



# CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAM IN VIETNAM



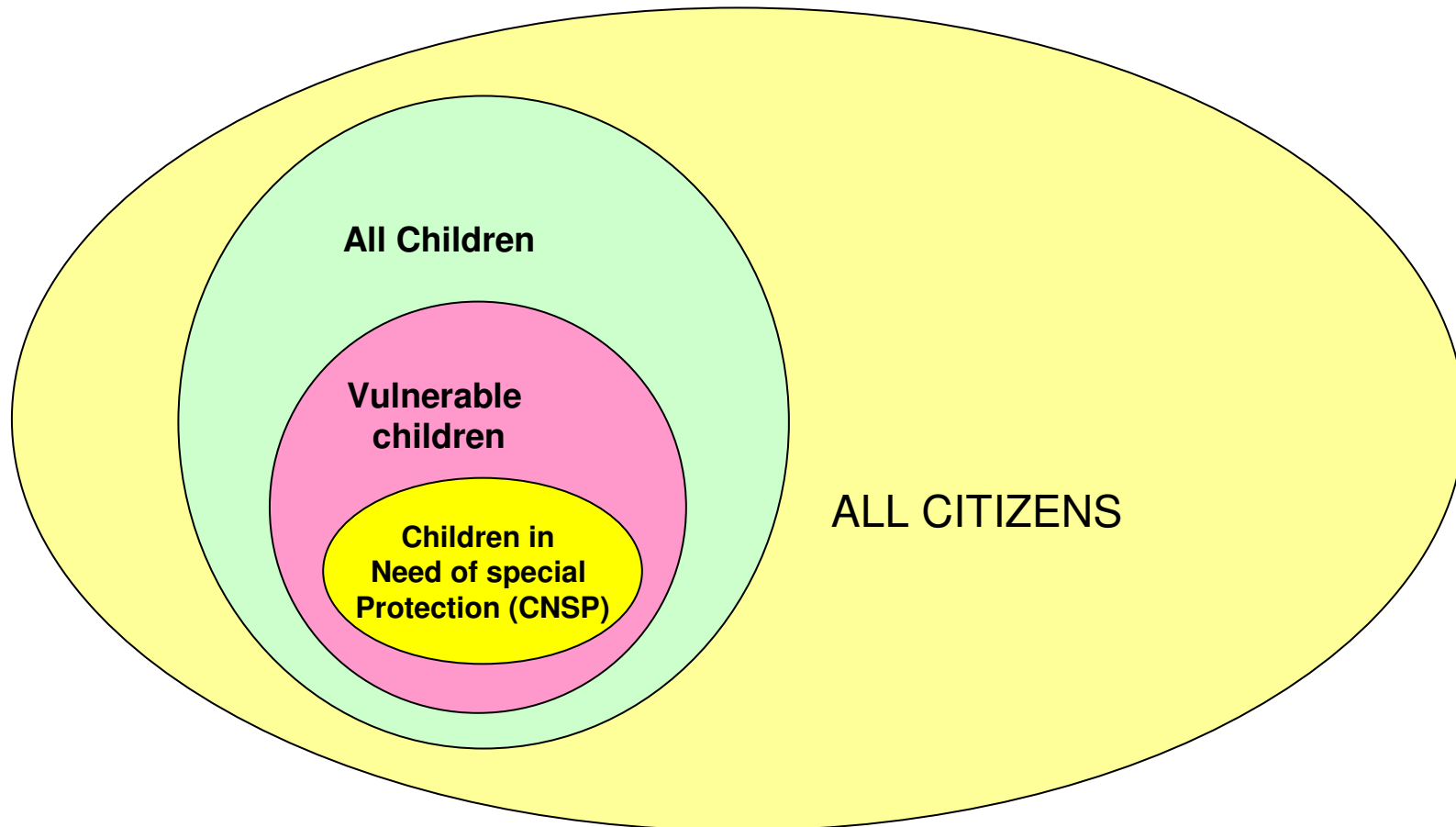
# Contents

- Overview of UNICEF Viet Nam Child Protection Programme
- Brief introduction on the Community-based Child Protection System (CBCPS)

