



Impact of Trafficking on Child Health, Development & Welfare

**AIPA Seminar on the Role of Parliamentarians in the
Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in
ASEAN
3-6 April 2011**

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Presentation topics

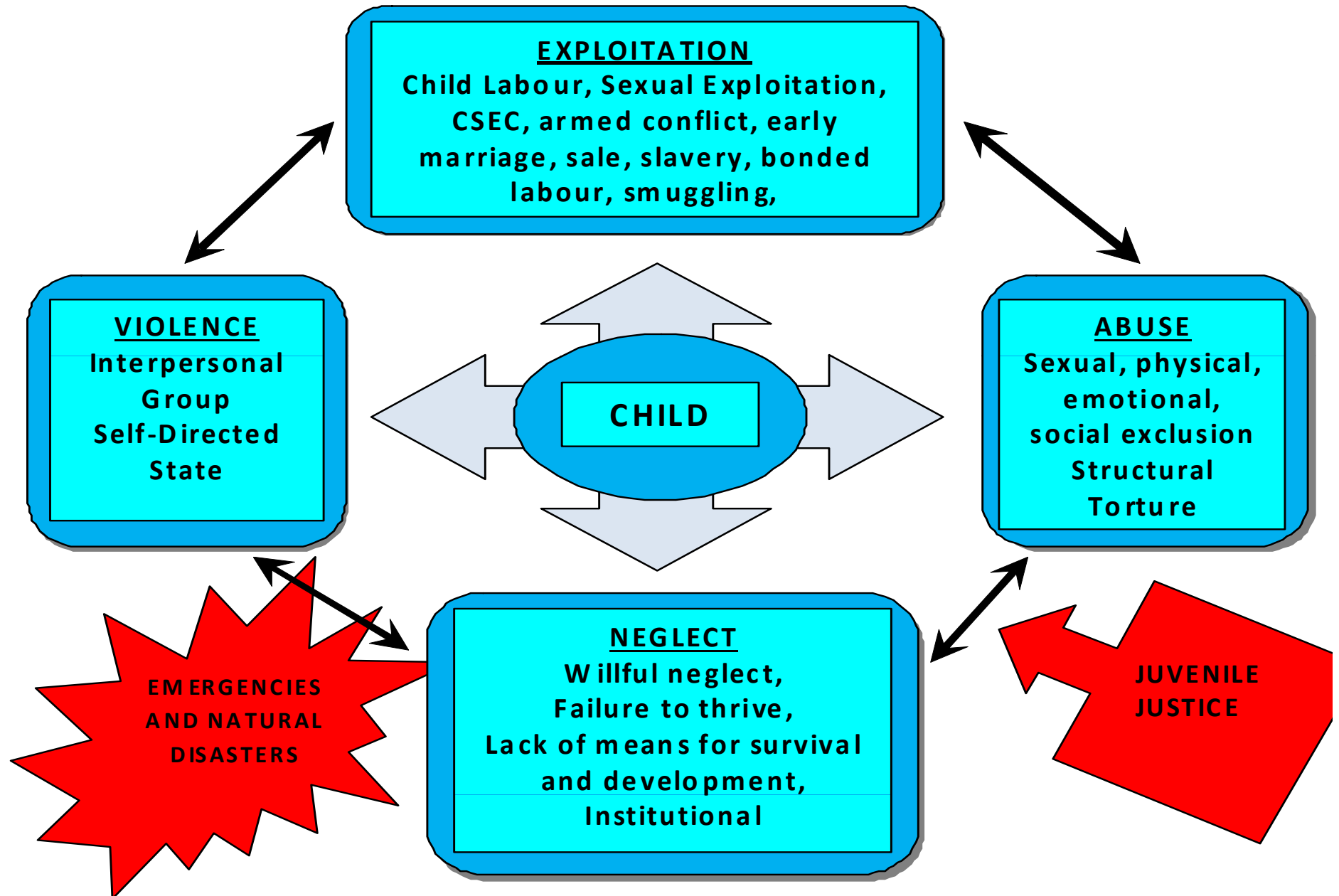
1. Child trafficking within the context of wider child protection concerns
2. Impact of trafficking on children
3. Strategic ways forward

