

The development and implementation of Alternative Care Policy Framework in Cambodia

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Contents

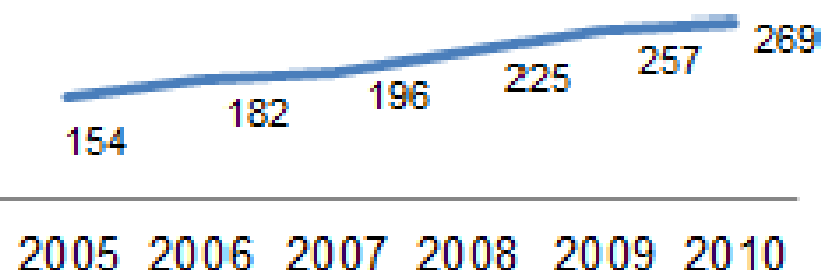
- Some situational data on Alternative Care
- Development and implementation of main Policies and Standards: AC Policy framework
 - Alternative Care Policy
 - Development of Minimum Standards and annual inspections
 - Development and testing of AC Prakas
 - Capacity building on Alternative Care
 - Pilot on de-institutionalization
 - Standards and guidelines on the care, support and protection of OVC
 - M&E system on Alternative Care

Alternative Care in Cambodia: key figures and context

Residential care:

- 2011: 11,112 children reside in 216 orphanages (22 State run).
- **Trend: increase in number of NGO-run residential care facilities since 2005.**
- However, in 2011: 70 orphanages turned into community-based care due to Government decision.

Number of Residential Care Facilities in Cambodia



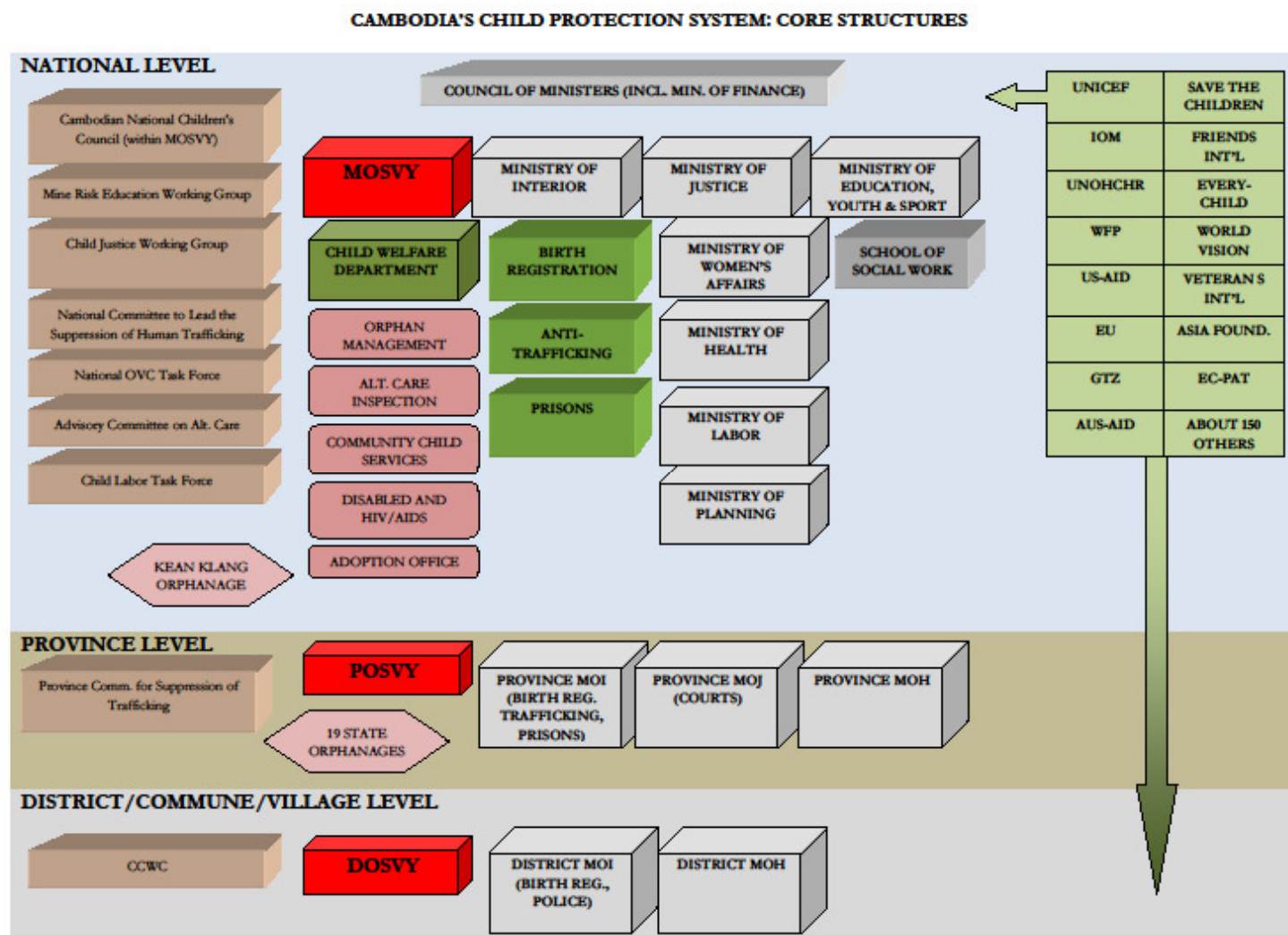
Family based alternative care:

