

project
ASYA

Advocacy for Street
based Youth work
and networking Action

YOUTH POLICIES IN ASIA

Cambodia, East Timor, Hong Kong, Nepal, Philippines, Vietnam

Analysis and prospects



Activity of the **Street work Training Institute** of
Dynamo International - Street Workers Network [DISWN]
[Lisbon – PORTUGAL]

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Project **ASYA** / ERASMUS+ partners:

Asociación Navarra Nuevo Futuro ANNF (Spain) – Conversas
Associação Internacional CAI (Portugal) – Dynamo International
Street Workers Network (Belgium) – TPO (Cambodia) – Playground
Association (Hong Kong) - CPCS (Nepal) - Virilanie Fd. (Philippines) -
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Introduction

This work results from the networking and advocacy process promoting the social street work methodology done by a consortium of partners from six Asian countries, united in the project **ASYA** — **A**dvocacy for **S**treet based **Y**outh work and networking **A**ction, between October 2017 and September 2019, developed by Asociación Navarra Nuevo Futuro ANNF (Spain) and the Street work Training Institute (SwTI) supported by Conversas Associação Internacional CAI (Portugal), in partnership with Dynamo International Street Workers Network (Belgium).

The project's partners are the associations or associations' groups that use social street work as their main methodology to approach and support the most vulnerable populations, namely those of children and youths. The countries concerned are Cambodia, East Timor, Hong Kong, Nepal, Philippines and Vietnam.

The project **ASYA** has set three distinct but complementary goals:

- **Training** youth workers
- Strengthening **networks** of associations doing street work
- **Advocating** for the acknowledgement of the street work methodology and of the street workers' status

This third goal (advocating for the acknowledgement of the social street work) has been developed in three different moments:

- Advocacy training: a member of each partner received training in advocacy techniques in a workshop done in Nepal October 2018
- «State of the art» on Youth policies in each country
- Sharing of each country's «Good practices»
- List of recommendations at the regional, national, and international levels
- Awareness campaign targeting decision makers and the public in general, through petitions in each country for the acknowledgement of the social street work methodology and the social street workers' status.

Our goal is to gather the information given by all the different partners, and pick the main ideas to have a general perspective both on street work as a tool to support young populations in difficulties, and on the evolution of youth policies in Asian region.

Cambodia

State of the art [CAMBODIA]

- **Youth policies**

According to *Innovations in Civic Participation – Cambodia*, the *National Policy on Youth Development* (2011) began in 2004, with drafts completed in 2006 and 2008. According to the UN, an accompanying *National Youth Action Plan* has also been developed. *The National Policy on Youth Development* focuses on twelve strategic areas:

- Legal frameworks and mechanisms;
- Education, training and capacity-building;
- Education, care and provision of health service;
- Entrepreneurship and labour market;
- Protection of social security, peace and justice;
- Youth's participation;
- Relaxation, leisure, and sports;
- Arts and culture;
- Awareness of environment, agriculture, tourism and business;
- Volunteers;
- Gender;
- Drugs use and increase rehabilitation.

<http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/cambodia/>

The document provides a rationale for its priorities:

« The Royal Government has determined that education is very fundamental for sustainability of economic and social development and economic growth that lead to poverty reduction. In the academic years 2010-2011, the rate of students at elementary school was 96.1%, lower secondary school 33.9% and upper secondary school 20.8%. The number of literate people (aged between 15-24) was 87.5% (2008 national census), and that of students holding associate's degree, bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctoral degree was 263,000 (2009-2010 report of Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports). »

« The Royal Government has focused its attention on youth by providing them with high quality of education that aims at strengthening their capacity for engagement in labour market. At the same time, some youth still lack access to educational service and others, especially women, can get only jobs with low payment. Some youth leave their hometown to find jobs in the city and others go abroad in order to find jobs. Moreover, they face with vulnerability such as school dropout, loss of choice, drugs addiction, alcohol consumption and work-related accidents. »

Main issues that affect Cambodian youth

The UN's Situation Analysis for Youth in Cambodia (2009) notes a number of problems facing young people:

- **Employment**

« The single most important issue confronting youth in Cambodia today is employment. The labour force is increasing by as many as 300,000 per year, and will increase to as many as 400,000 per year in the near future. The garment, tourism, and construction industries are not growing sufficiently quickly to absorb so many new labour market entrants. As a result, the Government's Rectangular Strategy, as outlined in the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2006 – 2010, details steps to develop the agricultural sector as a "third engine" of growth. On-farm employment is, however, constrained by insecure land tenure, lack of affordable credit, fragmented inputs and services, a lack of infrastructure, and poorly functioning markets. Off-farm employment seems to have great potential but more effort is needed to stimulate Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) development and agri-business investments. There is a need to attract foreign investment in agri-business and to strengthen the business-enabling environment.»

