart.

**Result:**

The result of the partnership with PACT, while not expressed and not given enough promotion it deserves, is the continuous support of the local government to child protection programmes. Another concrete result of awareness-raising is the signing of the *Philippine Guidelines for Trafficked Children* into a Provincial Board Resolution which adopted and approved the process by which children’s rights are to be protected and upheld while their cases are brought to justice.
The scope of activities and programmes involving child protection is basically about the training of civil society and community members to improve local child protection systems. Asia ACTs drafted a module on child protection based on the framework of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The module serves as a basis for training of trainers in strengthening Child Protection Networks (CPN) that outlines the prevention of child trafficking, the protection of children at risk of being trafficked, and the recovery and reintegration of trafficked children. The trainers will then disseminate their knowledge by conducting trainings at the provincial/city level, targeting village leaders, municipal or provincial level NGOs, academe, religious and other civil society leaders. At this level, participants are expected to conduct education sessions on child protection at the provincial or city level, involving pertinent stakeholders. The activity aims to increase the capacity of the target groups.

Partners conduct sensitization and training of child duty bearers and local governments’ stakeholders to make the CPN more functional from village to national levels.

Child protection mechanism is described in the provisions of the ASEAN Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Children Victims of Trafficking from identification of the trafficked child; intake; provision of various services ranging from medical help, legal assistance, psycho-social support, etc.; and reintegration.
Uncle Ho’s Legacy and the Fight Against Trafficking
HoChiMinh City Child Welfare Foundation (HCWF)
and the People’s Committee of Tan Kieng Ward, District 7

Introduction:

The Ho Chi Minh City Child Welfare Foundation and the People’s Committee of Tan Kieng Ward organized the pilot group of volunteers and the peer group from four sub-wards. Each sub-ward elected one team leader and one deputy leader. The Project’s chairman also defined the functions and tasks of each member and called for their active participation in a strategy that resulted in a multiplier effect. Every month, for example, there would be a scheduled community education for adults and children on the prevention of trafficking. The team leaders request each participant to invite at least six participants—who, in turn, would invite a new set of participants in the next quarter. Moreover, the members had to participate in the monthly and quarterly meetings to share experiences and to contribute ideas in improving activities.

The process:

Uncle Ho used to say “No matter how easy a thing is, without people’s support we cannot achieve it. But no matter how difficult a thing is, with people’s support, we can do everything”. Understanding Uncle Ho’s message, the members received information from their friends, relatives and neighbours about the situation of children at risk of being trafficked: A dropped out of school. B returned home from the recovery centre. C was abused. D is being beaten ruthlessly by parents. Then, they worked with two or three persons to visit the families, to investigate the real situation and to give some alternatives.

However, the participation of volunteers faltered because they were busy with caring for their own children and earning a living. However, individual members had different capacities. They lacked professional knowledge and failed to make an assessment of the community’s needs and to choose the pilot areas where community education must be conducted with the right target groups.

But after participating in many trainings, the awareness of the volunteers changed. They worked actively to help children. A strong group willing to fight for the benefits of children and people in the community emerged. They drafted principles of organization, rules, regulations, organizational structures and education measures. They developed an eager spirit in learning new things. Team leaders and
deputy leaders actively participated in the project’s activities for four years. Most of them are also members of the Women Union at the commune level.

**Lesson learned:**

The group of volunteers developed close cooperation in working for the benefit of the community. They built a strong team. Although this group had no formal background in social work, they learned team work and collective leadership through trainings. They learned to synthesize internal and external strengths to raise awareness of the people and to help them solve the problems they encountered. The local authorities earned prestige by using available human resources wisely and by dividing tasks appropriately. The commune leader helped the volunteers to solicit the people’s support. Thus, inspired by Uncle Ho’s words of wisdom, the people embraced the duty of working for a durable solution to fight child trafficking in the community.
The Alternatives for Minh--a story about care, education and protection of street boys
Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA) Ho Chi Minh City

Case background:

His name is Minh (not his real name), about 10 years of age and illiterate. He comes from a very poor family in Quang Xuong district, Thanh Hoa province. His father drinks alcohol and regularly beats him.

The father forced him to go with strangers who offered money in exchange for Minh to work in Ho Chi Minh City, where everyday, the boy had to beg from early morning until late evening. The boss took all the money that Minh earned, and was left to starve most of the time. Minh endured the hunger. But what prompted him to run away were the continuous threats he received from the syndicate. He wandered alone in the streets until the police picked him up and sent him to the Center for Children's Education in Go Vap district.

The shelter contacted his father who came at the time of his release from the shelter. Minh was afraid to go back to his father because he knew that he will again be forced to beg in Ho Chi Minh City. What then is the suitable solution for his case?

The action plan for Minh:

The cooperating agencies and NGOs that handled Minh’s case came up with an action plan that defined the role of each player in the case. Minh agreed to participate. According to the plan, the shelter would accommodate, care and protect Minh in order to ensure that he received the services and support he is entitled to. Together with other children in the shelter, he attended classes regularly. Moreover, the shelter encouraged him to participate in prevention activities and trainings on life skills to raise awareness and to develop his ability for self-protection.

Soon, Minh became empowered with the new awareness about his rights and untapped capacities. Minh soon gained back his zest for life. His eyes mirrored once more the sparkling idealism of youth.