- The great majority of children (99,5%) in need of care (due to orphan hood) are in **informal kinship care**.
- Lack of data on number of children in foster care, domestic adoption, kinship care. In 2009: 1531 children in formal non-residential care (kinship, foster family, domestic adoption, ICA).

Context:

- Social work sector under development.
 - Recent graduates in 2012 – Royal University of Phnom Penh
 - 1 para social worker / district (around 4 per 100.000)
- Limited budget from government on social welfare and alternative care. Much reliance on donor funding.

Child Protection system actors and structures



Note: based on a stakeholder consultation on January 20, 2010 at UNICEF Cambodia Headquarters.

Main policies and standards

- **AC Policy (2006)**
- AC Minimum Standards (2006)
- Prakas on the Implementation of AC (2011)
- Operational guide and forms related to AC
- Standards and Guidelines for the Care, Support and Protection of OVC (2011)

Related

- Intercountry Adoption Law (2009),
- Prakas on ICA (2011 – 2012)
- Operational manual and forms related to ICA

Models of Alternative Care

- Community and family based care
- Pagoda and other faith-based care
- Group home care
- Residential (institutional) care

Alternative Care Policy Framework

The framework, although named “alternative care”, goes beyond alternative care and addresses the entire continuum of child welfare services:

- Identifying situations of risk
- Family Preservation
- Reunification
- Alternative Care (standards and review)
 - Emphasis on family-based care
- Domestic Permanency
- Intercountry Adoption when domestic options have been exhausted
- Institutional care as last resort and temporary

Main policies and standards

- AC Policy (2006)
- **AC Minimum Standards (2006)**
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Related

- ICA Law (2009),
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AC Minimum Standards

Adopted in 2006 to regulate the creation and management of residential care facilities

- Includes MS for residential care and community-based care (pagoda and group home)
- Conditions of health, hygiene, clothes, food, premises, education, discipline, participation, caregivers requirements, record keeping
- If not complying: notification and re-visit within 3 months. If not corrected: suspension
- Inspection forms and scoring system developed, revised and refined every year.