- **Drugs**

« The production, sale and use of drugs are becoming increasingly complex and appear to be spreading throughout the country. While data are difficult to come by, more than 80 per cent of known drug users are below 26. Most drug users are unemployed, sex workers and workers in labour-intensive industries, including construction, garment manufacturing, and truck/taxi driving, as well as street children. »

- **Gender**

The United Nations in Cambodia's *Youth Common Advocacy Points 2011* notes the gender and generational divides:

« Cambodian tradition and culture emphasizes respect for elders, and combined with patriarchal beliefs, tradition tends to respect elder men, limiting opportunities for young people, in particular young women, to express their views. Increasing the involvement of young people in local development and decision-making is a real opportunity and will provide decision-makers with the perspectives and experiences of young people. »

- **Child work**

From the *Cambodia Human Development Report (2000)*:

« There is a striking gender difference in the incidence of child labour among children aged 14-17 years, with one-half of all girls, but only one-third of all boys, working. Not surprisingly, the rates of school enrolment are much lower

for girls than for boys aged 14-17 years. Both the rates of school enrolment and of child labour are virtually identical for boys and girls at young ages, but the gender disparity starts manifesting itself after age 12 and continues to widen until age 17.

Another form of child work about which little is known is domestic work outside the child's own home. A large number of children in Cambodia work as domestic servants, responsible for everything from cooking, cleaning, child care and running errands. It is estimated that Phnom Penh alone has 6,500 child domestic workers aged 14-17 years. While most child domestic workers fall within the 14-17 age group, it is not uncommon to find child domestic workers as young as 8 or 9 years of age. One survey found that only 7% of the child domestic workers in Phnom Penh were male; the remaining 93% were females. Female domestic workers are often preferred over male domestic workers because they are perceived to be more hard-working and less likely to complain about long working hours and difficult jobs. Unfortunately, this makes the girl domestic workers also vulnerable to sexual exploitation by their employers. »

Good practices [CAMBODIA]

Partnership for the Prevention & Protection of Children - TPO / Friends International

- Issue: Domestic violence is widespread in Cambodia. Its physical and psychological impact on adults as well as the children, families and communities is devastating. In our work, we often see people afflicted by serious mental health issues as a direct result of domestic violence. *Friends International* has now selected *TPO Cambodia* as a partner to help implement this program, with funding from UNICEF. *TPO Cambodia* was selected based on our expertise and experience in providing mental health services to victims of domestic violence. This enables TPO to provide mental health care and psychosocial support to people suffering from serious mental health issues, to children who are victims of violence at home and to children who have been neglected or abandoned by their families.
- Target groups: *TPO Cambodia*'s specific focus in the 3P project is to provide support and services to survivors of gender-based violence, vulnerable children and local authorities
- Goals: While providing mental health services is front and center of what we do, the ultimate goal of this project is to strengthen Cambodia's child protection system in response to and to prevent violence, and to promote a protective family environment.
- Approach: While providing mental health services is front and center of what we do, the

ultimate goal of this project is to strengthen Cambodia's child protection system in response to and to prevent violence, and to promote a protective family environment. Cambodia is still suffering terribly from hardship, poverty, socio-political upheaval and, above all, from trauma resulting from war and genocide. This burden affects Cambodians at three levels: Society/Community, Family and Individual. For our work, we always start with a social context assessment, after which we provide services and organize activities in the communities at each of these three levels.

- Activities: TPO will deliver the following activities in order to strengthen awareness and understanding of domestic violence and psychosocial problems:
 - Organize awareness raising activities in the communities about domestic violence and psychosocial problems
 - Training focal people in the community in identifying domestic violence and mental health problems and in providing emotional support to the victims
 - Identify and select members of the local authorities to train them in Mental Health First Aid.
 - Train Child Club members and representatives in identifying and supporting children at risk and form a Child Friendly club.

East Timor

State of the art [EAST TIMOR]

- **Legal framework about Youth Policy**

The Parliament approved in 2016 the national politics of youth. The Constitution of Republic Democratic of East Timor, article 19, says that the citizen of youth is obliged to consolidate the national unity, participate into the reconstruction, defence and development in the country. Moreover, in article 2, it says that the youth has right to get education, health and professional training.

Beside that the politics still recognise that some of youth do have specific needs and they need to have any specific attention from government, civil society, private sector and the development partnership for the obstacles they face.

As it has been stated in the demography of youth that most of them are now living in the rural area and they are mostly facing difficulties of accessing into qualified education, good health treatment and the opportunities of training and employment.

About disability youth, it's stated that this group have not the appropriated education and being far for accessing the opportunity of

development. So, all development program needs to have them into account and recognise their abilities, knowledge, respect their rights to participate and decide about their life.

About the youth who work in the street: the progress of development that have been running so far does not provide equal benefit to all because the phenomena of youth who work in the street mainly occurs in Dili as the capital city of East Timor. Youth who is now working in the street especially those who work for sex sales have been far from the benefits of the development. This youth have got vulnerable situation and get too much risk including the risk of sexual exploitation which been involved with crimes, being contagious for high risk of sexual disease, been affected by drug abuse.

Youth who live in risk situation: youth faces various risks like drug, alcohol and cigarette abuse, HIV, involvement into violence and crime. The culture also being customised to have access into alcohol, so this provides chance for the youth to consume it and the behaviour of smoking cigarette is also being growing among the youth and affect their health. HIV transmission is increasing, as well as the occurrence of violence and crime involving youngsters.