The Child Protection Department of Ward 3, District 11 thought out and implemented the durable solution for the case, based on the child protection network in the community. The CPN followed the following procedures:
The department contacted the child protection network where Minh left in Thanh Hoa province in order to verify his family’s address. They found out the clues and causes of the problem. Next, the child protection section of the commune level assigned tasks to the child protection officer, the volunteers and the child’s family: “We try to have good cooperation and coordination in order to raise the capacity of the community and to strengthen roles and responsibilities of the family, especially the responsibilities of the boy’s father, who created push factors that led the boy to leave home and work early. The father must make a commitment to stop violating the rights of his son and to ensure a safe environment before he could take his child home. The commune chairpersons at the departure and destination areas are the persons who have highest responsibilities in implementing, monitoring and evaluating the activities to prevent, to support and to protect children in the community.”

With organizational cooperation and coordination, Minh and the rest of the children can avoid the risk of falling into the hands of traffickers. The success in the recovery and the reintegration of Minh will be a positive example that will influence the community. The National Action Plan against Trafficking of Women and Children of the Government promotes the conduct of community education about the protection of children for organizations, unions and the people in the community, so that they may fully understand and take action to prevent child trafficking and to protect children in every situation.
Child Protection Network: Experience in Overcoming Child Trafficking in Indonesia
Kusuma Buana Foundation, Rumah Perempuan Foundation, LRC-KJHAM, SARI and KAKAK

Introduction:

Prior to the establishment of Child Protection Network (CPN), Indonesia ACTs members had already implemented a series of community education sessions on child trafficking, which set the foundation for the formation of CPN as it provided the basic understanding of child trafficking and the basic actions that can be applied to handle cases. Consequently, community members, especially children, became aware of the dangers of child trafficking. The next step was to put the community’s knowledge and awareness into real action through creation of CPN.

All members of Indonesia ACTs have been actively engaged in the development of CPN at the village level, and in encouraging the existing CPNs at the level of district and province to respond to child trafficking issues. Indonesia ACTs chose the districts of Indramayu and Kupang as pilot areas, because they are well-known as the sending areas of trafficking victims. CPN was also initiated in Kendal district by one of the members of Indonesia ACTs.

The process at the community level:

Rumah Perempuan Foundation chooses to establish a formal CPN by establishing the head of the village as person-in-charge. The organization established CPNs in four villages: Oelnasi, East Penfui, Oeletsala and Niuk Baun-- spread in two sub-districts of Kupang.

Rumah Perempuan Foundation outlines its steps in building CPN:

First, identify community leaders and other community members who have a strong influence in the decision-making process in the village such as village authorities, religious leaders and leaders of community’s institutions.

Second, conduct intensive discussions with persons identified about cases of child trafficking and the importance of network at the level of the village to prevent and overcome trafficking. So far, the CPN formed in Kupang has functioned as centre of information to educate the community on the danger of child trafficking.

Meanwhile Kusuma Buana Foundation chooses to utilize an informal network to handle trafficking cases. This informal network will then be transformed into a formal institution
once the system has already functioned well. CPN initiated by LRC-KJHAM is formed as a result of community education activities. The form of CPN in Kendal is a network of village posts ran by community members that functioned as places to receive case reports.

Kusuma Buana Foundation focuses their work on strengthening the community and the establishment of an informal referral system in eight villages in the sub-district of Bongas, district of Indramayu. They believe that it is more important to create a workable network first rather than to set up a formal institution. Cases reported by the community to this informal network receive a quick follow-up. The foundation helps members of the network to handle cases by connecting them with institutions that provide services such as a hospital and the police department. The sub-district government also helps the network members to handle any case by referring them to the police department.

In Kendal, LRC-KJHAM facilitated the establishment of community organizations called Solidaritas untuk Buruh Migrant (Sorbum) or Solidarity for Migrant Workers. This organization conducts community education in 7 villages and builds village posts to handle reported cases.

The CPN process at the city or district level:

Nowadays, almost every district in Indonesia has a Child Protection Network. The district government has an obligation to establish a network to handle cases of women and children. It all started with the women’s rights movement that pushed the government to give attention and support to women and children suffering from violence. After a long process of struggle, the Indonesian government gave a positive response by releasing a Surat Kesepakatan Bersama (SKB) issued by Ministry of Woman Empowerment, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Welfare and National Police Department to form Pusat Pelayanan Terpadu (PPT) or an Integrated Service for Women and Children Victims of Violence. Based on the SKB, the PPT must be established in every province and district in Indonesia involving many stakeholders including NGOs. Over the years, members of the network, especially NGOs, feel that there is an urgent need for the network to address women and children issues such as human trafficking.

To implement the SKB in 2006, the Governor of Central Java issued Decree No. 76 in 2006 to form Pusat Penanganan Krisis Perempuan dan Anak (PPKPA) or the Women and Children Crisis Center. This policy was followed by the establishment of the Integrated Service Center (PPT) in every district in Central Java including Semarang and Solo.

LRC-KJHAM is one of the NGOs actively involved in the formation of PPT in Semarang called Pusat Pelayanan Terpadu Seruni or Seruni Integrated Service Center. The organizational structure of PPT includes government, hospital, university and NGO.
In Semarang, the mayor also issued Instruction No. 463/13/2007 to order every sub-district and village in Semarang to set a place to serve women and children victims of violence. The Instruction is used by LRC KJHAM as a basis for their involvement in the establishment of PPT at the sub-district. This opportunity is used by LRC-KJHAM to incorporate Indonesian Guidelines to Protect the Rights of Children Victims of Trafficking in the procedure and the mechanism, resulting in the integration of the Indonesian Guidelines in four sub-districts.