UNICEF's approach to child protection

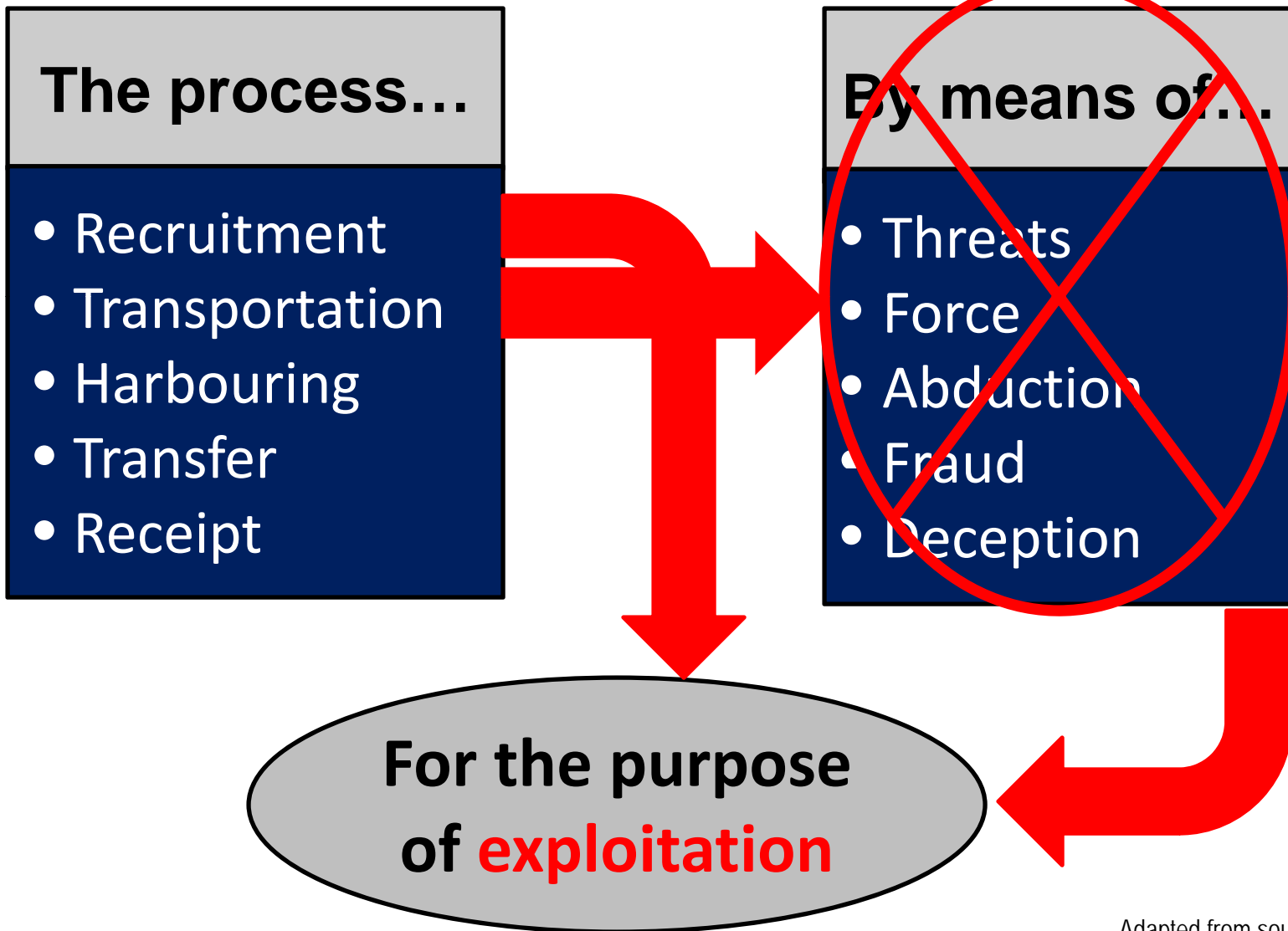
- All children are subject to their evolving capacities and therefore are in need of special safeguards and care;
- All children have the right to be protected from 'significant' harm;
- Preventing and responding to violence, exploitation, (neglect) and abuse is essential to ensuring children's rights to survival, development and well-being.