# Social impact of “Doi Moi” on Families and Child Protection

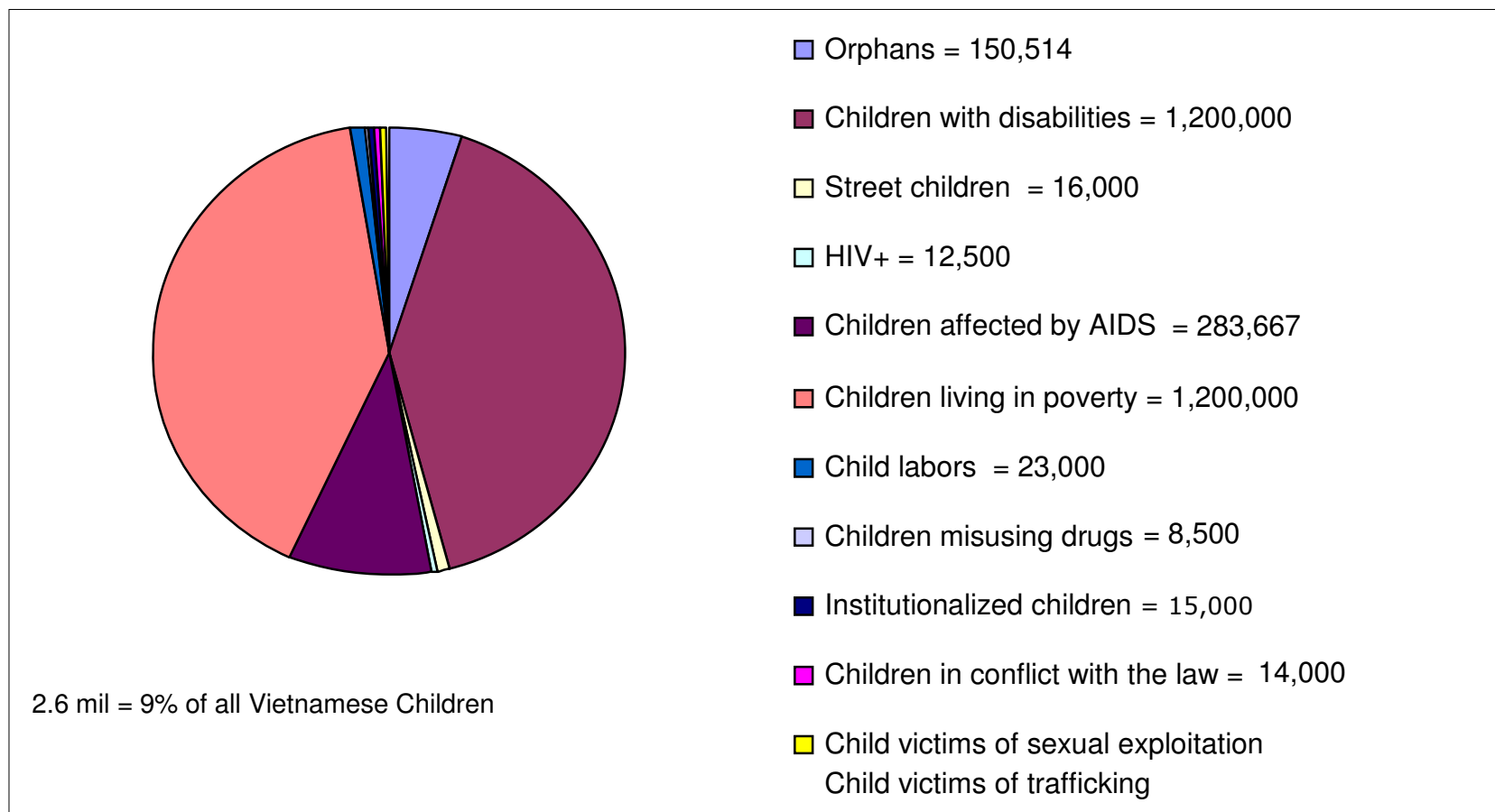
- Rapid economic and social changes resulting in enormous impacts on families and children such as introduction of user fees for social services
- Emerging social problems, such as growing disparities, rapid urbanization, migration..
- Increasing drug use, prostitution and crime incidence
- Increasing family break down
- Increasing HIV/AIDS transmission
- Youths absorbing new behaviors, values, and life styles
- Burden and impacts of natural disasters

# Place of Child Protection



37% of population are children (under 18 years)  
2.6 million CNSP = 9% of all Vietnamese children

# Situation of CNSP in Vietnam



Source: Statistics from Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs

# Basis for the Child Protection System

- Strong traditions of informal service responses to the child protection needs of children (extended family, neighbors, community)
- Strong role of mass organizations (Women's Union, Youth Union, and Fatherland Front) in providing family support, youth support and child protection service responses
- Development of key foundational policies, laws, decrees on care, safety and protection of CNSP
- Several Programmes/projects to address the needs of specific categories of children in special circumstances, including the National Program of Action for Preventing and Tackling the Issues of Street Children, Sexual Abuse of Children and Child Labour for 2004-2010 (programme #19); NPA on Trafficking in Humans; and the NPA on Crime Prevention for 2005-2010 (including provisions on crimes committed by children and against children).