SARI and KAKAK were among the initiators of the establishment of Pelayanan Terpadu Perempuan dan Anak Surakarta (PTPAS) / Integrated Service for Women and Children in Surakarta in 2004. PTPAS members consist of different stakeholders including representatives from government, police department and civil society organizations. However, not until the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the district government of Surakarta, NGO, hospital, police department and civil society organization did the institution work effectively.
Participation is about having the opportunity to express a view, influencing decision-making and achieving change. Children’s participation is an informed and willing involvement of all children, including the most marginalized and those of different ages and abilities, in any matter concerning them either directly or indirectly. Children’s participation is a way of working and an essential principle that cuts across all programmes and takes place in all arenas – from homes to government, from local to international levels.

The definition above shows that the objective of child participation is to involve children in the decision making process in all aspects affecting their life and in the process of achieving changes in the life of the children. This objective then raise challenges for organizations that work with children to create avenues to make child participation become a reality.

In order for children to participate in the fight against the crime of child trafficking, they need to be equipped with how to protect themselves. If children are unaware of their right to be free from abuse, or are not warned of dangers such as trafficking, they become more vulnerable to exploitation. The participation of children starts with their right to know about issues that affect their lives. Children must also be given safe channels for participation and self-expression (Asia ACTs Annual Report 2008).
Child Participation in Anti-Child Trafficking Efforts  
Burma ACT

Introduction:

A child’s ability to convey personal opinions and ideas on issues concerning his or her own well-being is integral to the child’s maturity and development. This capacity is established as a fundamental right for children in Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which assures “to the child, who is capable of forming his or her own views, the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child.” For Burmese children living in refugee camps or migrant communities, few issues are more threatening to their well-being than the dangers of child trafficking. An estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked every year worldwide, and are subjected to sexual exploitation, forced labour in hazardous conditions or illicit activities, begging or coerced marriages. The risk is especially high for children in areas with low levels of income, inadequate health care and poor educational opportunities— all characteristics of Burmese refugee camps and migrant communities. In light of such dangers, it is vital that children assume an active, participatory role in the fight against child trafficking.

The Process

In early July 2008, Burma ACT successfully employed this method of raising community awareness through high levels of child participation in a series of community discussions on child trafficking. About 427 people, including 187 children, came together in five groups from vulnerable Burmese migrant communities to discuss and learn about the dangers of child trafficking. Using educational games, role playing and videos, facilitators actively engaged the child participants and ensured that their voices would be heard and respected. The children’s inputs were insightful, especially because of their previous involvement with Burma ACT’s anti-child trafficking campaign. The adults heeded the children’s recommendations and collaborated closely with the children in brainstorming village-level strategies for protection against child trafficking.

Continuing this initiative to facilitate children’s awareness of trafficking issues, Burma ACT developed the use of children’s theatre in advocacy efforts geared towards child protection at the village level. With the help of trainers and facilitators, children wrote educational stories designed to highlight the need for community action in protecting children from trafficking. In addition to honing their acting abilities, stage management and other performance-related skills, the children collaborated with facilitators in discussing the causes, stages and effects of child trafficking. Through interactive exercises, children were made aware of traffickers’ recruitment strategies and of the various networks available for children’s protection. The theatre performances, held in three targeted areas, not only provided a fun and engaging outlet for children to express their views, but also created a forum in which adults were confronted with and linked to the issues facing the children.
In the wake of the child theatre group’s success, Burma ACT maintained the momentum of child participation in its annual Anti-child Trafficking Day activities in Mae Sot on 12 December 2008. One hundred twenty children took part in the day’s activities and events as speakers, organizers and performers. Children of all ages performed skits, songs, dances and poems expressing their passionate stance in the fight against child trafficking. Additionally, between October 2008 and February 2009, Burma ACT conducted 25 community education sessions for vulnerable groups. Targeting communities with limited access to the outside world, or with special vulnerability to child trafficking, these community education sessions sought to raise awareness of child trafficking threats at the village level. These sessions included the children’s performance of a story portraying the horrors of Burmese children trafficked into Thailand for labour and sexual exploitation which was viewed by a total of 4,029 Burmese migrants, including parents and their children.

Conclusion:

The impressive success of these campaign events against child trafficking was able to rally expansive numbers of Burmese community members, due largely to the active role of child participants. Children have a unique ability to attract community members to attend campaign events, and often command a heightened attention from audiences, due to the sensitivity and relevance of their cause. Children’s voices present an extra motivating factor for communities to take a more active and organized stance against child trafficking. The youth are the community’s future; when leaders witness the articulate and moving opinions of children, they not only see the impressive potential of the young people, but they also realize that these children are inadequately protected.

Child participation with adult cooperation further strengthens communities by cultivating both personal and interpersonal capacities. By providing a comfortable environment in which children can speak with adults and exchange their own ideas and opinions, communities effectively encourage their youth to take an active role in human rights causes. After discovering the courage to speak out as children on such sensitive issues, the young people will be empowered in their adult lives with the tools and motivation necessary to fight further human rights violations in their communities.

Furthermore, child participation in Burma ACT’s events solidifies community bonds and trust networks. When adults attend discussion groups, educational programmes and theatre performances they realize that children’s views are valuable on issues important to their well-being. Adults learn to listen and to respect children’s views, enhancing the cooperative ties and mutual trust within communities. This social solidarity is essential for an effective grassroots campaign against child trafficking.