UNICEF Child Protection Strategy, June 2008

Child protection concerns



Key elements of Trafficking for Child Adults (under 18 years of age)



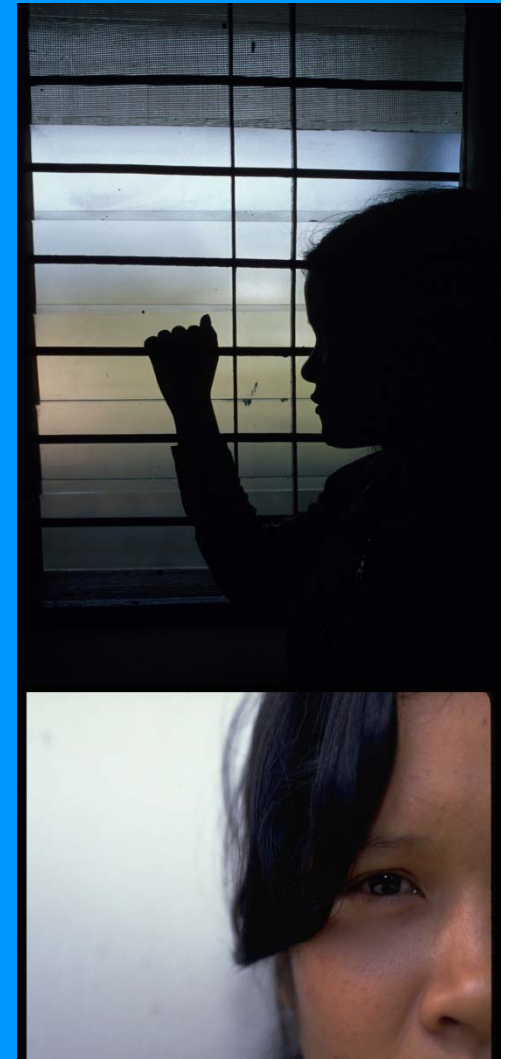
Purposes of child trafficking in and from ASEAN countries

- Boys & girls into bonded and exploitative labour (e.g. domestic service, factory work, construction sites, fishing boats, begging)
- Boys & girls into sexual exploitation (disproportionate focus of research & emphasis)
- Girls for marriage
- Boys & girls for illicit or even 'legal' adoption
- Boys & girls for involvement in armed conflict
- For the transfer and sale of organs



Child victims of trafficking are likely to experience various forms of maltreatment & harm

- Unaccompanied children & children accompanied by adults who are not parents/guardians at particular risk
- Physical abuse: Confinement; corporal punishment; injury and death; drug & alcohol dependency
- Sexual abuse: Sexual exploitation (increased risk of STIs, early pregnancy, damage to sexual & reproductive health); contact and non-contact abuse
- Emotional & psychological abuse and harm: Exposure to violence; chastisement, threats & intimidation; lack of security and isolation; anxiety & depression; disorientation; feelings of low self-worth & loss of identity; anger & aggression; suicidal tendencies; difficulty in forming relationships; loss of ability to concentrate; prone to dependency on their exploiters/abusers; engagement in high risk behaviours
- Neglect: Lack of adequate care & supervision; disregard for health, education & social needs; sensory & food deprivation



Consequences of child maltreatment

Health & social consequences more wide ranging than death & injury alone – includes major harm to physical & mental health of victims

Child maltreatment associated with risk-factors and risk-taking behaviours later in life

Contributes to a broad range of adverse physical & mental health outcomes that are costly – to the child & society – over course of victim's life

Consequences of child maltreatment

Child Maltreatment

Health-risk behaviours

Sexual promiscuity
Sexual violence
Alcohol abuse
Illicit / injecting drug use
Smoking
Behaviour problems
Mental / social problems
PTSD
Depression
Anxiety
Eating disorders
Cognitive development
Unwanted pregnancy
Obesity
Repeat victimization