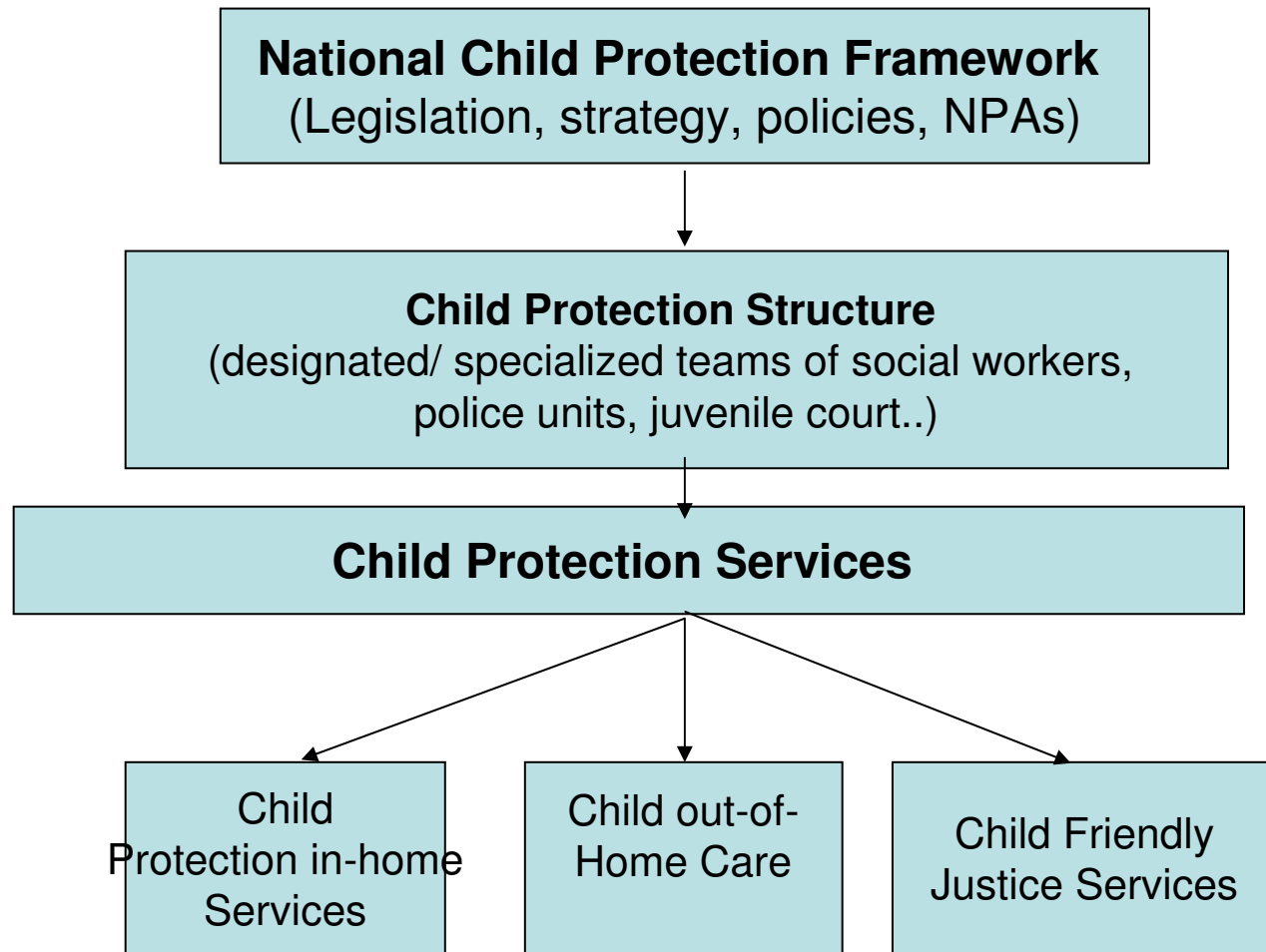
# Existing Challenges & Weaknesses

- Increase of reported cases and their severity
- Lack of a comprehensive Child Protection legal framework
- Lack of a unified and coordinated child protection system and services for children
  - Project- and issue- based approach rather than coordinated prevention and response systems building
  - Fragmented child protection services - responding to needs of certain categories of children as separate from other groups
  - Focus has been on reactive services rather than identification of vulnerabilities and early support and interventions
- Lack of professional capacity: Social work is still not recognized as a profession; lack of designated and trained child protection units and child-friendly protocols (hospitals, police, judiciary system...)
- Lack of clear responsibilities and protocols among Government ministries; Mass organizations & NGOs on child protection
- Weak monitoring and inspection leading to limited scope to track and understand risks
- Limited public resources for child protection

# Child Protection Approach in Viet Nam

- Bringing together existing and future developments in child protection within a “systems building” approach
- Development of child protection comprehensive framework
- Improvement of the legal framework
- Strengthening the formal and informal prevention and response systems to provide continuum of services
  - Strengthening structure and capacity of welfare and justice systems
  - Development of protocols and integrated tertiary services for children
  - Strengthening the link between welfare and justice systems
- Support public awareness and behavior change to create a conducive environment