Future efforts in the anti-child trafficking campaign should look into increasing and promoting child participation wherever possible. For their own protection, children must be allowed to speak out.
Role Play by Children in Tan Kieng Ward
Ho Chi Minh City Child Welfare Foundation and
The People’s Committee of Tan Kieng Ward, District 7

Introduction:

In recent years, trafficking in women and children has increased and has become an urgent problem that caused serious damage to children’s health and dignity in Vietnam. It has affected the social activities of the people as well as their customs and traditions.

To respond to the situation, the Managing Board of Tan Kieng Ward conducted community education in diversified forms to raise awareness of people in the prevention of human trafficking.

The most common but ineffective method of holding community education is the lecture method which provides one-way communication that fails to attract audiences, especially those with low educational level. They listen then forget everything upon returning home.

But experience has proven that conducting community education through role play attracts attention, especially when the actors are the children of the viewers. The medium is effective when the audience can empathize with the characters, like the drama about the life of Ms. Le who was trafficked to Cambodia, beaten and forced into prostitution.

The process:

The children participated in role play every quarter during community education sessions against child trafficking. Children planned, wrote scripts and acted in their own plays. They had to borrow costumes and make-up with their limited resources. Although they may be amateurs compared but to their adult counterparts, their performances were fresh, heartfelt, truthful and spontaneous. The children participated with genuine volunteerism and enthusiasm, despite the obvious limitations of their amateur production and organization. The group needed assistance to improve artistry and lacked a leader to guide them to improve acting and production skills.

Lessons:

The local authorities have yet to make use of the talents of more young people to form a performance team to do community education in the other wards of District 7. But the example of Tan Kieng Ward demonstrates that community education through role plays is helpful and will result in behavioural changes that, in turn, will contribute to social changes beneficial in fighting human trafficking.
Children Speak Against Child Trafficking

Sekretariat Anak Merdeka Indonesia (SAMIN)

Introduction:

Indonesia’s education system supported the concept that children are “little people” who have no thoughts, ideas, knowledge and experience. Consequently, children who expressed their views, ideas or opinions were often considered bad, naughty or rebellious. Education in this case became an instrument to control children’s minds instead of liberating them. Children raised in this education system were often afraid and reluctant to express themselves even when they grew older.

There was a need to change this situation and to incorporate child participation in decision-making processes, and to encourage children to embrace the right to participation which would then give them the courage to express their thoughts freely. At the same time, adults must change their perspective on child participation and be persuaded to accept children’s views. These efforts were certainly not easy.

Indonesia has adopted international policies on child participation which has given more space and opportunity for Indonesian children to participate in the process of decision-making. This situation has created challenges as well as opportunities for Indonesia ACTs to develop strategies and methods to maximize child participation in the issue of child trafficking.

The process:

At least 1,034 children (487 boys and 547 girls) participated in the opening of the National Children’s Summit with the theme: Children Speak against Child Trafficking. Their anti-child trafficking slogans echoed in the air. The Summit was organized by Indonesia ACTs. Held on 21-23 December 2008, the participative spirit was felt all throughout the event. Children’s groups prepared banners with drawings and slogans against child trafficking and hanged them all over the venue. They also expressed their hopes and aspirations through works of art which were displayed in one of the buildings used for the Summit. The children sang Ratusan Ribu (Hundreds of Thousands) and Mari Bergerak (Let’s Act) repeatedly during the Summit.

Representatives of children’s groups that came from 10 provinces where Indonesia ACTs operates attended the Summit. Children who live near the venue were also invited to join. Most of the participants were children who participated in previous activities of Indonesia ACTs, or child activists who already have awareness and concern on the issue. Some of them have actively worked as peer educators.
The Summit was held as a part of an annual campaign to commemorate the day when the Palermo Protocol was adopted by the government of Indonesia. It is also a part of a campaign to encourage the government to declare December 12 as Day Against Human Trafficking.

Declaration of Indonesian Children

One of the most important achievements of the Summit is The Declaration of Indonesian Children. Twenty-four participants representing the provinces where Indonesia ACTs operates formulated this declaration. There are 10 points in this declaration which embody children’s voices on child trafficking, declaring that child trafficking is a criminal act which destroys children’s dignity and self-esteem. Thus, there is an urgent need for networking and cooperation to fight and prevent child trafficking, and to protect children. They also believe that the perpetrator of child trafficking is a criminal and that there is an urgent need to raise children’s awareness on the danger of child trafficking.

Children formulated the declaration in a workshop wherein they shared their understanding of the issue; then, they identified the risk factors and the parties responsible for child protection in Indonesia. They actively participated in the workshop and freely expressed their thoughts and views.

The children symbolically handed over this declaration to Her Majesty Queen Hemas, the wife of the governor of Jogjakarta Province—His Majesty King Hamengkubuwono X who is a member of the House of Representatives. The Queen is known to have deep concern for child protection issues. By giving this declaration, the children expected the Queen and other leaders to listen to the voices of the children and to consider this declaration in policy making. The declaration was also distributed to media agencies. Most important, however, is to make this declaration the guidepost for children’s groups in each province to take action against human trafficking, and a basis for children’s movement against trafficking at the national level.

Children’s Expression

There were three workshops opened for Summit participants: theatre, music and drawing. These forms of artistic expression were chosen for children to enjoy activities that incorporate learning and playing. The facilitators began the workshop with a session in which participants can share their understanding of child trafficking. They also related their own experiences or other children’s experiences in their community. A group discussion ensued, after which the results were translated into works of art expressing their views and feelings on the issue.

