

NGO Resource Centre
La Thanh Hotel, F1 Building – 218 Doi Can Hanoi

Child Rights Working Group – Meeting Minutes

Date: 7 April 2010

Time: 14:00 – 16:00

Minute taker: Hong (SCiV)

Agenda:

- 1) Update on the result of the meeting with Mr Nguyen Hai Huu – Director of the Child Protection Bureau, MOLISA (Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs), about the Complementary Report by Lan from CEFACOM (Research Centre for Family Health and Community Development)
- 2) Discussion on the process and preparation for the Meeting (chaired by MOLISA) for discussing feedback about the Complementary Report (with participation from representatives of different ministries from Vietnam)
- 3) Action Plan of CRWG for 2010 - jointly drafted by Plan Vietnam, CEFACOM and SCiV (Save the Children in Vietnam)
- 4) Next meeting's agenda

Review last meeting's minutes, action points and agenda for this meeting

- Lan (Plan Vietnam) reminds to add the point raised from last meeting about UNICEF's participation and support in the meeting with Mr. Huu, so as with VAPCR (Vietnam Association for the Protection of Children's Rights).
- Minh (UNICEF) suggests that the initiative of a meeting with Mr. Huu is from the CRWG and it is the responsibility of the group to have a meeting with him first. In the next meeting with Mr. Huu and other relevant line ministries and departments, UNICEF will guarantee its attendance and support.

1. Update on the result of the meeting with Mr. Nguyen Hai Huu – Director of the Child Protection Bureau, MOLISA, about the Complementary Report by Lan (CEFACOM)

- The meeting was held on 25th March, 2010. It was an open dialogue on the process of preparing and submitting the Complementary Report. In principal, Mr. Huu was very interested and he understood the purpose and process of the report.
- However, he had concerns about the Vietnamese translation and wording of the report. In general, he agreed on the content, but said it would be better to revise the wording.
- Besides, there were comments on the data figures in the report. Mr. Huu said that the statistic figures were out of date and should be checked again.
- Mr. Huu mentioned that after the meeting with relevant line ministries, the Child Protection Bureau would prepare a summary sheet (about 2 pages) to submit to the Government office as well as the Prime Minister Office, emphasising the main recommendations. This is in order to show the efforts and commitments by NGO sector.
- Mr. Huu also wants to attend a meeting with CRWG to share information about the Government's action plans and priorities in future as well as support that the Child Protection Bureau needs from NGOs.

- According to Minh (UNICEF), it seems that the meeting with Mr. Huu was successful and had positive results. Mr. Huu has understood the purpose and process of the Complementary Report, and he is very supportive. He only has concerns about translation and data figures.

After the meeting, the following points are to be followed up:

- Lan (SCiV) will review and revise the Vietnamese version of the report according to Mr. Huu's feedback written on the hard copy.
- Both CRWG and the Child Protection Bureau will prepare for the official meeting between CRWG, Child Protection Bureau and relevant line ministries, as well as other departments within the MOLISA. (Tentatively the date was set for 14th to 16th April, 2010)
 - The Child Protection Bureau will undertake the organisation of the meeting, sending invitations to line ministries and departments. The list of participants will be sent to us.
 - CRWG will prepare a presentation for the meeting, i.e., the purpose, process, recommendations and the submission and launch of the report.
- Mr. Huu will attend a meeting of CRWG to present the plans and programmes of the Government relating to children (National Plan of Action for Children, National Action Plan for Child protection, policy advocacy) and their priorities and themes, so that we can make sure that our strategy is in line with the Government's efforts.