The definition of child is being considered age under 17. The article 4 declares the obligation of protection and promotion of the right of child

inside the family and the country. The children are obliged to go to the school from kindergarten to primary school until reaching to the higher level of education. They are asked to use Portuguese language inside the class. And the government also provides professional training and capacity building programs such as Portuguese course for taking the bachelor degrees and educational teacher training by the time of holiday for all teachers.

However, in rural area like Dilor village (Lacluta), it's hard to get good access into better professional training courses and other capacity building programs towards the local children, students and youth because of financial problems.

- **Social street work methodology**

There is a law in the country of East Timor mainly about the youth working on the street, phenomenon that especially occurs in the capital city of Dili, on the main street, where youngsters sell things and some are working for sexual activity. This youth lives in vulnerable situations. So, the government itself encourages the other non-governmental organizations such as NGOs and Civil Societies so as to help them with such prioritised programs which may lead them to the better ways of daily life inside the community. The main social protection policies were created after the 2006/2007 crisis and

focusing in the promotion of peace and social cohesion. Meanwhile to advance the social protection system as a whole, the Ministry of Social Solidarity, with support from the UN, started in 2006 a process to develop the National Social Protection Strategy using a participatory methodology that included several government institutions, representatives from workers' and employers' organizations, civil society institutions and the United Nations agencies in a comprehensive assessment exercise. However, a lot of youngsters still do not attend the school because of the obstacles of socio-economy life inside the family and the community.

- **Children in street situation**

There is not any specific law for protecting the children and youth in a street situation because mostly people in East Timor do not live in the main street as homeless. Everyone in this country has free land for living and even for building a simple house by using grass on roofing, bamboos and woods. So, it is just a general law of protecting the children and youth not to work in the street or doing hard labours, selling things, washing vehicles, begging money, collecting plastics and cans for re-selling. The government of East Timor has established a National Commission for the Right of Children which called in Tetum as “KNDL” (Komisaun Nasional ba Direitu Labarik) and the

Child Protection Network which called in Tetum as "RPL (Rede Protesaun ba Labarik) for 13 districts. This is important since rights of children are still often violated, sometime by their own parents who are continuously ordering them to sell things in the street and getting money for the parents.

A lot of vulnerable children and youth do not get better education and any other professional and vocational training courses which endorse them to find job because of bad economy inside the family. Some local communities have no good clean water and sanitation and do not have access to the market because of the road and transportation. These things really affect them to move on forward and lead their children for improving their education and skills. In fact, in relation with the politics within East Timor is still lack of attention to fully control and help the population who live along the rural areas and including the development and educational sector. Sometimes the parents must send the children to work in the street in order to make money supporting the economy of family even though this is really against the law of child protection.

East Timor has become a new country in the world and total population increases more and more every time. This growing demography affects the life of the people, because of unemployment in the country which is influencing the life of families badly, creating

separation and divorcing among the underage married. In addition, those issues are affecting the young children and youth being out of the responsibility by their parents..

- **Status for social street workers**

There is not any law recognizing a professional status for social street workers.

- **Networks**

There is no any formal or informal network of associations dedicated to children and youngsters in vulnerable situation. Mostly the associations and NGOs as focusing much on agriculture parts, educations and other social activities in assisting the work of groups of agriculture, business development and so forth. The *Associação Grupo Comunidade Rural* is mainly working to serve the people, communities, students, youth and the children in the rural areas. *Associação Grupo Comunidade Rural* is focusing on helping the people from the sub-villages to villages, and from the subdistricts up to district the capital itself because mostly within these places more are starving, lack of good education, unemployment and facing lots of hard lives.

Good practices [EAST TIMOR]

- **Training in rural areas**

In parallel of its social support and Street work activity with youngsters, the *Associação Grupo Comunidade Rural – AGCR* organizes trainings in English and ICT open to all the population in the area of Lacluta. When AGCR began its social street work activities, the local authorities (village chief, doctor and police station commander) suggested that we could try to approach vulnerable families conducting trainings, seminars and dissemination with the parents, provide some local educators to follow on with the vulnerable children and youth including families. They assured to provide some cooperation for this program that has been now implemented by ASYA project. After this project, we can move on to help the others in other districts and sub-districts because this is a very interesting and helpful program to be implemented in order to protect and help the local vulnerable children and youth in Timor. AGCR received some help from ASYA project partners (Nepal and Hong Kong) to build a shelter for exterior training sessions and to furnish a classroom with computers material.