A variety of artworks were produced. Ninety-seven participated in music workshop and
produced 8 songs. One hundred twenty-eight joined the drawing workshop and produced 28 drawings. Seventy joined the theatre workshop and created 5 scenarios. The workshop results were presented and displayed during the Summit. The participants also prepared slogans, banners, pictures, poems, theatre performances, songs and dance performances.

Conclusion

The National Children’s Summit is the first step to bring together members of children’s groups facilitated by the members of Indonesia ACTs. This summit provided a venue for children to share their views and study together with their peers on how to strengthen their understanding and awareness on the issue. It was important for children to realize that child trafficking is a real threat that can happen anywhere, at anytime. They were also encouraged to get involved in child trafficking prevention. The summit facilitated the formation of networks among children from different provinces. These networks will play a significant role in building bigger movements at the national level.
Declaration of Indonesian Children
“Children’s Voice against Child Trafficking”

We, the children of Indonesia, assemble in National Children’s Summit on 21 to 23 December 2008 in the village of Kebon Agung, sub-district of Imogiri, district of Bantul, Jogjakarta

Declare that:

1. Child trafficking is a criminal action destroying the dignity and self-esteem of a child.
2. We oppose all forms of child trafficking
3. All kinds of action have to be taken immediately to prevent and eliminate child trafficking.
4. Government, law enforcers, society, parents, NGOs, and children should work together to prevent and eliminate child trafficking.
5. The government should enforce Child Protection Act, punish the perpetrator of child trafficking, provide employment opportunities for the community, give free basic education, provide information on the danger of child trafficking, and give vocational skills to the children to help them become more creative.
6. Law enforcers should open 24 hours service, increase the security in areas at risk of child trafficking, improve their awareness to respond to reports from the community, and give information and education on child trafficking to the community.
7. The community should improve awareness, increase surveillance towards the cases of child trafficking, and report cases they encountered to the authorities.
8. Parents have to be responsible for the protection of their children, facilitate their education, give understanding to their children on the danger of child trafficking, keep their child away from free sex, and give enough love and care for their children.
9. Non-government organizations should give information and education on the danger of child trafficking to the community, initiate positive activities for the children, support all the children to prevent them from becoming victims of child trafficking, and become a good consultant for the community.
10. Children should be aware of their surroundings, understand the danger of child trafficking, refuse all offers leading to trafficking, and be involved in positive activities to keep themselves away from criminality.

We hereby make this declaration with hope that all stakeholders will work together to prevent and eliminate child trafficking.

“NO MORE CHILD TRAFFICKING IN INDONESIA!”
Jogjakarta, 23 December 2008
Signed by Indonesian Children
Child Peer Groups: Encouraging a Child-friendly Society
Cambodian Women’s Development Association (CWDA)

Introduction:

Wan Panha’s thin frame and boyish looks can be misleading. The eleven year old boy can transform into a notorious trafficker of women and children, known in Khmer as “mekhayall” or the trafficker, who lures children and young women from Cambodia’s rural villages into Thailand or other Southeast Asian capitals.

Panha is one of ten active members of the Peer Group in Dak Reng Commune in Cambodia and has played the role of a trafficker many times in awareness-raising activities of the peer group. Role playing is a method used to educate their school mates, youth and adults in the villages about what is trafficking, what are its causes and its impact on the people’s lives. Role playing was adapted into an awareness-raising module using pictures and drama to explain trafficking issues with the goal of encouraging families to let their children stay in school, to refrain from domestic violence, to prevent exploitative child labour and to promote and respect children’s rights.

Nov Simorn, the Primary School Director of Dak Reng Commune, praises the peer group’s effectiveness in reaching out to youth and their families.

“As children, they can reach out to other children better than adults. They monitor who among their classmates have problems of dropping out of school. Their peers easily understand them. Adults listen to them and are moved by their appeal. They are an important presence when we do advocacy with government authorities and they are improving their skills by articulating their own issues,” she says. “The child peer group is a way for children to be involved in creating a child friendly society,” Nov Simorn adds.

The Process:

Children peer groups are integral to the Village Safety Net Programme (VSNP) strategy adopted by the Cambodia ACTs network in its on-going programme to fight trafficking. The VSN strategy has been adopted since 2001 initially by the Vulnerable Children Assistance Organization (VCAO) and is being replicated by other Cambodia ACTs members. The strategy called for the direct intervention by community stakeholders and the support interventions provided by Cambodia ACTs members. The process of engaging the community network starts from a situational analysis; awareness-raising and community action planning through workshops; follow-up on awareness-raising by the communities at the commune, village, school and health centres; and, the monitoring of behaviour change and impact at the household level.
level. Closely linked to this is the actual effort to stop trafficking and domestic violence by police authorities, including rescue and referral of victims for legal action, health and shelter services. The activities of the village safety network also identifies actual child victims and children at high-risk to trafficking and exploitation and refer them to service providers for care and support services.

The Child Peer Group is integral to the VSN strategy. It brings in child participation in the advocacy of child-related issues to the authorities in the VSN Workshop, in community meetings and even in activities for lobbying and advocacy with higher-level authorities at the provincial and national levels. The peer group is a crucial aspect of community education, with planned awareness-raising activities facilitated by the child members.

