

-RECOMMENDATIONS-
National Conference on Persons in Street Situations
15-16 December 2015, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

PREVENTION OF STREET SWEEPS:

- Develop Standard Operating Codes of Conduct on persons in street situations for law enforcement officials involved in street sweeps, including a child-friendly version:
 - o Need to clarify the role and jurisdiction of Khan's security forces
 - o Regular training and refresher sessions required
 - o Copy to be provided to affected groups, including entertainment workers
- Sensitize law enforcement officials on the legal framework involving street sweeps and persons in street situations, and other relevant laws, policies and documents such as the Explanatory note on the Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation.
- MoSAVV/DoSAVV, municipality and local authorities to inform community networks and NGOs in advance before major events take place, when and where these events requiring special security are planned, in order to inform affected groups and organize referrals.

DURING STREET SWEEPS:

- Zero tolerance for physical and verbal violence and abuse by law enforcement or other duty bearers, including sexual or gender-based harassment and discrimination.
- Zero tolerance for bribery (eg., money, work or sex in exchange for release) and extortion of money and/or goods such as mobile phones.
- Inform of legal basis for the arrest to affected groups and ensure right to legal advice.
- Identify better options for referral to services.
- Allow communication of affected individuals and groups with their family members and other support networks/ groups.
- Community networks, NGOs and UN to be informed of the arrests by MoSAVV/DoSAVV, municipality or local authorities.
- No family separation and ensure at all time that children are protected and are not left unattended or at any risk

AT THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS/DROP-IN CENTER:

Minimum services

- Respect for human rights to be ensured at all times.
- Immediate release of women who are pregnant, recently delivered, have children or need essential health services.
- Immediate release of children with parents/caregivers.
- Immediate release or at least priority and rapid handling of release requests especially for emergency cases and people with severe or chronic diseases who need access to regular treatment or care with the necessary confidentiality.
- Secure, at all-time, minimum standards of service packages, including safety, water and sanitation, , access to free and adequate food, health services and psychosocial support, with separate rooms, toilets and bathing facilities for women and children.
- Standardized registration process with demographic data collected and available to direct service providers, maintained under standards of confidentiality and privacy.
- Ensure communication with family and other support networks/ groups, including in-person visits from families and care givers.

- Case management of children, particularly the assessment of the situation of each child, development and implementation of a case plan.

Management

- Clarify objective of the center and its procedures: Drop in center for temporary period for vulnerable people on voluntary basis.
- Standard Operating Procedures for minimum standards and ‘handling/supporting’ people when referred to the Department of Social Affairs (temporary transit) and at social affairs centers including a prior-assessment/screening of their situation and needs for referral options.
- Review the structure of the center and its management, provided services and target groups.
- Ensure close coordination with Phnom Penh municipality health department and Pochentong health authorities under MOH for regular visit by medical team (weekly and when urgent issues arise).
- Unhindered access to UN and NGOs to the center.
- Establish child safeguarding procedures for the center and build the capacity of the center’s staff.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

General

- Maintain regular contacts/meetings between MoSAVY/DoSAVY, local authorities, UN and NGOs, through the TWG and other meetings as necessary, for information sharing, problem solving purposes as well as short, medium and long term solutions
- Mobilize national budget and external resources.

On street sweeps

- Moratorium on street arrests to prioritize assessment and alternative options based on assessment to give them a chance to see how alternative options works.
- Seek written commitment (letter) from Phnom Penh Municipality on suspension of all street arrests to further fully inform to all necessary services.
- Continue Police-Community Partnership Initiative with already trained law enforcement officials and expand in locations when and where issues arise. This should include sensitization training on the needs of persons in street situations and experiences of violence to Khan’s police and security guards.

On alternative options and upgraded support and services

- Conduct assessment on current services available and multi-sectoral needs of persons in street situations in consultation with affected groups.
- Define types of services to offer voluntary: continuum of services from minimum services to more specialized ones.
- Seek possibilities for family or community reintegration in partnership with NGOs.
- Identify other opportunities (services incentives/ volunteers?) such as recreational activities for education/vocational training as well as trust and self-confidence, knowing it takes time.
- Possibility of NGO service user card jointly issued by Government and NGOs (access free health services and link to facilitate families to get ID poor card).
- Develop Standard Operating Procedures to ensure more systematic cooperation with local authorities, direct/communes, Women and Children Committees (WCC), MOWA and NGOs for safe referral to adequate services.
- Awareness raising among affected groups, including entertainment workers, to understand the funding provided to WCC for women’s issues.

- Continue strong collaboration with and funding for community support groups and NGOs who provide essential services (e.g., health, human rights, shelter, psychosocial support...) and explore opportunities to leverage funding and service through decentralization and deconcentration mechanism, including access to funding provided to communes/sangkats (eg. CCWC).
- Promote access to social protection mechanisms for the affected populations and their family members (including e.g., urban ID poor card, health equity fund, food support) and inform the concerned families on how it works for them to access services
- Align support services with university schools and programmes in social work, psychology, medicine, nursing, and law, to ultimately enable internship placements of university students in public service settings.
- Access to continuum of education/vocational training (at/through qualified voluntary social affairs centers or NGOs...) and livelihood opportunities to affected populations:
 - o Education opportunities
 - o Vocational training based on employment opportunities available
 - o Financial literacy, access to microfinance
- Legal literacy for affected people to know the laws and support for legal services to report and seek justice.

-GROUP SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS-

CHILDREN LIVING / WORKING ON THE STREETS:

- Social housing implemented by Government.
- Independent/group living supported/implemented by NGOs.
- Child-led “safe streets” (consultation, advocacy and funding) implemented by Government and NGOs.
- Life-skills/safety education supported/implemented by NGOs.
- Day care for street families supported/implemented by NGOs.
- Provide children living or working on the street with NGO service user cards that are recognized by police and authorities so that the relevant NGO can be contacted to refer the child for services and prevent unnecessary placement of children in Prey Speu or similar center.
- Case management by social workers (Government/NGO) to identify and implement a durable solution for the reintegration and safety of children living and/or working on the street.

PERSONS WITH PSYCHOSOCIAL DISABILITIES:

- Social support: day center, night shelter (full, free and informed consent).
- Creation of community-based mental health services and peer support group with linkages to medical services with progressively increasing government financial contributions.
- Review, implement and roll-out action plan for mental health.
- Mainstream psychosocial disability within the national disability legislation and related monitoring.
- Ensure that people with psychosocial disabilities are included in existing and new initiative and programmes under the Cambodian localization of the 2030 development agenda (goal 3: to promote mental health well-being).
- Promote awareness and more supportive behavior change on respect and the rights of people with psychosocial disabilities among the general public.
- Sensitization of authorities such as the police in managing persons with psychosocial disabilities on the streets.
- Sensitization of the peer group and identify focal persons amongst the peer groups to support persons with psychosocial disabilities (good practice from Kolkata, India).

ENTERTAINMENT WORKERS:

- Ensure full respect of the Laws and related explanatory notes and promote decriminalization of sex work.

- Support the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training to roll out implementation and monitoring of Prakas 194 which sets occupational health & safety standards for entertainment worker places.
 - Promote access to employment in entertainment places (to reduce street-based work) and other voluntary vocational training opportunities
 - Empower community network to inform and support their members on legal framework and to work closely with local authorities and law enforcement officials.
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