Hong Kong

State of the art [HONG KONG]

- **Youth in Hong Kong**

According to the University of Hong Kong Statistical Profile, the youth in Hong Kong includes citizens of the Chinese territory of Hong Kong aged 15–24 years. As of 2011, youth in Hong Kong ages 15–24 made up 12.4 per cent of Hong Kong's overall population at 875,200 people. Hong Kong is a hybrid culture, influenced by China and Britain, but overall by its international economic ties, which plays a role in shaping the lives of the youth in Hong Kong. The youth in Hong Kong are unique in the fact that many are living Transnationalist identities. The demographics are not just ethnically Chinese youth in Hong Kong, but also youth that are ethnically white, Indonesian, Filipino, which can be seen in Demographics of Hong Kong, and that creates a unique society. "Although with a dominant Chinese population, Hong Kong is an international city and is a mix of East and West rich in cultures, history, and religions." The disparity between the rich and poor within Hong Kong has been growing wider.

Hong Kong youths' social world is greatly influenced by family and peer relationships which shape functioning, support, social self-

concept, and social isolation. The youth scene in Hong Kong includes risk-taking behaviour such as party going, sex, drug abuse, fighting, and high-speed driving. An important aspect of Hong Kong is its transnational education. Having paid work and a stable job allows young people to become independent from their parents, participate in adult forms of leisure, and gives them adult status in society. Political protests led by Hong Kong youth have become more prevalent in recent years, where these young activists have expressed concern for public and developmental affairs in Hong Kong. The most common reasons to why Hong Kong youth go on the internet and engage in mass media were for entertainment, searching for information, and connecting with friends.

- **Health issues**

The most common cause of death for Hong Kong youth aged 15–24 is "external causes of morbidity and mortality," and within this category the highest percentage died under the cause of "intentional self-harm." The suicide rate in Hong Kong has risen from 35 percent from 1999 to 2003, and has since still been on the rise. Suicide has become the leading cause of death in Hong Kongers aged 15 to 24. For Hong Kong youth who have low social support from their parents and peers, they often feel hopeless and have lower self-worth, increasing the risk for suicide. In Hong Kong there is a

stigma against homosexuals that is far greater than their counterparts in the West, even from college students who are typically the most tolerant of subgroups.

- **Education**

An important aspect of Hong Kong is its transnational education. It is an education "in which the learners are located in a country different from the one where the awarding institution is based." This is true for Hong Kong youth who attend local institutions where foreign courses are offered that are considered British, Australian, American, Chinese. Students can then, through an application, get credit from the institution the courses are offered from even though they took the courses at their home institutions. Hong Kong does not directly regulate the quality of the transnational education offered, nor does it shape the content or cost of courses being offered by foreign providers. Being an internationalised territory, students at both the university level and in post-secondary vocational training in Hong Kong receive an education that is often geared towards international knowledge, rather than just local knowledge and practice. Hong Kong youth, therefore, obtain skills and knowledge that make them marketable for jobs worldwide. Most youth who leave school say they do so to find a good job with a good income. They soon realize their opportunities are limited without at

least a senior secondary education level and work-related experience.

According to the World Bank, the rate of primary education completion from 2010-2016 in Hong Kong was 96 per cent. The rate of secondary education completion was 93.4 per cent, and the rate of tertiary education completion was 67 per cent.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth_in_Hong_Kong

- **Vulnerable children**

Despite its real estate boom and apparent prosperity, the yawning gap between rich and poor in HK is wider than ever and shows no signs of diminishing. One in five children live in poverty. One in ten lives with a single parent. Families of HK's most vulnerable children also include the unemployed, ethnic minorities, teenage mothers and new arrivals. These, in particular, have a poverty rate of 30.1% compared to the overall average of 14.7%.

Many cannot speak the local language. In Sham Shui Po, HK's poorest district, where there are about 16,500 children under three, there is only one child care space available for every 160 children. Without intervention well before they enter mainstream schools, HK's at-risk children have few chance to ever realize their potential.

<https://campaignforallchildren.org/the-hidden-need/>

- **Youth policy**

Actually there is until now no official and binding youth development policy in HK. In 1986 was set up a Central Committee on Youth. After a survey of public opinion, youth policies overseas and trends, it found that youth development would benefit from a clearer policy direction and better coordination in allocating resources, and recommended forming a youth policy with principles for youth development and an advisory body. In 1989, the CCY recommended the government to formulate a youth policy, but it was rejected and set up a Commission on Youth to advise on all matters about youth. In 1992, the CoY proposes a Charter for Youth that would operate on a system of voluntary subscription. It proclaimed the rights of young people, their needs and aspirations and the social goals for youth development. The Charter was published in 1993 as a non-binding document. It contained 3 sections: "Pledge" (10 ideals and principles on youth development), "Recognition" (stating the rights of youth) and "Consideration" (stating goals for youth development). « In 1997, the Sino-British Joint Declaration has established a historic watershed for HK in order to maintain HK's stability and prosperity. It is essential to have a new generation of citizens who have had healthy development and have a sense of belonging and are committed to the future of the community. It is against this background that youth development has seen a resurgence of

public recognition and attention. » Since then, few happened. However, the former Chief Executive in his 2016 Policy Address invited the CoY to put forward proposals on the future direction of a Youth Development Policy (YDP). The importance of having such a policy was echoed by the current Chief Executive in her election manifesto. She further noted in her 2017 Policy Address that the Youth Development Commission would be established as a high-level coordinating government structure in early 2018, and chaired by the Chief Secretary of Administration, to steer the direction for youth development and enhance coordination among departments.
http://youthpolicy.hk/history.php?lang=_eng

Good practices [HONG KONG]

- **Social work + Culture and sport
Hong Kong Playground Association**

Established in 1933, HKPA has as mission the vulnerable youth accompaniment in its most diverse aspects. In the beginning with charity works and the installation and managing of playgrounds for street kids. Then HKPA began to organize camps, to build stadiums and centres. Surrendering the playground management role to the government, the association starts more and more social work professional service. It's a big service, with 30 service units, about 300 staff members and 150

social workers, supported at 54% by public bodies.

