

PROTECTING AGAINST ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND VIOLENCE

1.0 CHILDREN IN SITUATIONS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT, EXPLOITATION AND VIOLENCE

GOAL

- Protect all children from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	DIVISION	MEASURABLE INDICATOR	STATUS / ACHIEVEMENTS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
a) Ensure protection and well-being of all children in the society	1) Implement the package of children's legislation enacted in 2000 to include the establishment of the Children's Authority, licensing of children's homes, etc.					Reports and records of agencies
	2) Establish an office of a Children's Ombudsman					Reports
	3) Conduct training, team-building and sensitization workshops for all stakeholders					Training reports
	4) Increase the number of staff in relevant agencies to address children's issues					Registers and records
	5) Establish adequately supervised recreational facilities/centres for children					Census, Reports
	6) Upgrade and maintain existing recreational facilities/centres for children					Reports
	6) Assess child offenders after conviction to determine which institution is more appropriate					Statistical Reports

1.0 CHILDREN IN SITUATIONS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT, EXPLOITATION AND VIOLENCE - CONT'D

GOAL

- Protect all children from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	DIVISION	MEASURABLE INDICATOR	STATUS / ACHIEVEMENTS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
a) Ensure protection and well-being of all children in the society	7) Improve the effectiveness of existing social safety nets to address the needs of vulnerable families including children					Reports
	8) Establish a mechanism to speak on behalf of the child in the event that the parent and/or guardian refuses to cooperate in reports of sexual abuse					Act of Parliament
	9) Establish fund to assist in determining paternity of children					Agency records
	10) Provide a strong support for children with disabilities	MSD, MOE, MOH/RHAs, THA, NGOs		By 2008, increased allocation of resources for various services for children with disabilities		Agency reports
	11) Provide training for persons working with children with disabilities					Training reports
	12) Undertake research to determine the extent of the problem of street children to drive policy, programmes and services					Report on study
	13) Increase existing services and programmes for street children					Reports
	14) Undertake study to explore prevalence of refugee children in Trinidad and Tobago					Report findings

1.0 CHILDREN IN SITUATIONS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT, EXPLOITATION AND VIOLENCE - CONT'D

GOAL

- Protect all children from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	DIVISION	MEASURABLE INDICATOR	STATUS / ACHIEVEMENTS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
b) Raise public awareness of children's issues	1) Institute coordinated on-going public education programmes in communities on issues of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children	MSD, MOE, COMDEV, THA, NGOs		By 2007, coordinated on-going public education programmes instituted in communities on issues of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children		Survey reports
	2) Undertake compilation of a comprehensive Social Services directory to be made available to the public and updated annually					Social Services directory
c) Undertake research to inform policies and programmes to improve the situation of children at risk	1) Standardize data collection and methods of obtaining information/data	MSD, MOE, CSO, THA		By 2007, data collection and methods of obtaining information/data standardized and in use by stakeholder agencies		Registry
	2) Establish a statistical database and registry of all forms of abuse against children					Database
	3) Establish a data coordinating agency					Agency
d) Protect the mental health of children	1) Increase the number of programmes targeting children on the abuse of drugs and alcohol					Reports
	2) Increase access to testing and rehabilitation for children using drugs and alcohol					Statistical reports of agencies

2.0 - CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONS

GOALS

- Protect children from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence
- Improve the plight of millions of children who live under especially difficult circumstances

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	DIVISION	MEASURABLE INDICATOR	STATUS / ACHIEVEMENTS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
a) Ensure the protection and well-being of all children at institutions	1) Proclaim and implement the package of children's legislation enacted in 2000 to include the establishment of the Children's Authority, licensing of children's homes, etc.					Act of Parliament
	2) Develop and implement a 'code of conduct' for staff at institutions					Code of conduct document
						Reports
	3) Take immediate action for any abuse or exploitation of children by staff					Investigative reports; statistical records
	4) Source additional trained staff and provide continuous training and support specific to institutional living					Registers and records
						Census of children's institutions
	5) Implement psychological, health screening and support programmes for staff					Reports
						Certificate of eligibility

2.0 - CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONS - CONT'D

GOALS

- Protect children from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence
- Improve the plight of millions of children who live under especially difficult circumstances

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	DIVISION	MEASURABLE INDICATOR	STATUS / ACHIEVEMENTS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
b) Ensure proper accommodation for all children at institutions	1) Establish new and improved facilities aligned to modern trends to separate children in conflict with the law from those in need of care and protection					Reports
						Records of institutions
	2) Conduct sensitization training on alternatives to corporal punishment for staff at different levels in institutions					Reports
c) Promote the overall development and well-being of children at institutions	1) Mandatory assessment and follow-up of all children on entry to institutions					Reports/records of institutions and agencies
	2) Provide effective care plans to include life skills for post-institution living and re-integration into family and society					Records of homes
	3) Provide for children with special needs	MOE, MSD, THA, NGOS		Form 2006 and ongoing, annual monitoring of programmes/careplans for children with special needs		Reports
	4) Establishment of Standard of Care for children in institutions					Reports and licenses

2.0 - CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONS - CONT'D

GOALS

- Protect children from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence
- Improve the plight of millions of children who live under especially difficult circumstances