# Child Protection Framework in Vietnam



# UNICEF Child Protection Programme Overview

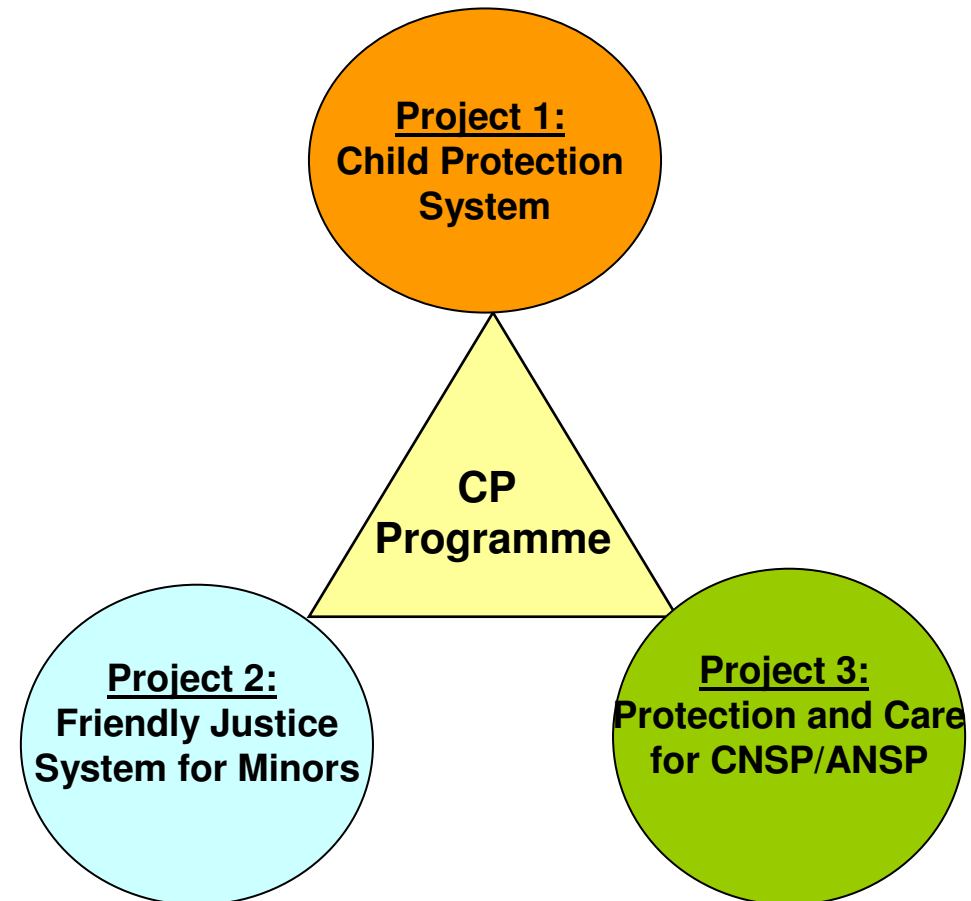
## Outcome:

-Assisting the Government in strengthening the structures and systems; and providing personnel training for child protection welfare and justice agencies to address child protection concerns, especially protection and care for CNSP/ANSP.

## Expected results:

### Key IPs:

-MOLISA, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Security, Border Guard Command, MOET, VWU, YU, Fatherland Front, local NGOs and civil organization, Universities



# Project 1: Child Protection System



# Project 1: Child Protection System (1)

## Project result 1: Improved national legal framework and increased awareness and change behaviours against child abuse, violence and exploitation

- **Strengthened national policies and legislation on child protection**
  - National CP Strategy being developed
  - A national guideline to provide planning guidance, including key targets and budgeting on how to integrate child protection goals/targets in provincial SEDPs
  - Studies and legal review on child protection
  - Contribution and support for development of laws, policies, and plans of action
- **Increased public awareness on child protection**
  - Program in collaboration with media programs of child abuse and exploitation
  - Improved awareness of government officers and parliamentarians on child protection situation and recommendations
  - Forums, clubs and community communication with families and children
- **Improved monitoring**
  - Desk review of CP monitoring system;
  - Developing a list of child protection indicators

# Project 1: Child Protection System (2)

- **Project result 2: Strengthened capacity and systems for child protection at national and sub-national levels**
- **Increased capacity on social work, counseling and child protection**
- Support the recognition of SW as a profession: National Strategic Framework on SW, roles and functions of SW, national standards and code of ethics
- Improving professional SW education at university and initially at master level
- Development of a training program on counseling at university level
- Advocacy and research on development of vocational SW training programs
- Developing of short-term training programs & TOT training on counseling and SW
- Training for staff and para-professionals in MOLISA, mass organizations and other civil org. on knowledge and skills on SW, CP and counseling in project sites
- Capacity building on child abuse/exploitation investigation for Inspection Departments of MOLISA and MPS to monitor and investigate violations of children's rights
- **Strengthened Child Protection structures and service system**
- Development of CP service protocols, standards, guidelines: CP lexicon, Child Abuse Risk Assessment Standards, CP Case Service Procedure Guidelines...
- Strengthening CP structures at national and sub-national levels: development of guidelines and implementation of community-based system and other innovative service models; evaluation and documentation for policy advocacy