Diseases and injuries

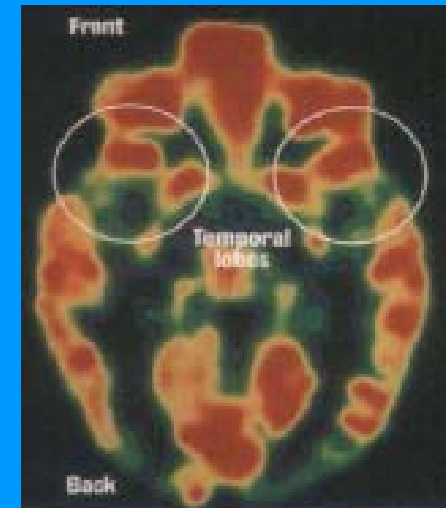
Heart disease
Diabetes
Stroke
Cancer
Suicide
Skeletal fractures
Chronic
bronchitis/emphysema
Asthma
STDs (e.g. HIV)
Hepatitis

Impact of child maltreatment on child development

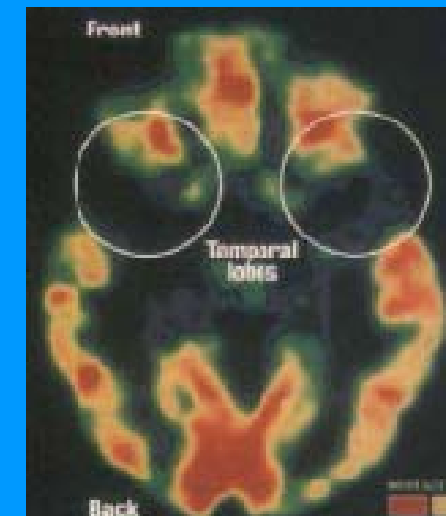
- Hippocampus plays key role in memory/learning – stress hormones & stress related neurotransmitter systems target hippocampus causing actual changes in gross structure & volume; repeated inhibits neuron devmt. These changes related to observed functional problems w/memory & learning (Perry & Azad 1999)
- Large US-based studies demonstrate significant academic disparities between maltreated & non-maltreated children (Eckenrode 1993)
- Several studies show child victims of physical abuse demonstrated more aggression, problems w/peer relationships, whereas neglected children showed emotional withdrawal, greater developmental & intellectual delays (Kent 1976, Prino & Peyrot 1994)
- According to 2005 UNESCO research, many studies show correlations between corporal punishment and poor mental health
- 2005 UNESCO research suggests children who are physically punished less likely than others to internalize moral values (e.g. less inclined to engage in altruistic behaviour, empathize w/others; more likely to engage in disorderly conduct)

Toxic stress damages brain architecture

- Clear evidence that brain development can be physiologically altered by prolonged, severe or unpredictable stress during the early years
- Excessive/repeated stress causes the release of chemicals that impair cell growth & interfere with the formation of healthy neural circuits in the brain
- Child's brain will focus on survival & responding to threats in environment – leading to activation & overdevelopment of those regions involved in responding to anxiety & fear



Healthy brain



Abused brain

Impact of child neglect on brain development

3 Year Old Children



Normal



Extreme Neglect

CIVITAS ChildTrauma Programs

© 1997 Bruce D. Perry, M.D., Ph.D.

These images illustrate the negative impact of neglect on the developing brain. Left: CT scan of healthy 3 yr old with average head size. Right: 3 yr old child suffering from severe sensory-deprivation neglect. Brain is significantly smaller than average and has abnormal development of cortex.