HKPA organizes large scale projects as the Hong Kong Outstanding Teens Election and the Youth Arts Festival.

But the day-to-day work with youngsters is developed by these main two divisions:

- Social Work Division:
 - Children and Youth Centres
 - Youth Outreaching Team
 - School Social Work Service
 - Integrated Children & Youth Service Centre
 - Overnight Outreaching for Young Night Drifters
 - Community Support Service Scheme
 - Unusual Academy
- Culture, Sports & Arts Division:
 - Camps
 - Stadiums
 - Exchange & Arts
 - Sports Services
 - Social Enterprises
 - Real Madrid Project

These two divisions are close and complementary. This allows to combine easily social work with youngsters at risk or delinquents with sport or cultural activities. The integration of these two fields in collective activities uses to produce very good results in individual accompaniment.

- **Against bullying**
Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
(HKFYG)

Bullying in school is not new. What is new is the way it has evolved into what we now call cyberbullying. More insidious and with the anonymity that the internet affords, cyberbullying can have widespread, deeper and more detrimental consequences than conventional bullying. This HKFYG, through its publications, made a campaign to inform about the bullying phenomenon (process, causes and consequences) and help to deal with it, individually and collectively, with technical explanations, experts and social workers interviews and victim testimonies, assessing what is being done and what should be done to tackle this critical issue and asking to young people to write and tell their own experiences in dealing with cyberbullying.

The topics and questions raised:

- How bullying can be defined?
- What are the symptoms and effects?
- What are cyberbullying and shaming?
- How bad is it? How to react?
- What psychologist support exist?
- What schools and parents should do?
- What things parents should not do?
- What is reported, what is punished?
- What are the long-term effects of being bullied? How to fight the phenomenon?

https://pt.scribd.com/document/427803595/YHK-11-3-Bullying#download&from_embed

Nepal

State of the art [NEPAL]

- **Legal framework**

Present Status About street work methodology:
Having felt the need of a separate mechanism for achieving post conflict peace, economic and social transformation by systematically addressing the issues of youth concern, the Ministry of Youth and Sports was established in 2065B.S. (2008). In order to achieve the mission and objectives envisioned by the National Youth Policy, 2066 (2009), various programs have been conducted through the Ministry. Moreover, due to its inter-relation with various Ministries and bodies concerned with the youth the Ministry of Youth and Sports has been coordinating with national and international NGOs, Nepal Scout and the organizations politically associated with the youth and the donors. In order to take policy initiative for youth development and for the sake of constituting a National Youth Council as an autonomous organization chiefly responsible for implementation of the programs, the National Youth Council Act, 2072 (2015) was adopted at the initiative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the process of constituting the National Youth Council has been pushed forward.

In 2018, The Nepalese government made an Act relating to Children. The act states: “This Act shall come into force at once». The Government of Nepal, state governments and local level shall take necessary preventive and protection measures, including prevention of accidents that may occur against children and mitigation of risks, in order to safeguard children’s rights to life and development. The debate is going on between Local NGO’s, INGO’s, government bodies, Child Protection officers in diverse municipalities. There are no specific names for children and youth in street situations.

- **Issues**

- With a view to grooming the youth as change agents and a motivating factor of sustainable developments, programs must be conducted focusing on awareness-raising about the basic principles and norms, democracy and human rights.
- Most important is the availability for personal documents, birth certificates, ID cards which is for the moment a big issue and a bureaucratic hassle.
- Youth migration to gulf countries because of lack of jobs in Nepal;
- Youth in the country don’t find good paid jobs.

- There are laws and policies about Children and Youth but they are not implemented.
- Very few laws are related with street based children and youth.
- The caste system is viral in the daily life of the society. Social stigma's are the result of the caste system doe it's forbidden by law to discriminate a person on his or her caste. The fundamentals of the caste system are based on religion. Nepalese are known by castes amongst themselves essentially for their identity. It affects their family life, food, dress, occupations and culture. Basically, it determines their way of life. On the whole, caste system has an important role in social stratification in Nepal. There are many castes in Nepal amongst various communities mainly in the hills, valleys and the plains. The caste system is the basis of feudalistic economic structure with the system of individual ownership system. Improve support and services provided to disadvantaged families in high risk communities to prevent the migration of children to the cities.
- School curriculum, and provide pathways for them to reintegrate into mainstream education.
- Flexible education integrated in formal schools is considered a good model and can be given in basic secondary schools.