# Project 2: Friendly Justice System for Minors

## 1. Project result 1: Improved legal framework and advocacy on justice for children

- Promoting legal reform:
  - Conducting studies and research for policy advocacy: On-going review on diversion and restorative justice and social reintegration to develop detailed guidelines, Assessment of Court System for Children, Youth Crime prevention...
  - Technical assistance for improving laws and policies on child friendly justice system: improving provisions on JICWL in related laws such as Penal Code, Penal Procedure Code, and Administrative Bill etc..
- Justice process:
  - Development of child friendly investigation, prosecution and judiciary procedures to ensure that child victims; witnesses and JICWL are dealt in a friendly manner to reduce risks of trauma and improve quality of their statements
  - Feasibility study on establishment of Family and Youth Court
- Improving awareness and knowledge of society on child justice issues through conducting forums with JICWL, communication activities, IEC materials for children..

## Project 2: Friendly Justice System for Minors (2)

### Project Result 2: Improved awareness, commitments, and capacity for law enforcers, prosecutors, lawyers and court officers on justice for children

- **Advocacy:** improving commitments of key law enforcers, prosecutors, lawyers and court officers on child justice
- **Strengthening capacity** of law enforcers, prosecutors, lawyers and court officers on justice for children: training on child friendly investigation techniques for police, training of lawyers, prosecutors on juvenile justice
- **Improving programs and services** provided by law enforcers, prosecutors, lawyers and court officers to promote greater use of diversion, and restorative justice for children victims and witnesses of abuse and exploitation, and children in conflict with the law
  - Child friendly investigation room
  - Pilot project on diversion and social reintegration of JICWL
  - Victim support services



**Child Friendly Investigation Room**

# Project 3: Protection and Care for Children and Adolescents in Need of Special Protection

**Project result 1: Improved support and rehabilitative services for children victims of trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and those working in exploitive forms of child labor**

- *Improved national policies, programs of action, and mechanism related to trafficking in women and children*
- *Improved services provided to trafficking victims during repatriation, recovery and reintegration:*

**Project result 2: Improved care system for CNSP, including children with disabilities, without primary care givers, and infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.**

- Reformed institutional care and development of alternative care
- Improved policy and capacity on care and support for children affected by HIV/AIDS (CABA)
- *Technical inputs and coordination support provided for process of development of NPA on Children and AIDS*
- *Improved care and support for PLWA/CABA through Buddhist Leadership Initiative, including HIV/AIDS prevention, stigma/discrimination reduction, counseling, pagoda-based care, and supporting self-help groups → Expansion of BLI being carried out through capacity building for Fatherland Front and Buddhist Association.*

## Project 3: Care and protection for children and adolescents in need of special protection



## Project 3: Protection and Care for Children and Adolescents in Need of Special Protection (2)

### Project result 3: Cross-sectoral program on Children with Disabilities

- **Knowledge Base** – Research (including situation analysis, on stigma and discrimination, injury risks; assessment on WES facilities..), data work, and mapping of key partners involved in CWD
- **Advocacy and Communications** – for increased actors' access to relevant information and skills; and effective advocacy to building a conducive and enabling environment
- **Law, Policy and Standards** – improved standards and policies to promote inclusion of the rights and specific needs of CWD in different sectors (health, education, social protection and WES).
- **Capacity Building** - capacity building of government officials, teachers, community workers on specific aspects of CWD issues to provide appropriate and relevant services/care
- **Community Based Interventions** - piloting delivery of a comprehensive package of services (health and nutrition, education, child protection and WES) specifically designed to be inclusive of CWD.