Child sexual abuse prevalence estimates by sub-region and sex

	Female %	Male %
Africa (high mortality)	21.3	9.6
Africa (very high mortality)	42.7	29.8
Latin America/Caribbean	13.3	20.0
Eastern Mediterranean	28.0	11.5
East Asia & Pacific	27.8	28.6

Andrews et al., Child sexual abuse, WHO, 2004

Basic snapshot model: Minimum cost implications of child sexual abuse for individuals & society

Year one (baseline)

Total population:	6,500,000	$1,625,000 \times 10\$$	=	16,250,000
Affected population:	1,625,000	$1,665,625 \times 10\$$	=	16,656,250

Year two

Total population	6,662,500	$1,707,266 \times 10\$$	=	17,499,473
Affected population	1,665,625	$1,749,947 \times 10\$$	=	17,936,959

Year three

Total population	6,829,063			
Affected population	1,707,266			

Year four

Total population	6,999,789			
Affected population	1,749,947			

**Total cost over 4 years =
68,342,682 USD**

Assumptions:

- Population growth rate: 2.5%
- Prevalence rate (total pop): 25%
- Costs per child/adult = 10 USD

Many responses to assist child victims have unintended and harmful impacts

Investigation & data collection

- Repetitive and/or non-child sensitive interviews can lead to retraumatization or psychological distress

Care & support

- Placement of children in institutional care over prolonged periods
- Placement of young children in institutional care for any period
- Lack of or insufficient individual assessment leads to unmet needs

Criminal proceedings

- Lack of victim & witness protection raises the risk of reprisals to self and family
- Lengthy judicial procedures often delay or inhibit family reunification

Reintegration

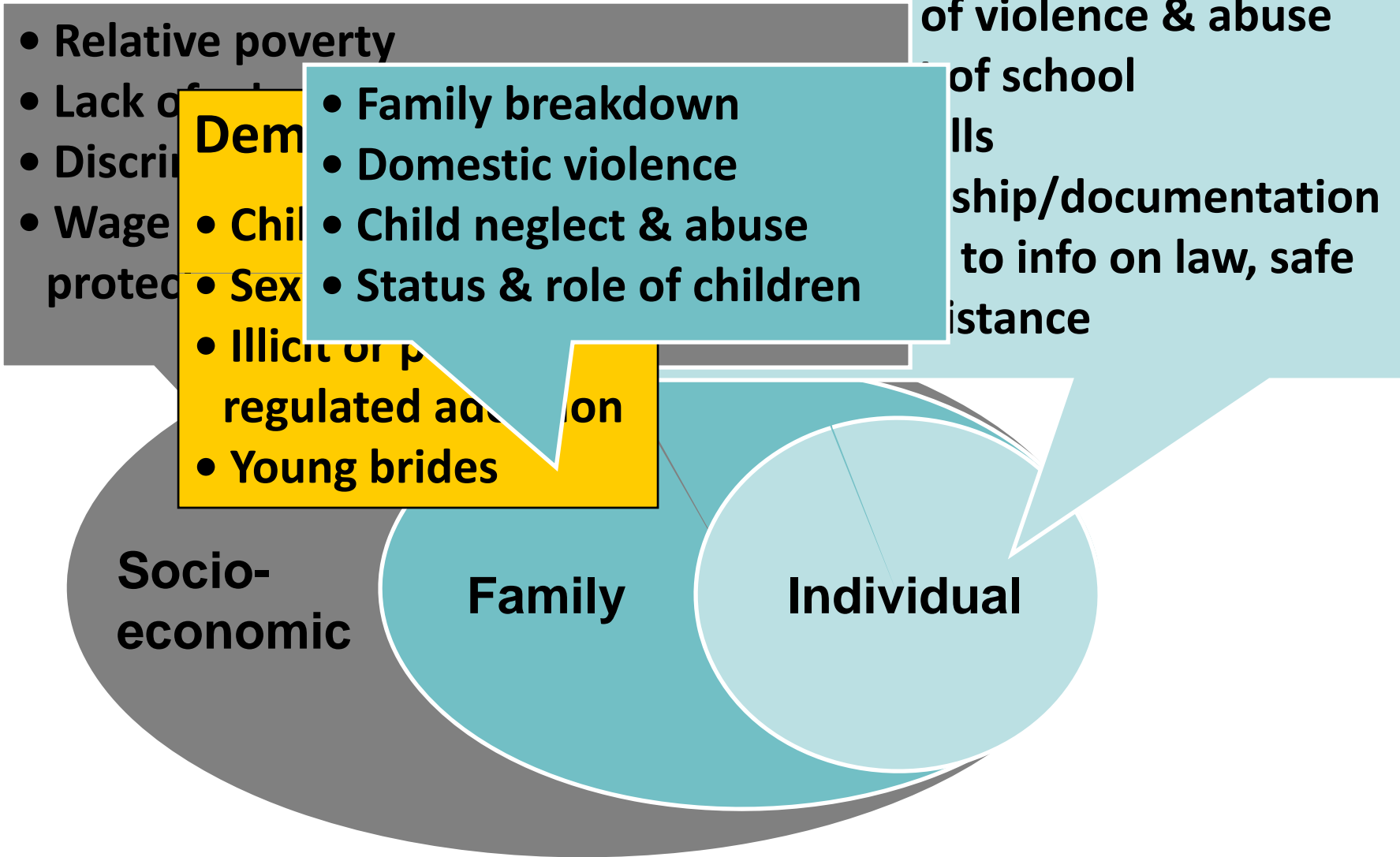
- Lack of or insufficient family assessment can place child (and other children in the household) at continued or increased risk