Annual Inspections of residential care facilities

- Annual and secondary inspections (mainly on residential care)
- May result in closure

Inspection 2011 results:

- Centres who have met MS with scoring more than 800 = 69,52%
- Centres who have partially met the MS with scoring of 600 = 29.41%
- Centre whose performance below MS with scoring less than 600 = 1,07%

Main policies and standards

- AC Policy (2006)
- AC Minimum Standards (2006)
- **Prakas (Ministerial regulation) on the Procedures on the Implementation of AC (2011)**
- Operational guide and forms related to AC
- Standards and Guidelines for the Care, Support and Protection of OVC (2011)

Related

- ICA Law (2009),
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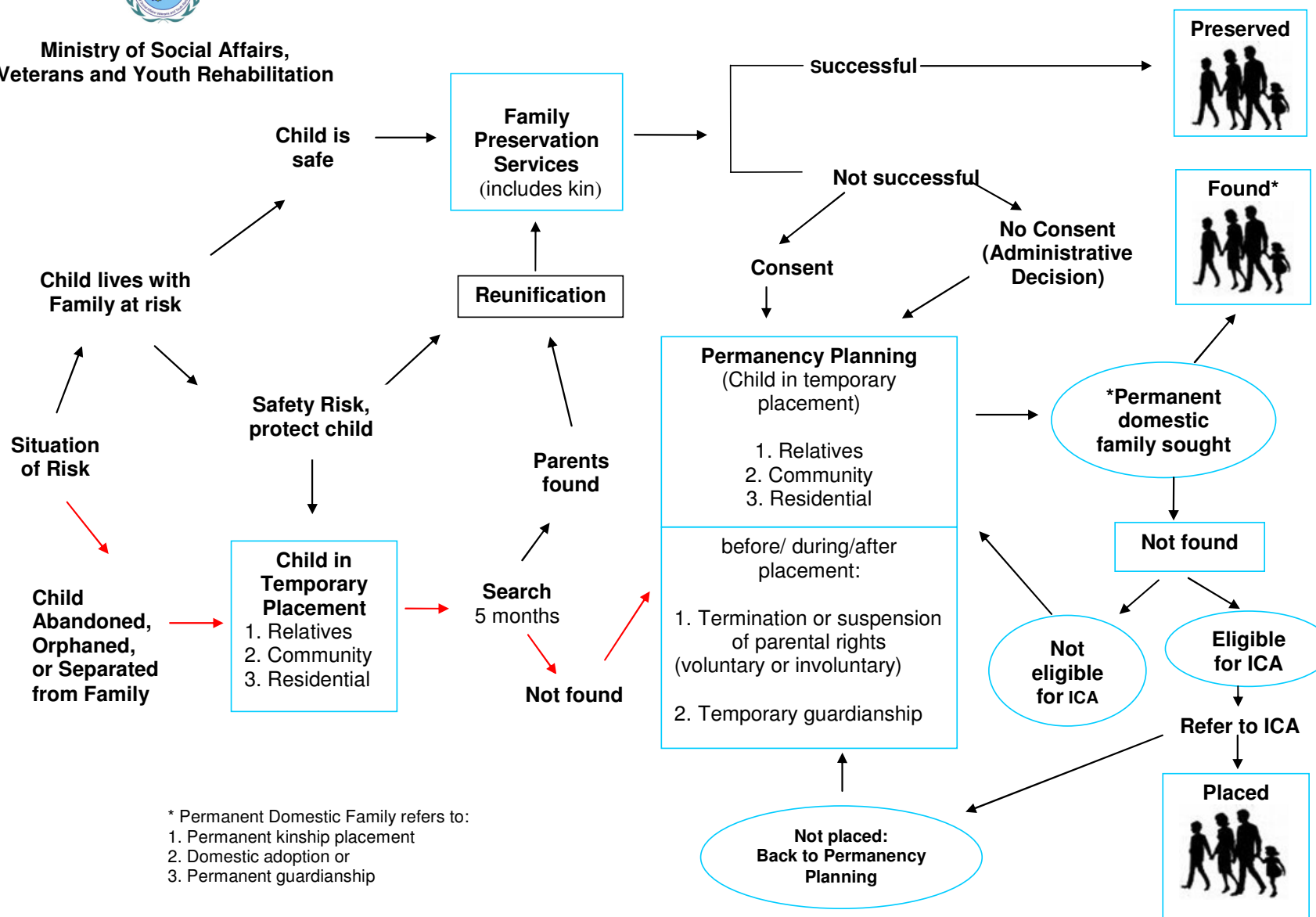
AC Prakas drafting: bottom-up approach