# Community based child protection system (CBCPS)

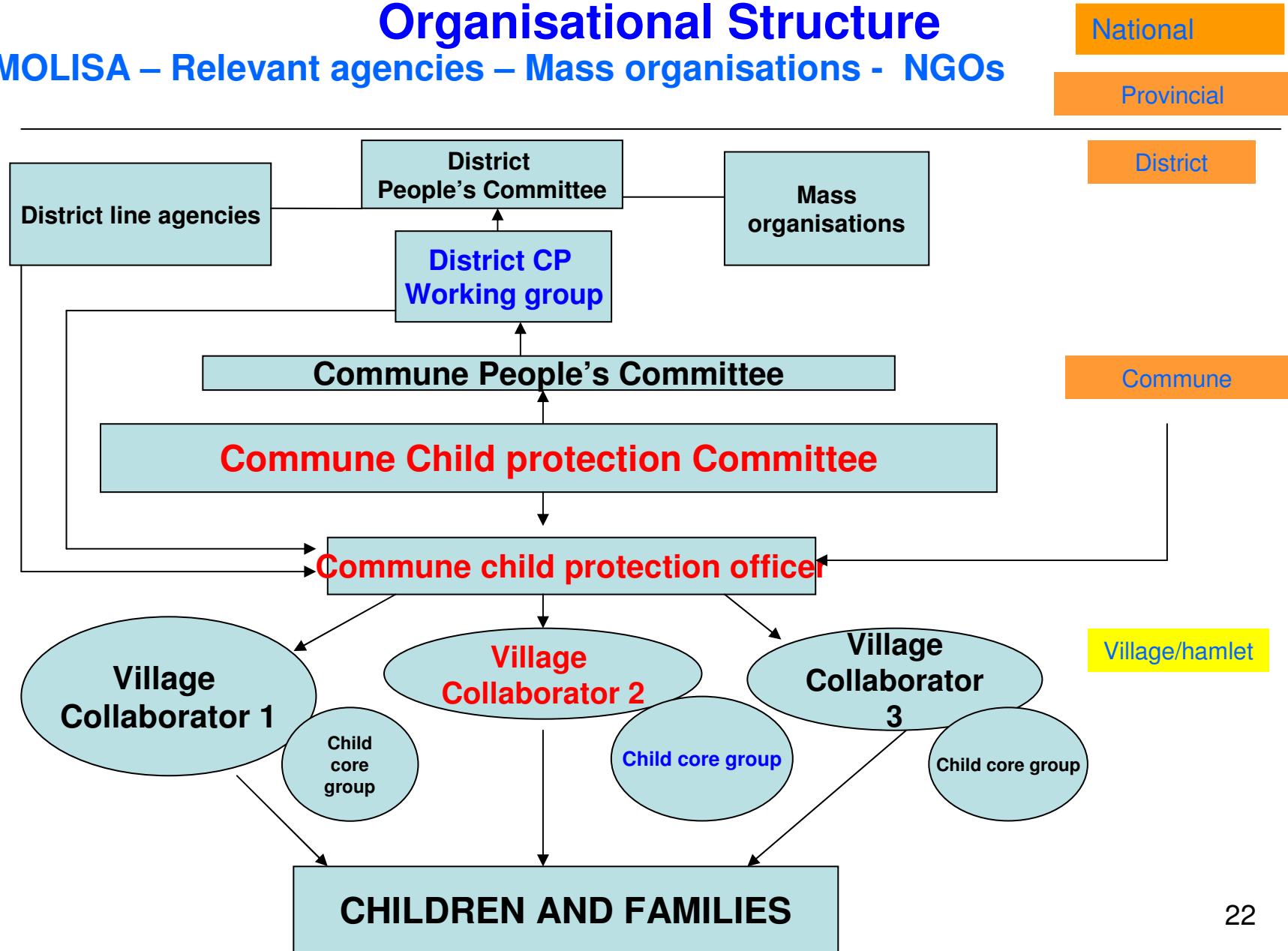
- Provides prevention (primary and secondary) and child protection services (tertiary) for children in community
- Mobilize resources from the government, informal sector and the community
- Coordinate the effort of local authorities, relevant agencies, mass organisations, social organisations, NGOs, community and families in child protection

# Objectives of CBCPS

- ❑ Support families and communities to undertake the care and protection of children.
- ❑ Stop risks of harm occur to children.
- ❑ Rehabilitate children victims of harm
- ❑ Support and rehabilitate families and communities where harm towards children has occurred.

# Community based Child protection System Organisational Structure

MOLISA – Relevant agencies – Mass organisations - NGOs



# Child Protection service

## Primary services (Prevention)

- **Community programs to develop child friendly environment:**
  - IEC for community awareness raising, promoting child rights and child protection related topics/issues
  - Birth registration
  - Activities with children and young people: clubs, Life skills education for children
  - Build up and strengthen family capacity through parenting education program and raising the knowledge and skills of parents/child care takers on child development needs and protection needs
  - Advocacy and communication on primary health care programs, nutrition, sanitation, support families
  - Advocacy programs for education support for children
- **Child data and information collection and management**