Members of peer groups are students aged 11-12 years enrolled in Grade 6, most of them girls. CWDA trains the peer groups on child rights issues, with focus on informing children and adults about ways to prevent trafficking. The process starts with choosing its members in coordination with the primary school administrators and teachers. Peer group members are selected from school children who are most articulate and active in discussions about child rights. Those who want to be child facilitators must also get parental consent. Afterwards, the children go through three-day training with topics on general child rights; on the legal framework regarding trafficking, exploitative child labour and domestic violence; and on facilitation techniques in awareness-raising. The peer groups are then guided by CWDA in planning their own awareness-raising activities. They are also assisted in the conduct of actual facilitation by a network of adults belonging to the village safety network.

The peer groups meet once a month to plan. They usually execute one awareness-raising activity per month participated by around 25 children and/or adults. Coaching and practice exercises are done to hone their understanding of child rights, trafficking issues and their ability to facilitate.

The peer group operation is linked to the active involvement of other stakeholders of the VSN. School administrators and teachers set up school-based awareness-raising activities and mobilize young children to attend; local authorities mobilize the community activities. Stakeholders also help out in facilitation of these awareness-raising activities.

Follow-up meetings by Cambodia ACTs staff with the peer group members serve to process the experiences of the children. This is done informally to identify weak and strong areas in handling the awareness-raising module and in managing the conduct of the activity. This brings about refinement in task delegation and clarifies the content of topics. A formal meeting is also scheduled with the participation of district authorities, social affairs officers, commune officials and other stakeholders to report on cases of trafficking, domestic violence, child labour and other child issues brought out during the awareness-raising activities; then, they summarize the results of the undertaken activities.
Conclusion

The activities of the peer groups contributed to the widening reach of awareness-raising activities. Some 38 awareness-raising activities by peer groups were conducted in 2008, reaching some 1,558 people.

For 2008, the peer groups were especially active in reporting to higher authorities in the Baphnom District, Prey Veng province through CCASVA; and in the Benteay Srey District, Siem Reap through CWCC.

Besides peer-to-peer and community awareness-raising activities, the peer groups also participated in high-level advocacy where they highlighted children’s issues by themselves.

Peer Group participation was especially noted in the December 12 Campaign Against Trafficking. The activities saw the mobilization of all members of the VSN and the public. The child forum served as a culminating activity where children voiced out their concern on child trafficking issues through various means, such as role play, presentation of literary pieces, artwork, dance and other cultural presentations.

The peer groups were also invited to other activities related to overall child rights, such as Human Rights Day, Women’s Day and the International Day Against Child Labour that were organized by government and other development agencies like the International Labour Organization and the UN network.

The activities of the peer groups increased the number of victims and beneficiaries reached. Whereas before, the focus was on village chiefs and community leaders; now, peer groups reached the general public of elder people, community people and children. People now know about trafficking and there was a marked increase in reporting to the village chief or to the local authorities regarding strangers in their community who recruit villagers for migrant labour.
Epilogue

For the last eight years, the Asia ACTs network has successfully involved people and organizations from the grassroots, country and regional level in its campaigns and initiatives primarily in increasing awareness and mobilizing the public against the trafficking of children. The Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Children Victims of Trafficking, that its partners have drafted, lobbied and popularized is a proof of its capacity to sustain linkages and to lobby and advocate. The Community Education and the annual December 12 campaign to commemorate the Day Against Trafficking has gained and generated support. It has also contributed in the formation, reactivation and strengthening of child protection networks and has provided venues to encourage participation of children and young people.

With its vision of a good life for all children in Southeast Asia where their rights are fully respected, promoted and protected, the gains as well as the challenges have inspired Asia ACTs to continue its existence for the next three years as a regional network to fight child trafficking.

Aside from expanding the campaign to Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, Asia ACTs will also initiate collaborative efforts on anti-trafficking measures in Japan, South Korea and China while the country networks are strengthening and developing alliances/network to expand its influence.

Asia ACTs will also continue to promote strong and effective protection mechanisms for all children, especially trafficked children, with governments and civil society. And it will ensure the participation of children and young people for their protection and development.

Policy advocacy will be the main focus of the Asia ACTs network for the upcoming years to achieve access to justice and efficient and effective referral system for the full reintegration of trafficked children. This direction will require increasing the capacity of the Asia ACTs network and direct partners to better initiate policy formulation and implementation of protection mechanisms for trafficked children.

Studies, researches and awareness raising on the issues of organ trafficking and migration of children will be undertaken to ensure the full participation of the civil society in the formulation of programmes and implementation of policies.

…Thus the Asia ACTs history continues.
The Asia ACTs Network and Other Resource Organizations

**Burma ACTs** has 15 members including the Human Rights Education Institute for Burma (HREIB), Mon National Education Committee (Sankhlaburi and Mon State inside Burma), Burmese Migrant Workers Education Committee, Social Action for Women (Mae Sod area, School Health Team of Mae Tao Clinic (Mae Sod) and the Irrawaddy Migrant Labor Group (Mae Sod). Campaign areas include refugee camps, migrant communities in Thailand and China and communities in ethnic areas.

**Address:**

_c/o Human Rights Education Institute of Burma_

G.P.O 485 Chiang Mai 5000, Thailand

**Fax:**

(66 53) 120-422

**Cambodia Against Child Trafficking (Cambodia ACTs)** is a coalition of twelve NGO partners working in eight provinces and two cities (Takeo, Kandal, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Pursat, Phnom Penh and Pailin). The 12 NGO partners are Cambodia Children Against Starvation and Violence Association (CCASVA), Children and Life Association (CLA), Cambodian Vision for Development (CVD), Cambodian Women’s Crisis Center (CWCC), Cambodian Women’s Development Association (CWDA), Disadvantaged Cambodians Organisation (DCO), HOMELAND, Krousar - Thmey, Project Against Domestic Violence (PADV), Santi Sena Organization Vulnerable Children Assistant Organization (VCAO) and Cambodia Organization for Children and Development (COCD).