- **NGO's networks**

- Street Workers Forum, was founded by CPCS. Due to a lack of coordination between various social NGOs working for children and youth in street situations, CPCS decided to set up this forum. It is an informal forum. The membership varies from 8 to 10 organizations. One meeting per month is organized unless there are emergencies, then additional meetings are arranged.
- NAOSC (National Alliance of Organizations for Street Children-Nepal (NAOSC-Nepal) strives for safer, better and easier conditions for street children through strengthening the organizations working for street children. Founded in 2012. CPCS is a member of NAOSC (<http://www.streetchildren.org.np>)

Good practices [NEPAL]

- **Drop In Center for Boys**
[Kathmandu valley]

The CPCS *Drop In Center* is for former street and working children who want to leave the street life in order to develop themselves within a more positive and promising environment. Children are offered three educational sessions per day (Nepali, English, mathematics, physical

education, or personal hygiene). This program mixes education and socialization through arts and sports and helps to bring back children's self-esteem. It enables children to get over bad street habits such as drug addiction, violence, and pick pocketing, and prepares them for a more rigorous study program or family reunification. Children involved in these programs have spent time on the street enjoying total freedom and living in a world without any form of obligations and commitments, their stability often remains fragile and temptations to go back to the streets are frequent. Therefore, CPCS particularly focuses on personal counselling thanks to our social workers and regular interventions with the psychological counsellors. After having spent two months in Rehabilitation, children who have not been reunified with their families join the second Rehabilitation program where more long-term solutions are considered such as referral to other NGOs for vocational training, or schooling programs.

- **Medical care in the Recovery Center for boys and girls in street situations**

[Kathmandu valley, Lalitpur, Godawari]

The Recovery Center of Godawari is opened 24 hours a day. Professional Health Assistants and qualified nurses work in shifts.

In the Recovery Center, which is equipped with 10 beds, sick children in street situations and

marginalized conditions can recover. Special meals can be prepared according to doctors' recommendations. The clinic also treats viral diseases and epidemics. Children can receive daily consultations and needed treatments including hospitalizations.

- **Risk Reduction/family reunification/deinstitutionalization**
[Kathmandu, Dolakha, Godawari]

CPCS short-term risk reduction programs (conducted both in the streets and in our socialization centers), constitutes the first steps to the building of a relationship between the child and CPCS. CPCS then offers any street-based child who desires it, an individual counselling based on his personal history, educational background, personal abilities, age, and most important of all, on his personal wishes and interests. Through daily fieldwork and contacts with children in street situations within our centers, we gain experience about the daily life and problems that are facing children in street situations. In addition, CPCS values very much its network with other NGOs working with children in street situations around the world. Being part of the "Street Field Workers International Network" gives us the opportunity to share our experiences and learn from others.

Philippines

State of the art [PHILIPPINES]

- **Legal framework**

Philippines has a total population of 105 million people. More than half of the population comprise of children with a total of 36% and youth 28%.

Prior to the ratification of the United Nation *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the Philippines has already taken initiative in protecting the rights of Filipino children, in 1974, with the *Child and Youth Welfare Code*. The code defines “child” and “youth” and their rights and entitlements including services that should be provided for their wholesome development. Child as define in this code refers to person below twenty-one (21) years of age except those emancipated with law. “Child”, or “Minor” or “Youth” as used in this code shall refers to such persons.
(www.gov.ph/1974/12/10/presidential-decree-no-603-s-1974/)

In 1992 was also adopted the special protection of children against child abuse, exploitation and discrimination providing penalties for its violations and for other purposes act. The State

shall intervene on behalf of the child when the parents, guardian, teacher or person having custody of the child fails or is unable to protect the child against child abuse, exploitation and discrimination or when such act is committed by the said parents, guardian, teacher or person having the custody of the same.

However, due to various circumstances mostly of poverty, there are children and youth who are at risk. Hence, Republic Act 9344 or the *Juvenile Justice Welfare Act* of 2016 was enacted. This law defines Child at Risk as a person who is vulnerable to and at the risk of committing criminal offenses because of personal, family and social circumstances, such as being abused by any person through sexual, physical, psychological, mental, economic or any other means and the parents or guardian refuse, are unwilling, or unable to provide protection for the child, being exploited including sexually or economically, being abandoned or neglected and after diligent search and inquiry, the parent or guardian cannot be found, coming from a dysfunctional or broken family or without a parent or guardian, being out of school, being a street child, being a member of a gang, living in a community with high level of criminality or drug abuse and living in situations of armed conflict. In such case, the social workers are recognized to intervene in behalf of the State.

- **Social worker** has been recognized by the Philippine government as a profession with the enactment of Republic Act 4373 or the Act to regulate the practice of social work and the operation of social work agencies in the Philippines and for other purposes. (P.551, Social Welfare and Social Work, Thelma Lee-Mendoza).

Social worker Works in various field or setting among which are child welfare, family welfare and community welfare and etc. Among the strategies being applied is street education or street work. Though any other profession or coming from the grassroots can be a street educators, social worker is still the one recognized by law to intervene in behalf of the child or individuals in need of protection particularly in the cases of children in the street.