# Secondary services (early intervention)

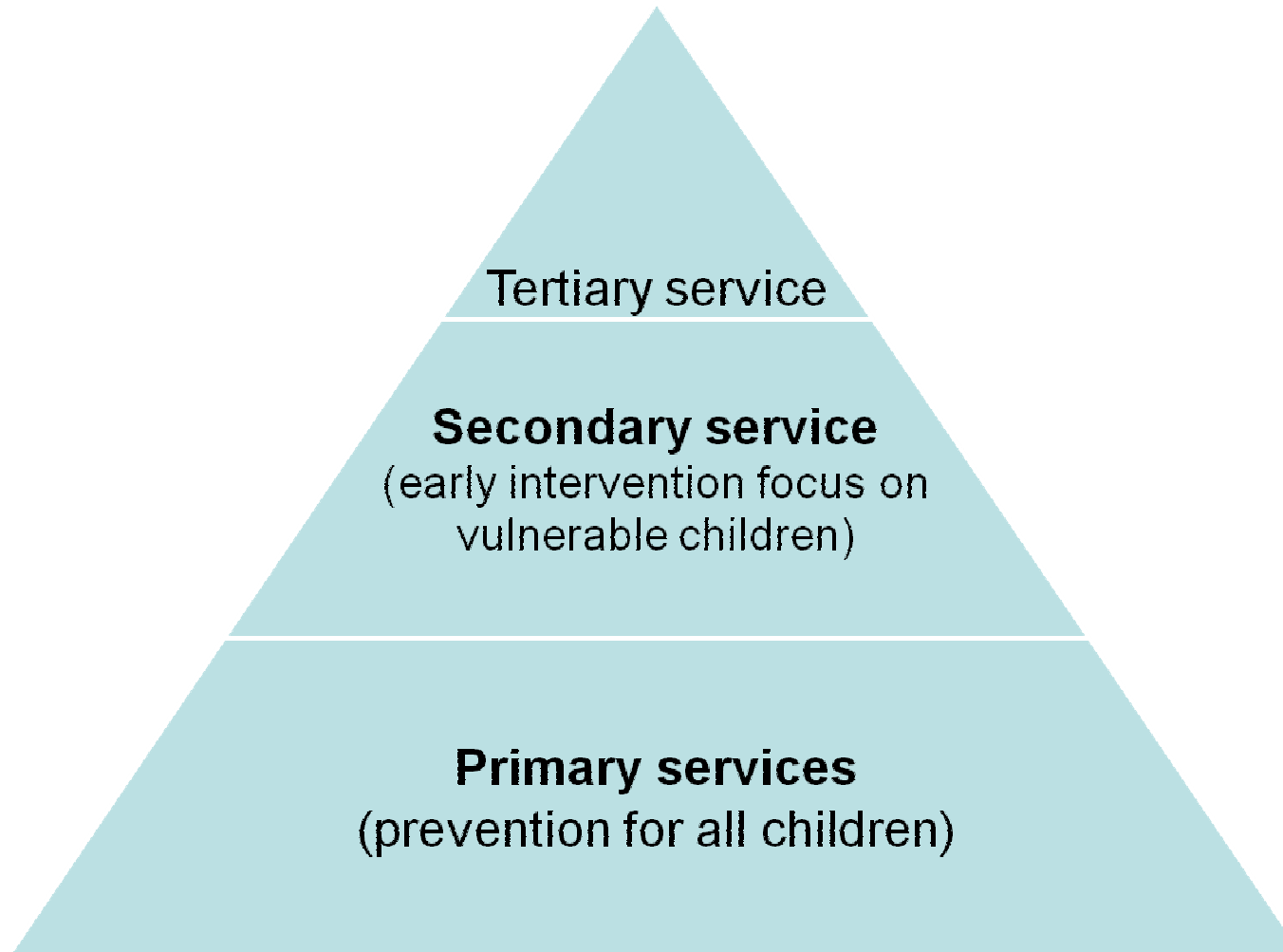
- Identify groups of children at high risks
- Assess the risks of child abuse and the needs of group of children at risks
- Develop the plan to support children and their family
- Implementing programs and referral to relevant services to reduce risk factors and their impacts on children, e.g:
  - Parenting skills and problem solving
  - Income support for poor families
  - Home visiting and group support
  - Counselling, supporting to solve stress
  - Care and support for families with disabled children
  - Scholarships for poor families
  - Life skills education ...

# Tertiary services

## (Immediate intervention/protection)

- Reception and recording of notifications on child abuse cases or risks of abuse
- Conduct preliminary assessment of the risks towards the child
- Assist in investigation and risk assessment of child care environment and families
- Work with family to support them to take care of the children
- Work with the police if necessary
- Provide information on assistance policies for children, particularly children in difficult circumstance in the locality
- Develop case plan for abused children or children facing risks of child abuse
- Coordinate and implement the case plan for children and family

# CBCPS approach and services



# Roles and Duties in CBCPN

	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Commune child protection officer			*
Child protection collaborators	*	*	*
Child core groups	*		