2. Discussion on the process and preparation for the meeting (chaired by MOLISA) for discussing feedback on the Complementary Report (with participation from representatives of different Vietnamese ministries

- Lan (Plan Vietnam) agrees that this is a good result as Mr. Huu has showed his cooperation and support for us, and mentions:
 - The Government sent its report to Geneva in August 2009, which will be reviewed by and by the Committee in 2012. Therefore, there are limitations in regards to data. At that time, the Government may send another updated Report while the figures in the Complementary Report will be out of date at that time. Therefore, we should consider how to deal with this matter.
 - Plan Vietnam's experience is that there is a supportive group in Geneva that will support each country's preparations for their report. We can seek their advice on how to submit the report.
- Minh (UNICEF) responds that we can send the report within 6 months from the time the Government submitted their report, even before the dialogue with the Government. Thus, our complementary report should have been sent already. However, the Government's report will be reviewed in 2012. So the Government will, as a result, send the updated report at that time.
- Margrit says that this is an independent process and there is no need to send the Complementary Report to the Government as it reflects our own views. However, the CRWG decided to send it to MOLISA for the sake of transparency and for their reference. We still have time to correct the data and submit it when it's ready.
- Margrit also asks about the progress made by the Child Protection Bureau in sending the report to relevant ministries and departments for checking the data and for feed back.
- Lan (CEFACOM) said that Mr. Huu already sent the report out. As soon as the date of the meeting with line ministries and departments is fixed, he will send it again for any ideas and comments.
- Minh (UNICEF) suggests that we can submit the report as soon as we finalise it (the report is already nearly finished). Then, in 2012, we can send another more updated report. Besides, this report is not only for sending to the Committee in Geneva, but also for our advocacy and other purposes. We can still launch the report as a tool of advocacy.

After discussion, it is agreed that:

- SCiV, Plan Vietnam and VAPCR (to be confirmed) will take part in the preparation process for the presentation on the Complementary Report for the meeting with the Child Protection Bureau

and line ministries and departments. There should be also participation from other CCWG task force members (who are not in the meeting). The presentation should include:

- Purposes of the report and the process for preparing the report
- Key content and findings from the report
- The international procedures of the CRC Complimentary Report in Geneva (so they can be sure that the process is transparent and participatory)
- Plan Vietnam and SCiV will discuss and propose an agenda for working on the presentation to the meeting (suggest ½ day). The results will be sent out to all members of CRWG.
- Charing organisations will communicate with the Child Protection Bureau and keep all members updated regarding dates of meeting, list of participants and relevant issues.

3. Agenda of CRWG for 2010 (jointly drafted by Plan Vietnam, CEFACOM and SCiV)

- Yoshie (SCiV) facilitates a review of the content of the draft action plan for CRWG in 2010 by Plan Vietnam, CEFACOM and SCiV. She mentions that we have worked together as a group for a long time and we should continue to bring this synergy forward. There will be 5 more meetings in 2010 and we should focus on what we would like to do together as a group.
- Madam Chau (VAPCR) shares opinions regarding the key themes. VAPCR and Cenfochil (Centre for Children) had the chance to attend the regional workshop of NGOs and Government on child rights to participation in Thailand in February 2010. The Government has a programme on child participation and child protection. Also June is an action month for children. CRWG should produce a plan for this month.
- Lan (Plan Vietnam) and Minh (UNICEF) give an update on UNICEF's project in coordination with the National Assembly's Committee of Culture, Education, Adolescents and Children in the promotion of a child rights approach in the work of elected organs or agencies such as the National Assembly, Parliament, and People's Councils at local levels.

The activities conducted so far are:

- A desk review on child protection in the work of elected bodies in Vietnam as well as other countries was conducted by an international consultant.
- A report was produced that suggested 7 models from 7 countries that could be applied in Vietnam.
- An evaluation workshop was held in Hai Phong in which the findings were presented and group discussions conducted. After the workshop, UNICEF received comments and recommendations.

Next activities are:

- UNICEF will support setting up a group of Vietnamese experts from line ministries and departments to look more closely at child rights issues.
- There will be a pilot of 1 or 2 models in 1 or 2 provinces. If the models are successful, they will be replicated in other locations and recommendations will be made to the Government about applying the model more widely.
- There will be evaluation workshop at the end of this phase of the project (after 2 years).
- A member recommends, regarding UNICEF's implementation of the project, that the target group should be expanded to children in different situations such as children from ethnic minorities.
- Madam Huong (Cenfochil) share updates on the Regional Workshop of NGOs and Government on child rights to participation. The ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) was established and would need a lot of support. A coming event, a Children's Forum in the Philippines in November 2010, would also need support.
- There is discussion on the limitations of child participation in Vietnam. Even where laws exist regarding the right to the participation of children, the implementation and monitoring of those laws is not strong. There is a need to legalise child participation in laws and also to put it into practice.