Good practices [PHILIPPINES]

Virlanie Foundation has been implementing street education program for 27 years and has evolved into various programs. Among its best practices are the following;

- **Mobile Unit Program** provides mobile school using innovative educational materials. The program is composed of social workers, teachers and a nurse. However, because the beneficiaries have been trained and aware on how and where

to go to address their medical concerns, the team decided to end the term of the nurse this year 2016 and instead added one more teacher. The team goes to the field three times a week to facilitates tutorials, counselling, livelihood activities and visits their beneficiaries at home or in school. Among the methodologies they are using is interactive games and other activities tailored to the specific needs of the street children. The sessions cover functional literacy and awareness, child rights, proper health care, personal safety and values formation. Since the inception of the said program, more and more street children become interested in attending the tutorial lessons and expresses interest in going to school.

- **Program on Adolescent Sexuality and Reproductive Health and Awareness on Basic Medical Services.**

Early pregnancy is among the factors that contribute to the rapid population growth in the Philippines and the vulnerable sector is the street children. Mobile Unit Program decided to extend the Adolescent Sexuality and Reproductive Health (ASRH) to their beneficiaries who are the young couples. It is a series of sessions that explores the changes that take place during the period of adolescence, what is the difference between the male and female sexuality, and

the different sources of information on the topic of ASRH.

- **Referral to Residential Programs**
Social workers regularly facilitate counselling sessions to the children and their family. For the best interest of a child, referral to a residential institution is facilitated by the social worker.
- **Referral to Balik Probinsya Program**
A family who expresses going back to the province to leave the street life is being referred to Virlanie Balik Probinsya Program. Their return to their province of origin is being facilitated and the family is provided with a house, livelihood assistance to parents and educational assistance to the children.
- **Referral or conduct of life skills and adolescent sexuality and reproductive health (ASRH) training to the youth.**
Mobile Unit Program conduct ASRH training to their Young couples and refers to Virlanie Independent Living Program for life skills training and employment opportunity.
- **Income generating activity for mothers.**
The MUP has been facilitating entrepreneurial activity to the mothers through jewellery making. The activity is on the progress and has been providing small earning to the mothers.

Vietnam

State of the art [VIETNAM]

- **Legal framework**

The development of the last decades in Vietnam brought a quick growth and created positive changes at economic, political and social levels but also quite a lot of problems, especially social issues with children and youngsters, while poverty and other structural questions are still not solved. The fundamental rights of the children are not yet ensured, especially for the ones who are living in precarious conditions. This represents an enormous challenge for the authorities, with a welfare system completely overburdened, despite the action in this field of international NGO's.

In April 2016, the National Assembly voted the Children Law, that defines children's rights and responsibilities; rules and methods of ensuring children's rights; duties of agencies, organization, education facilities, families and individuals to exercise children's rights and responsibilities.

Fourteen categories of disadvantaged children are listed in the law:

- Double orphans;
- Abandoned children;
- Homeless children;
- Children with disabilities;
- Children affected by HIV/AIDS;
- Children committed illegal acts;
- Children who are drug addicts;
- Children who must give up their studies to earn their living and fail to complete the universalization of secondary education;
- Children who suffered seriously physical and mental harm due to violence;
- Exploited children;
- Sexually abused children;
- Trafficked children;
- Children who have fatal disease or disease requiring long term treatment and are children of poor or near poor households;
- Immigrant and refugee children whose parents are not yet identified or those who have no caring person.

The Children's Law removed the phrase "street children" from the 14 groups of children in special circumstances that the state pays extra attention to. Because there are not considered street children groups, there is therefore no methodology to guides street children work in legal documents in Vietnam. NGO's are advocating for the recognition of street children reality and for social street work methodology.

- **Other important issues in Vietnam, linked with the situation of vulnerable childhood and youth:**
 - Economic issues to be discussed: The gap between rich and poor is getting stronger. Some of the richest people are growing up rapidly by catching up on relationships and opportunities, leaving a large part of the population poor, driven out of the country's development agenda. This population is concentrated in rural areas and migrants. Children are not entitled to the benefits provided by state policies/laws such as school attendance rights, personal rights...
 - Social issues to be discussed: The negative effect on the mental health of children/adolescents is increasing. Stress on children leads to law violation and violence increment. Lack of mental health services for children/adolescents in schools and communities.
 - Education and employment policies that affect children/adolescent need readjustment. Currently, in Vietnam, the new education law only stipulates that the state exempts tuition fees for children at the primary level of education. The state must exempt students from lower secondary and upper secondary schools. In the future, education should be free. Employment policy should encourage more vocational training programs for young people, especially street children, migrants or from rural areas, in order to lead to a higher rate of adolescent employment and reduce adolescent crimes.