**Address:**

_c/o Vulnerable Children Assistance Organization_

House No. 25, Street 118 Sangkat Phsar Depo 3
Khan Tuol Kok, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Telephone:**

(855-23) 884-722;

**Fax:**

(855-23) 426-570

**Email:**

cambodia-acts@online.com.kh

**Cambodia Children Against Starvation and Violence Association (CCASVA)** specialises in assisting and working with street, orphan and vulnerable children who are considered to be at high risk of physical or sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking. It is committed to addressing serious social issues through programs of prevention, rehabilitation, education and reintegration.

**Address:**

#30B, St. 456, Chamkarmong, Phnom Penh

**Telephone:**

(+855-12) 888 613; +855 23 993615

**Email:**

bunroeun@ccasva.org

**Cambodian National Council for Children (CNCC)** is a key agency implementing the CRC and the National Plan of Action against Trafficking of Persons and Sexual Exploitation established in 1995.

**Address:**

Doung Chiv 2 Street, Chom Chao, Dangkor, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Telephone:**

012 733-449

**Email:**

khievbory@yahoo.com
Cambodian Women Development Association is an indigenous, non-profit, non-governmental organization with a strong feminist agenda. It grew out of the dissolved Phnom Penh Municipality Women’s Association in May 1993 after accreditation by the Supreme National Council.

CWDA is dedicated to promoting self-sufficiency and self-reliance in Cambodian Communities and the advancement of women’s economic and social rights. It seeks to address the socio-economic and psychological problems resulting from Cambodia’s two decades of civil war and political instability by empowering women in both their productive and reproductive capacities through education, organization, self-development, access to resources, advocacy and cooperation.

Address: House No. 19, Street 242, Khan Makara, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Telephone: 023 210-449; Fax: (855.23) 210-487
Email: cwda@online.com.kh

Vulnerable Children Assistance Organization (VCAO) is one of the conveners of the Cambodia Anti-Child Trafficking (Cambodia ACT) network. It was set up in 1994 by orphaned victims of the Khmer Rouge. VCAO is implementing the Vulnerable Child Assistance Programme, which integrates a Village Safety Net (VSN) programme, a recognized good practice in combating and preventing violence, sexual abuse, human trafficking and exploitation in Cambodia since 2001.

Address: House No. 25, Street 118 Sangkat Phsar Depo 3
Khan Tuol Kok, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Telephone: (855-23) 884-722; Fax: (855-23) 426-570
Email: director@vcao.org.kh

Krousar Thmey was founded in 1991 in Site 2 refugee camp along Cambodia-Thai border. With a vision of a better society with well-educated children who are becoming an independent and responsible adult, it aims to uphold street children, deaf and blind children by reintegrating them into their families and the society, get re-rooted in their own culture and regain their identity and dignity.

Address: #4, St. 257, Tuk Laak I, Toul Kauk, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Telephone: (855-23) 366-184 / 880-503; Fax: (855-23) 882-113
Email: krousar-thmey@bigfoot.com

Ho Chi Minh Child Welfare Foundation was initiated by a group of leading Vietnamese social workers, lawyers, professors, business people and religious groups. Partners of HCWF include DOLISA and MOLISA in Than Hoa and An Giang Province, Da Nang Center for Street Children and Women’s Union in Ho Chi Minh City.

Address: 85/65 Pham Viet Chanh St. Ward 19, Binh Thanh District, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Telephone: (84-8) 38 4-1 406 (84-8) 38 401 406; Fax: (84-8) 38 401 407
Email: hcwf@hcm.vnn.vn
**Philippines Against Child Trafficking (PACT)** is a network of advocates against child trafficking in the Philippines that was established in 2002. PACT started a nationwide campaign to stop child trafficking in the Philippines. It brought together active government agencies, non-government organizations, national and international agencies determined to build communities that offer a good life for the child—a life that ensures physical, material, spiritual and cultural development.

**Address:** Rm. 316 Philippine Social Science Center, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines

**Telefax:** (632) 929-0347

**E-mail:** philippinecampaign@gmail.com

**Katilingban para sa Kalambuan** was founded in 1995 to help poor and marginalized communities cope with the growing socio-economic problems in Zamboanga city. It envisions empowered communities, women and children, regardless of race or religion, where there is equality, fullness of life and the basic needs are met. It is committed to consolidating and strengthening urban poor communities; developing competent and responsible leaders and members in the communities as well as assisting communities in handling legal problems.

**Address:** San Jose Baliwasan , Zamboanga City

**Telephone:** (062) 992-5297

**Center for Peace and Development-Western Mindanao State University** provides venue for engaging and deepening the involvement of individuals, groups, and sectors in the peace and development process, for providing a context for the critical analysis of peace issues, for promoting cooperative action on urgent social development concerns in Zamboanga City and the region through Training and Capability building, Community Assistance Services, Advocacy, Peace Education and Research and Technical Assistance.