- According to Ena (UNICEF), child participation is the area that Government focuses on this year: models are to be considered and policies are to be finalised. Therefore at this time we should advocate the Government on strengthening their programmes and activities, such as the National Plan of Action for Children (2011-2020) and the National Action Plan for Child Protection (2011-2015).
- There should be more communication and information sharing among organisations in order to support each other. For example, UNICEF is working in the following areas:
 - Model of an ombudsperson to monitor the implementation of child rights. UNICEF is conducting a study on the feasibility of establishing this model. The report will be launched in August.
 - Data collection
 - Monitoring system
 - Climate change
 - Community-based child protection system (with SCiV and other organisations)
- There are comments that the regional targets and programs can be updated in advance and we can plan our priorities in line with national and regional priorities. VAPCR is organising a workshop on Friday, 9th April, on coordination among organisations on child protection.
- Yoshie raises issue of child protection policy within organisations.
- Margrit mentions that in the HCMC-based CRWG a number of organisations have applied or intend to apply a child protection policy for their organisation, and that they would be ready to share with the northern network.
- There are also concerns about child protection pilot projects with participation of the Youth Union (a mass organisation), which can be an ombudsperson at this time while waiting for the Government's action regarding this. There is also a need to collect success stories and lessons learned from different organisations while they are implementing the projects. The ombudsperson must be completely independent from the Government.

Follow-up actions:

- All agree that for CRWG, it is not enough to only share information. We should work effectively together to have meaningful participation of members in joint activities. We should consider focussing work on a specific theme and specific joint activities.

4. Next meeting's agenda

Tentative date: 9th June 2009

Tentative time: 14.00 -16.00

Agenda:

- Participation of Mr. Huu from the Child Protection Bureau
- Child Participation
 - Preparation process for the Children's Forum/Conference in November 2011
 - Presentation from organisations (areas of work, what each wants to do)
 - Sharing best practices and lessons learned
- Suggestions for action together:
 - Documentation of lessons learned and good practices from pilot models of projects implemented by different organisations (SCiV, Plan Vietnam and others to be confirmed). Make sure the recommendations and models are sustainable
 - Training for CWRG members on related topics
 - Develop child participation training manual

August meeting:

UNICEF shares updates and results of the report on the feasibility of an ombudsperson to monitor child rights.

Participants:

1. Nguyen Thi Minh Chau – Vietnam Association for the Protection of Children’s Rights (VAPCR)
2. Le Thi Huyen – Vietnam Association for the Protection of Children’s Rights (VAPCR)
3. Nguyen Ngoc Quynh – Centre for Economics Community Development
4. Le Dinh Tuan – Centre for Supporting Children’s Integration in Education - Trung tam Tiep xuc tre hoc hoa nhap
5. Nguyen Thi Huong – Centre for Children - Trung tam nghien cuu ho tro tre em (Cenfochil)
6. Ta Thu Trang – Save the Children in Vietnam (SCiV)
7. Nguyen Thi May Hong – Save the Children in Vietnam (SCiV)
8. Mai Thuy Hang - Save the Children in Vietnam (SCiV)
9. Doan Thuy Le - Trung tam nghien cuu ho tro tre em (Cenfochil)/ PCNet
10. Florence de Seremain – French Embassy
11. Vu Tuan Minh - UNICEF
12. Maria Laura Eana - UNICEF
13. Le Quynh Lan – Plan Vietnam
14. Yoshie Koshikawa – Save the Children in Vietnam (SCiV)
15. Hoang Thuy Lan – Research Centre for Family Health and Community Development (CEFACOM)
16. Tran Minh Quang – Plan Vietnam
17. Margrit Schlosser – Terre des hommes Foundation - Lausanne
18. Phan Thu Ha – NGO Resource Center