Learning from existing evidence on the impact of harmful interventions on children

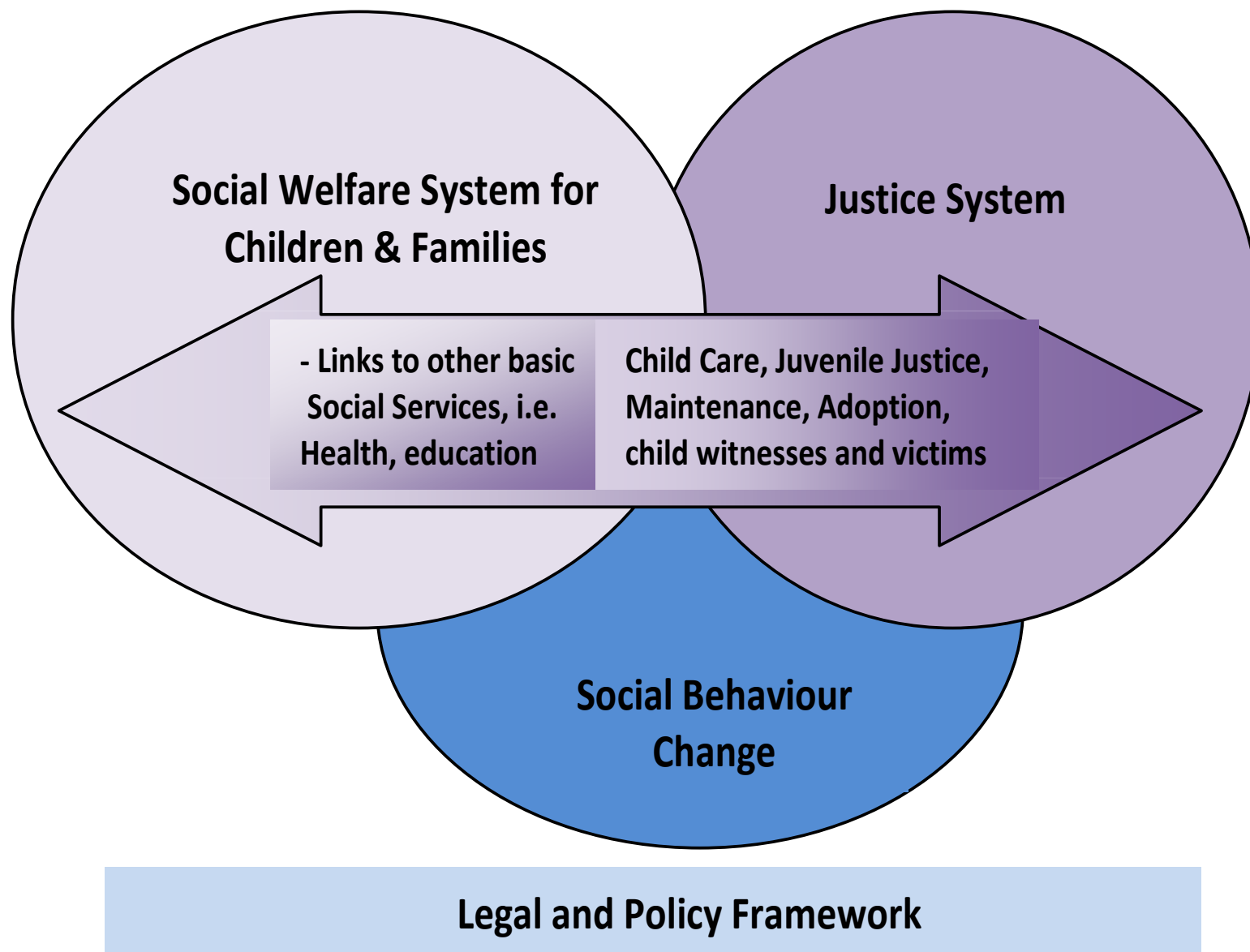
Recent research in 33 European countries has shown that children and young children in particular are at risk of harm within an institutional care setting:

- There is an increased risk of social dysfunction in adult life**
- Institutional care provides no advantages for children and at a cost which is far in excess of any other forms of child care**
- Young children in particular are at risk of harm from attachment disorder and delay in social, behavioural, & cognitive development**
- Delays in physical growth, nerve system atrophy and abnormal brain development have been identified in these children**
- The lack on a one to one relationship with a primary carer is a root cause of such damage**

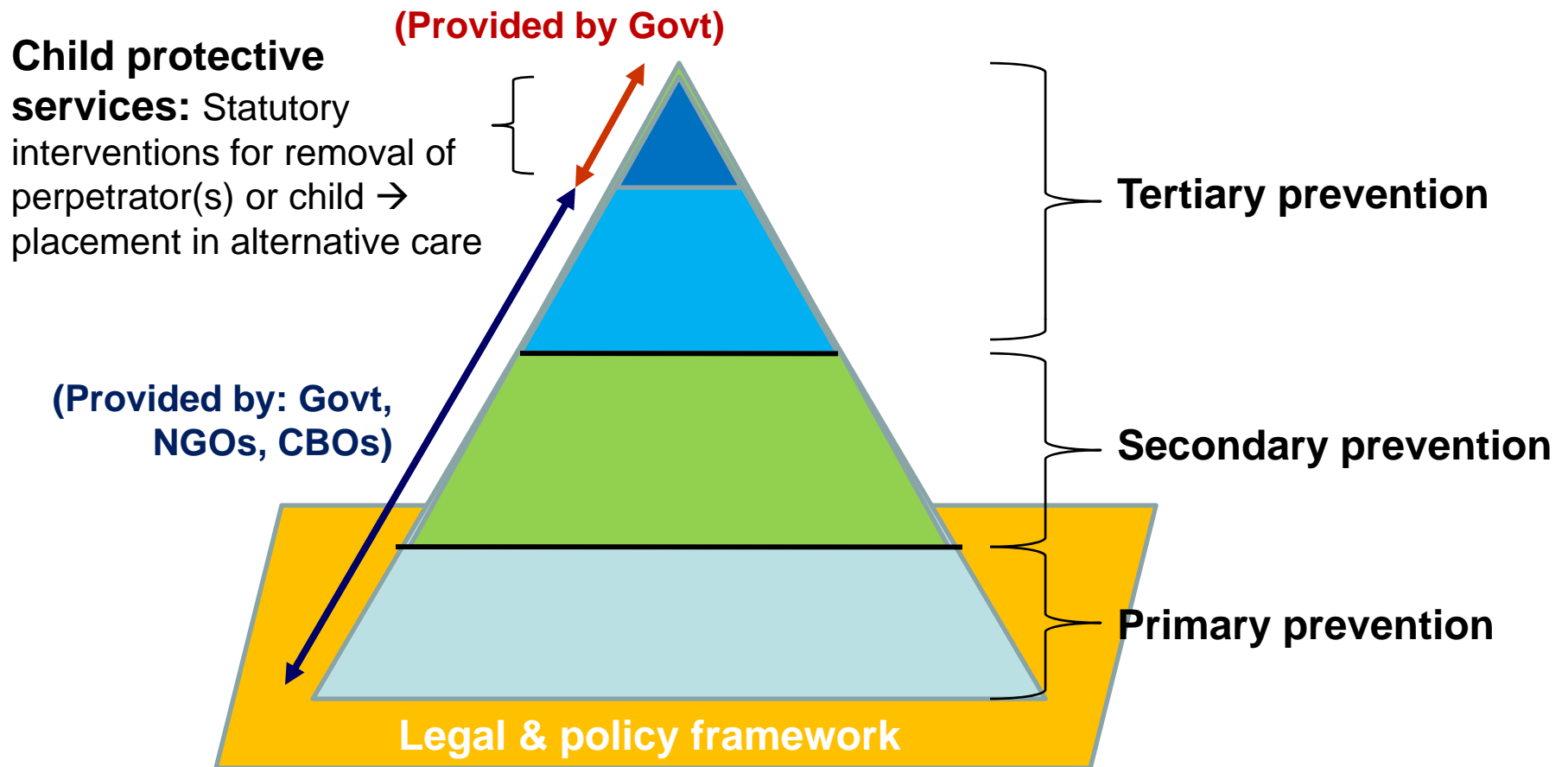
Preventing child trafficking requires strategic efforts to address underlying & compounding vulnerability factors