**Address:** 2nd Flr. Abitona Executive Building Western Mindanao State University, Normal Road, Baliwasan, Zamboanga City

**Telephone:** (062) 993-0949; **Telefax:** (062) 993-0949

**Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT)** in the Philippines functions as the policy formulating, coordinating and implementing body of all matters pertaining to human trafficking, headed by the Secretaries of the Department of Justice (DOJ) as Chair and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as Co-Chair. The other members of the IACAT are the heads of the following agencies: Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA), Bureau of Immigration (BI), Philippine National Police (PNP), National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), three representatives from NGOs from among the sectors representing women (Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-Asia Pacific, Overseas Filipino workers (Commission on Filipino Workers) and children (ECPAT Philippines).

**Address:** c/o Department of Justice, Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila

**Telephone:** (632) 523-0253; **Fax:** (632) 536-1293

**Website:** http://www.doj.gov.ph
Indonesia ACTs is a national network of organizations which works for the respect of children’s rights by empowering the community in protecting children from trafficking and encouraging the State to fully implement the National Plans of Action and enact laws and ordinances for the prevention, protection, recovery and reintegration of children from trafficking. Working in 9 provinces, Indonesia ACT has a strategic role in effectively managing cases of child trafficking. The three main parts of its programme are: community empowerment including children in the community; campaign and advocacy; and child protection network.

Address: Jalan Mesjid ii/11, RT 01/11 Bidara Cina, Jatinegra, Jakarta 1330 Indonesia
Telefax: (62) 21 850-7823
Email: indActs@yahoo.com

Kusuma Buana Foundation is a Jakarta-based organization which implements its anti-child trafficking programme at the district of Indramayu, West Java. Indramayu is well-known as the sending area of trafficked victims. It aims to assist government and communities in solving problems in the field of peoples’ welfare.

Address: Jl. Asem Baris Raya Blok A/3-Gudang Peluru - Tebet, Jakarta Selatan
Phone: (62) 21 829-6337 / 831-2467
Email: ykb-jkt@idola.net.id

Rumah Perempuan Foundation works in the district of Kupang, Nusa Tenggara in Indonesia, which is also known as a sending area. It aims to struggle for woman’s dignity and values and to develop woman strengths as proper human being. Their efforts are geared towards the achievement of their aims.

Address: Jl Pegangsaan No 17, Kelapa Lima – Kota Kupang
Phone: (62) 380-823-117
Email: rmhperempuan@yahoo.co.id

LRC KJHAM, a Semarang-based organization that works in the city of Semarang, the district of Kendal, and the district of Grobogan in Indonesia. It aims to participate in increasing the respect to gender, justice, values and human rights to human basic needs and rights such that citizens are respected, protected and fulfilled in every policy making process and developments, giving gender-based law assistance for free to poor people without discriminating their gender, religion, race, political belief or social cultural and social structural background.

Address: Jl. Panda Barat Ill No 1-Semarang 50199
Phone: (62) 24-672-3083
Email: lrc_kjham2004@yahoo.com

SARI works in the city of Surakarta and its nearby sub-districts. It aims to achieve sustainable social change, increase community’s welfare, and conduct activities on social analysis, alternative research, and formulate social-environmental policies.

Address: Jl. Prof. Soeharso Gang Duku No 4-Jajar, Solo 57145
Phone: (62) 271-7074-500
Email: sari_solo@hotmail.com
KAKAK, a Surakarta-based organization, works in the city of Surakarta-Central Java with the vision to encourage government and society to fulfill and protect the rights of the child by advocacy, education and direct services.

Address: Jl. Flamboyan Dalam No 1 – Purwosari – Surakarta 57142
Phone: (62) 271- 720-292
Email: kakak@kakak.org/nining@kakak.org

Sekretariat Anak Merdeka Indonesia is a Foundation which is active in Yogyakarta NGO’s Forum, INFID and AWDI. It is member of other National or International Forums. It aims to develop critical behavior in children; active & creative thinking and acting abilities in children, cooperative attitudes among children. It also develops child’s participation/emancipation within the community and manages the community’s life-environment for their involvement in developing the potentials of the children.

Address: Jl. Sidikan Gang Saridi UH V/567, Yogyakarta 55161
Phone: (62) 274-412-301
Email: office@yayasan-samin.org

Institut Perempuan is a Bandung-based organization, a feminist, non-profit organization, dedicated to women’s issues and women’s rights advocacy work. Its mission is giving its best efforts to advocate for women’s rights through women’s movement in order to create justice, equality, and humane civil society.

Address: Jl. Dago Pojok No. 85-Coblong, Bandung 40135
Phone: (62) 22-251-6378
Email: institut_perempuan@yahoo.com

Panca Karsa is a Mataram-based Association working in the city of Mataram-West Nusa Tenggara, and in the surrounding cities. It aims to organize Indonesian’s Migrant Worker and enable them speak out their rights.

Address: Jl. Industri No 26-A, Mataram-NTB
Phone: (62) 370-624-304
Email: karsamataram@yahoo.co.id
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Aspirations and Explorations: Good Practices of the Campaign Against Child Trafficking in Southeast Asia accounts the outcomes of the initiatives against child trafficking of Asia ACTs networks in Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Philippines. From a regional study on child trafficking, Asia ACTs has lead to the development of a module for massive community education and increasing public awareness through the Annual December 12 campaign. Asia ACTs undertook the drafting, lobbying and popularization of the National and the Southeast Asian Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Trafficked Children through various activities involving key stakeholders: media, NGOs, local community leaders, children and young people and decision-makers in government.

The publication shares stories of the Asia ACTs partners on Policy Advocacy, Alliance Building, Awareness Raising, Child Protection Network and Child Participation. It hopes to inspire more people to stop child trafficking.