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	DIVISION	MEASURABLE INDICATOR	STATUS / ACHIEVEMENTS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
c) Promote the overall development and well-being of children at institutions	5) Support and ongoing training for staff at childrens' institutions					Certificates and reports
d) Reintegration of children/adolescents into family homes and society						Reports
	1) Provide mechanism to ensure collaborative work among relevant agencies to promote re-integration with families in the shortest possible time					Agency reports and records
	2) Prepare clients for re-integration, independent and semi-independent living					Records/reports
	3) Support (after-care) for clients post institution living					Records/reports
	4) Establish transitional homes for housing residents leaving institutions					Records/reports

3.0 SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

GOAL

- Protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation including paedophilia, trafficking and abduction

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	DIVISION	MEASURABLE INDICATOR	STATUS / ACHIEVEMENTS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
a) Protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation, trafficking and abduction	1) Undertake research studies to determine extent and scope of sexual exploitation and trafficking of children					Reports
	2) Review/address gaps in existing legislation and introduce more severe penalties for child sexual abusers					Reports
						Act of Parliament
	3) Increase public awareness of all forms of sexual exploitation of children through the media, school and community-based programmes					Reports
	4) Conduct research/survey on sexual exploitation, trafficking and abduction of children					Reports
	5) Develop and implement plan/s of action (including training to address sexual exploitation, trafficking and abduction of children)					Reports
	6) Provide mandatory counseling and treatment for survivors and perpetrators					Reports and statistic records
7) Establish standards for shelters of survivors of sexual abuse						Census
						Reports

4.0 CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

GOALS

-Review and revise existing policies with regard to children in conflict with the law

-Ensure the provision of an appropriate range of programmes and services for the holistic treatment and management of those children

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	DIVISION	MEASURABLE INDICATOR	STATUS / ACHIEVEMENTS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
a) Reduce the number of children in conflict with the law	1) Use the options of family counseling, mediation and community service rather than institutionalization					Agencies report
	2) Mount a comprehensive educational drive to inform public about Human Rights including the Convention of the Rights of the Child	MSD, MOE, MNS, THA, TTCRC, NPTA		From mid 2006 and ongoing, increase in media campaigns and workshops to educate public about Human Rights		Administrative records
	3) Advocate for the inclusion of child rights and human rights education as mandatory subjects at the teacher training level and in the school curriculum	MSD, MOE, THA, TTCRC, NPTA		By 2008, inclusion of child's rights in training curricula at teacher training level and school curriculum		Curriculum
	4) Establish remand homes					Reports and records
	5) Conduct workshops to encourage team-building and improved networking among agencies as a collaborative effort to establish linkages with schools, judiciary, home, etc	MSD, MNS, MOE, MOH, THA, NGOs		By 2008, a 10% increase in inter agency conferencing		Reports
	6) Train and re-train additional and existing staff at all levels serving this area, with emphasis on the Judiciary, Police Service					Training reports

4.0 CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW - CONT'D

GOALS

- Review and revise existing policies with regard to children in conflict with the law
- Ensure the provision of an appropriate range of programmes and services for the holistic treatment and management of those children

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	DIVISION	MEASURABLE INDICATOR	STATUS / ACHIEVEMENTS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
a) Reduce the number of children in conflict with the law	7) Review and implement the law upholding parents' accountability for their truant and "beyond control" children. Legal parameters must be put in place within a framework of education and support					Court reports
	8) Implement the admissible of video/audio evidence of children in court hearings					Court reports
	9) Review/revise the age of criminal responsibility					Revised law

5.0 CHILD LABOUR

GOAL

- Eliminate and prevent all forms of child labour and rehabilitate and socially reintegrate all children engaged in child labour.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	DIVISION	MEASURABLE INDICATOR	STATUS / ACHIEVEMENTS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
a) Implementation of ILO Convention No. 182, 1999, on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour	1) Identify the nature and characteristics of child labourers	CSO, MLSMED, MSD, THA, UWI, MOE		By 2007, data on existing and potential child labourers analysed into nature and characteristics		CSO Reports
	2) Strengthen data collection systems					CSO Records
	3) Encourage/conduct research on the issue of child labour					Document available
	4) Develop and publish a list of jobs that are hazardous to children					List available
	5) Develop a National Policy and Plan of Action for the prevention and elimination of child labour					National Policy and National Plan of Action document
	6) Build public awareness at all levels of society on measures to prevent and eliminate child labour					Plan of Action document ,and Progress reports on implementation of Plan of Action

5.0 CHILD LABOUR - CONT'D

GOAL

- Eliminate and prevent all forms of child labour and rehabilitate and socially reintegrate all children engaged in child labour.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	DIVISION	MEASURABLE INDICATOR	STATUS / ACHIEVEMENTS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
a) Implementation of ILO Convention No. 182, 1999, on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour	7) Strengthen NGOs, CBOs and other agencies to develop and implement programmes to prevent and eliminate child labour					Training and agency reports
b) Implementation of the ILO Convention No. 138, 1973, on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment	1) Harmonize national legislation with the established minimum age for admission to employment					Legislative records of Trinidad and Tobago
	2) Strengthen labour inspection system to monitor and ensure compliance with minimum age for admission to employment legislation					Record on number of additional staff employed
	3) Establish an agency for overall child development and protection					Children's Authority operational