1. Draft outlined by Working Group in 2008
2. Provincial consultations on the prakas led by Ministry staff
 - Children and youth, village and Commune reps, District and Provincial reps, NGOs
3. Feedback was integrated in the Draft Prakas
4. Prakas tested (2010)
 - Training of 191 Govnt staff, and stakeholders
 - 246 families received family support for family preservation in 24 communes. Only 2 children placed in temporary residential care as the last resort. 20 children placed in family based care in the community.
5. During 2011: feedback from testing was integrated into the Prakas draft by technical working group. Representatives from village, commune reconvened to review.
6. The prakas was adopted at the end of 2011, requiring a major capacity-building effort of key stakeholders



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Child Welfare Flowchart



Capacity-building in 2012

Implementation: Capacity building plan of MoSVY in 2012

- Joint training plan for Child Welfare Department and Inter-country Adoption Administration;
- 2012: capacity building of main stakeholders on the procedures, roles and responsibilities, focusing on 4 priority provinces
- 30 staff trained at national level and 120 staff trained at sub-national level, including representatives of DoSVY, CCWC, NGOs (ongoing)

Model case-management system in 2012

- Pilot of case management for reintegration of 37 children from orphanage with Ministry decision of close-down, due repeated low scoring.
- Documentation of the experience in a manual with clear procedures for possible replication in other institutions

Process:

- Specialized NGO; ICC SKY, hired to support Provincial Social Affairs Office
- Capacity-building and on the job coaching of social workers from districts where children's families or kins were located
- Child studies, risk-assessments, family tracing, home-visits carried out and case-files compiled for all children.
- Permanent family-based solutions found for all 37 children, despite challenges.

Future:

- Discussion to replicate this experience in a selected number of State institutions
- Procedures used in cases of Ministry decision of closure of orphanage

Main policies and standards

- AC Policy (2006)
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- Operational guide and forms related to AC
- **Standards and Guidelines for the Care, Support and Protection of OVC (2011)**

Related

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Standards and Guidelines for the Care, Support and Protection of OVC (2011)

- Developed to guide planning and project design to support prevention of family separation and family strengthening
- Shared with NGOs who work with child protection as an alternative to provision of residential care
- Outlines packages of support to families: health, food & nutrition, education, economic and livelihood, social, emotional and psychological support, others (legal)

Data collection system related to AC

OVC M&E system

- M&E framework and System to monitor, analyse and report on basic essential services delivered to orphans, children affected by AIDS and other vulnerable children in Cambodia
- Some indicators directly related to AC

Alternative Care Database:

- All results of the inspections
- Number of children in formal care (registered institutions, formal guardianships, kinships and domestic adoptions)
- Number of registered institutions

Lessons learned

- Challenge: coordination with justice sector in cases of guardianship, domestic adoption: Prakas are Ministerial (only MOSVY!).
- Bottom up strategy for policy development takes time, but it is:
 - more participation from grassroots levels and builds ownership (Greater accountability and leadership), and
 - Ensures that policy is in line with current structures and suit with existing capacity and resources (focus on CCWC and village chiefs)
- Pilot on reintegration of children from orphanages:
 - Full time staff and financial resources required, including for follow-up
 - Inter-ministerial response mechanisms required if cases of violence are identified
 - Ensure coordination with education sector to ensure transfer of children's schooling: crucial for child's reintegration



Thank you for your attention!