- **The training for social worker** is at an early stage, the curriculum and teaching are still lacking and rather inadequacies. The social workers contingent is thin. About 20 vocational schools offer training on social work, about 13.400 people were trained and over 11.400 are currently trained on social work. However, in practice, the training of social work at universities and colleges only focus on quantity and there is no link between theoretical training and practice. In addition, the curriculum and teaching curriculum on social work is lacking, with many inadequacies.
- **The legal framework for social work** development has not yet been finalized, especially the roles and responsibilities of social workers have not been specifically defined in a number of relevant laws and regulations. In particular, the number of people with special circumstances such as the elderly, people with disabilities, children in particularly difficult circumstances, people living with HIV / AIDS and social protection groups with social support needs is not known. Access to social services is limited.
- **The network of social services providers** is still lacking in quantity, weak in quality and socialization level is not high. The role of non-public organizations is not enhanced. The contingent of staff is still thin and unprofessional.

Good practices [VIETNAM]

- **Warm shelter**

Ho Chi Minh City (since January 1998)

The basic approach in shelters is to reach out to individuals and groups to help street children to gradually change and integrate into society. Usually, a shelter will have 4-5 staff members, and they will work with 20 to 25 children in the shelter. Initially, when a child from the street got into the shelter, he/she will have a social worker who is directly in charge of gathering information about him/her then planning the support process. After 3 months, children are familiar with the shelter environment and will live together in a group of 4 to 5 children. At this point, the social worker will work with the whole group. The process of children living in shelters ranges from 2 to 4 years depending on the circumstances. The process of child development and social integration also involves the participation of parents/care givers (if they still have the family), teachers, business owners, and local government officials. It normally needs approximately 5 - 10 years to determine the shelter model is a good practice model (GR). The creativity of the shelter model is that the shelter is located within the community without being separated from the people. Hence, the street children entering the shelter will find themselves belonging to the community rather than being separated from the society. They also go to school, play, work as other children in the community so they will feel

free against discrimination. The conditions required to replicate the shelter model are to effectively train shelter managers and social workers to be qualified for the job. They also have to gain children's love. Shelter must be located in the community of people and authorities accepted. The local business community responds readily to the material and mental support of children and social workers in the shelter.

- **Social professional integration Project (SPI)**
Can Tho City (July 2006 – July 2010)

The main approaches to supporting teens are through individual and group approach to provide information, counselling and problem solving for young people who are interested. For this approach to be effective, street social workers are trained to work with street children through short-term training courses or projects. The process of working in street children support apart from social workers requires the participation of businesses, skilled workers, vocational centres, schools and local authorities. After five years of project implementation in the locality, the SPI model has been recognized by the community and social organizations to be well suited to the needs of adolescents.

- **Market oriented vocational training model for young people**
Hanoi (Since January 2008)

The rapid urbanization in rural Vietnam leads to many farmers losing their productive land to

change their occupational structure. Agriculture, such as rice, cash crops, and so on, are becoming less and less popular while industrial parks, factories and towns are rapidly expanding. Young people in rural areas with low education level, unskilled labourers must leave the village to go to the city looking for employment opportunities, so it is easy for them to become law offenders. From these difficulties a vocational training project for adolescents at risk is formed based upon the market direction. This model selects low-educated teens attending a short-term vocational training course 3-9 months then goes to work. The main approach for implementing this model is social workers will receive and become career mentor's street teens. They will then connect these teens with a specific business vocational training. After vocational training, this business will become the street teens employers

This model is easily replicated in other provinces due to the following characteristics and conditions: Adolescents want to change their life in a positive way; Businesses agree to take short-term job training and then take them to work; In addition to vocational training, it is necessary to provide knowledge on soft skills such as communication skills, emotional management, time management, and personal expenses to help them become more active in life.

Prospects [ASIA]

The field activity is a strong common feature of all six Asian situations.

It is clear from the activities described by each of the Asian organisations in the ASYA project that any prospect of success with regard to outcomes for the most vulnerable street youth depends not only on the appropriateness of the services provided, i.e. those that make good sense first and foremost to the children/youth themselves, but also and most importantly on the quality of the relationship established between street educators or social workers and the young persons concerned. The effectiveness of this contact between professional adult and young person in turn depends on the quality and relevance of the ongoing training provided to these workers.

Whilst professional social work has a long history in the Philippines and in Hong Kong, this is absolutely not the case in Vietnam, Nepal, Cambodia or East Timor where graduate courses in Social Work are in their infancy and where social workers are still battling to gain acceptance. Indeed, in Nepal and Vietnam for instance, this acceptance has not yet been achieved. It is not easy for street workers, when they have no legal or accepted professional status to protect them, to work with young people on the street who are regular drug users and/or involved in petty crime. They can often be challenged by the police or local government officials, who have the full force of official authority on their side, and who see these children and youth as delinquents at best and the social workers as a nuisance.

project
ASYA
Advocacy for Street
based Youth work
and networking Action

PARTNERS: Asociación Navarra Nuevo Futuro ANNF (Spain) – Conversas Associação Internacional CAI (Portugal) – Dynamo International - Street Workers Network (Belgium) – TPO (Cambodia) – Playground Association (Hong Kong) CPCS (Nepal) - Virlianie Fd. (Philippines) - Timor Leste Youth for Peace (East Timor) - Tuong Lai Centre (Vietnam).

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