Strategic & sustainable approaches through building child protection systems are necessary for prevention & response



Main features of national CP systems



Primary prevention: Target general pop. (awareness raising & services)

Secondary prevention: Target at-risk groups (e.g. services for families in difficulty; outreach)

Tertiary prevention: Target individual child/family (e.g. counselling; substance abuse treatment)

National policy recommendations for ways forward

Considerations that need to be taken into account:

- Affected children are not only those who are trafficked
- Care and protection of children in the wider context of migration:
 - Accompanied child migrants (migrating with their families or others)
 - Unaccompanied child migrants
 - Children born abroad to migrant families
 - Children left behind in situations of inadequate care & supervision

National policy recommendations for ways forward

Establish/strengthen overarching child protection policies, laws & regulations

- Guiding principles should include: best interests of the child; non-discrimination; universality of the CP system; family preservation; child & family participation; continuum of care; permanency planning
- Focus on prevention of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation
- Application to all children within a country's territory
- Clear and defined authority, roles & responsibilities for statutory and non-statutory child protection services by government and non-government bodies at all levels
- Systems to register, accredit, regulate & inspect service providers
- Mechanism for appointing a guardian to promote child's best interests
- Promote cross-sectoral efforts for awareness raising on safe migration

Social welfare services for children & families

- Services to promote family preservation; facilitate access to health services, education, legal assistance, birth registration, citizenship, employment, social protection schemes

Professional capacities

- Social work recognized as profession w/training & accreditation process
- Professional, paraprofessional social workers & NGOs receive recurrent specialist training

National policy recommendations for ways forward

Establish clear inter-agency guidelines and operating procedures

- Includes agency roles & responsibilities; reporting mechanisms & practice; case management practice; info management; criminal proceedings; formal protocols; 'ladder' of responsibilities concerning decisions for govt agencies, NGOs, CBOs
- Oversees/promotes coordinated referral system w/health, education & justice sectors, & with NGOs

Establish & regulate alternative care in accordance with international standards

- Prioritization of family unity, if in line with child's best interests
- Guidelines, standards, procedures for: community based care; foster care; institutional care (last resort & for shortest amount of time), adoption
- Mechanism for appointing a guardian for trafficked & unaccompanied children

Justice for child victims, witnesses and those in conflict with the law in line with international standards

- Child victims & witnesses: Criminal procedure laws & guidelines to protect rights & interests of children at all stages of justice process and to reduce trauma & secondary victimization
- Children in conflict with the law: Special procedures & protections for children, emphasizing diversion & coordination w/social welfare services

THANK YOU



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