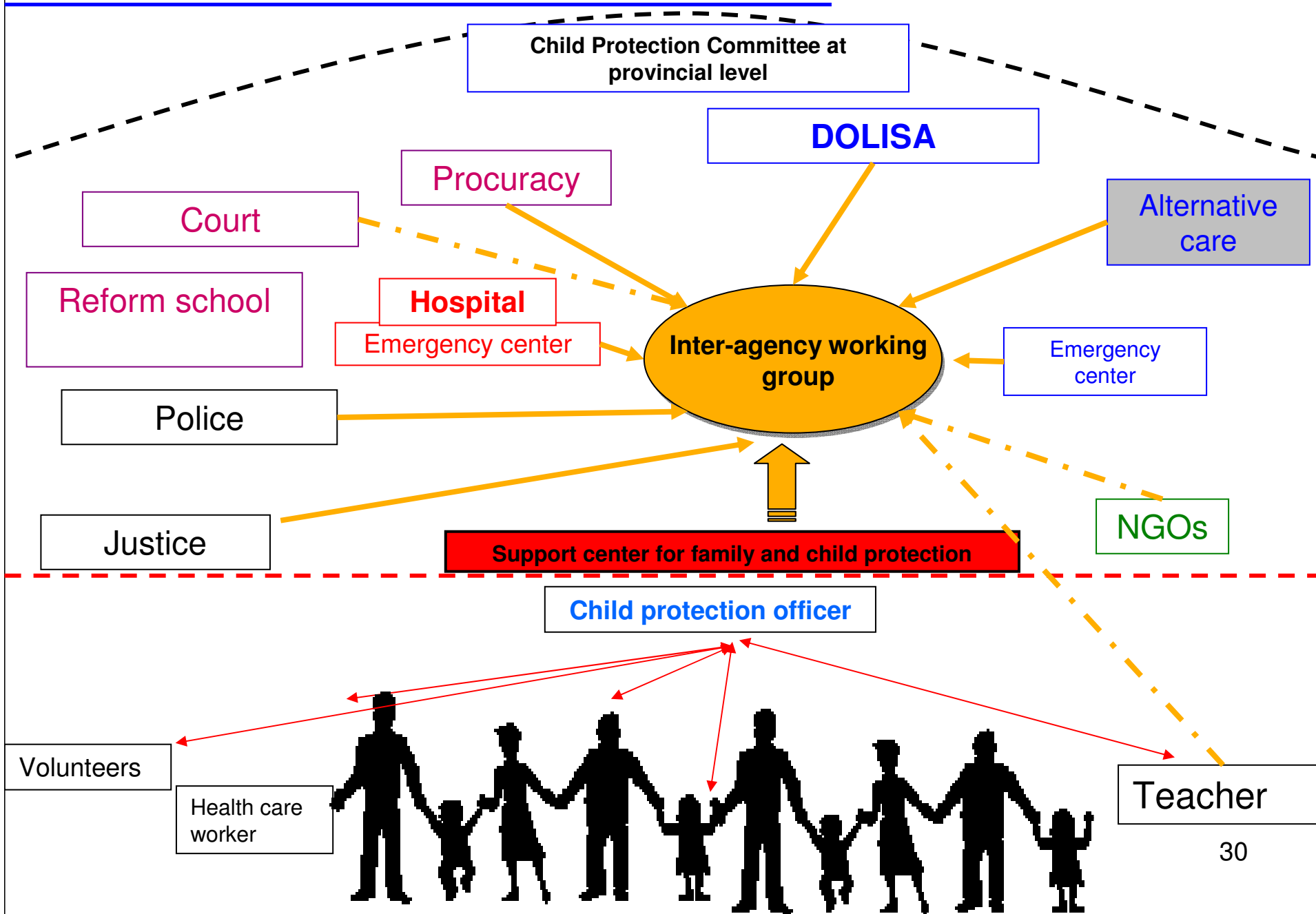
# Structure and Roles of Child Protection Committee at ward level

- Commune Child protection Committee is under management of Commune/ward People's Committee with memberships from local relevant agencies and mass organisations.
- The chairperson of the Committee is either People's Committee Chairperson or Vice Chairperson
- Responsible of providing instructions, coordination and mobilization of resources for child protection
- Responsible for instructing and supervising the enforcement of the law and programs intended for child protection
- Responsible for coordinating with competent agencies such as police, justice, DOLISA sub-office to provide special services for CNSP
- Support the investigation of child abuse cases

# Roles of DOLISA at provincial level

- Develop the procedure of child protection of the city/province
- Coordinate the child protection activities of relevant sectors and organizations
- Staff trained on child protection work
- Support the child protection workers at district level to resolve serious child abuse cases
- Coordinate and provide professional protection services: counseling, alternative care, referrals to justice services...
- Develop and carry out training programs for relevant child protection worker, or child protection workers at district/commune level.
- Conduct study and evaluate related child protection issues and problems in the district
- Give technical advice and support the development of sectoral plan on child protection; and provide advice, recommendation to provincial People's Committee on child protection

# Child Protection Service Structure at Provincial level



# Implementing agencies and project locations

- CBCPS is coordinated by the Children Bureau, MOLISA in cooperation with UNICEF, SiVN, Plan International and Child Fund. The model has been piloting in 12 provinces including : Quảng Ninh, Hải Phòng, Hà Nội, Vĩnh Phúc, thành phố Hồ Chí Minh, An Giang, Đồng Tháp, Cà Mau, Phú Thọ, Thanh Hóa, from 2008-2011.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!** 32