



Child Rights
Coalition Asia

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

WHO WE ARE

Child Rights Coalition Asia is a regional network of child rights organizations working for and with children in the Asia Pacific region.



We strengthen
child rights movements



We promote
innovative approaches



We advocate
for better policies for and
with children

OUR VISION

A world where all children are living in dignity by fully enjoying and exercising their rights.

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS



Governments improve accountability and transparency

through collaboration with civil society and children using accountability mechanisms effectively at all levels



CRC Asia and children catalyze advocacy work in advancing children's rights

within the solidarity movement for justice, peace, gender equality, and environmental sustainability



FOREWORD

INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN, SECURING OUR FUTURE

In times of crisis, we find hope in our collective strength. Investing in children—ensuring their safety, education, and well-being—is not just a responsibility; it is our path to a more just and resilient future.

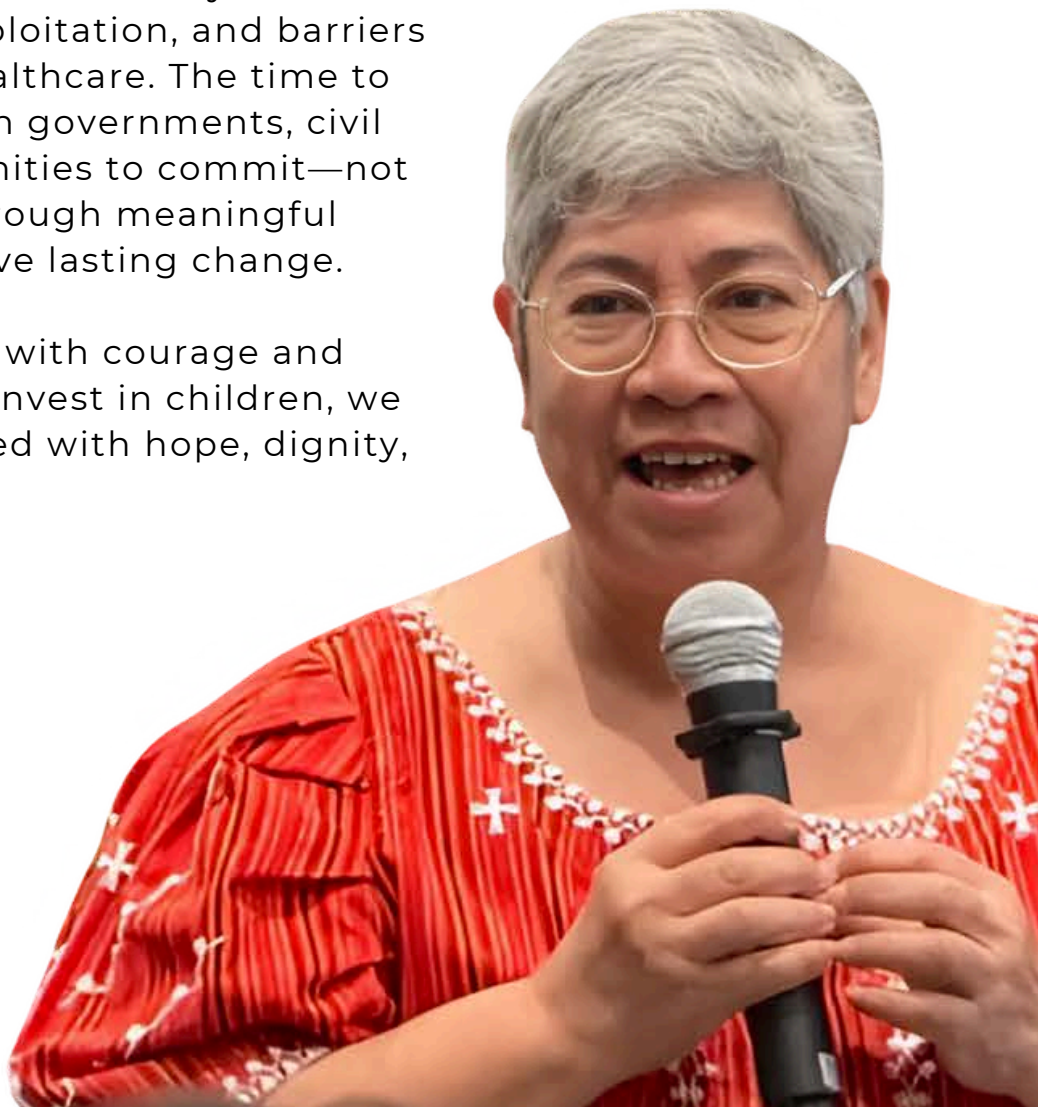
This year, we stood together to protect children from harm, amplify their voices, and create communities where they can thrive. Through collaboration, advocacy, and direct action, we have strengthened child protection systems, expanded access to essential services, and empowered children to lead the way in shaping their own futures.

But the journey continues. Many children still face poverty, exploitation, and barriers to education and healthcare. The time to act is now. We call on governments, civil society, and communities to commit—not just in words, but through meaningful investments that drive lasting change.

Let us move forward with courage and solidarity. When we invest in children, we invest in a future filled with hope, dignity, and justice for all.

AMIHAN ABUEVA

Regional Executive
Director,
Child Rights
Coalition Asia



ENGAGING GOVERNMENTS BY VOICING CHILDREN'S CONCERNS, RECOMMENDATIONS & OPINIONS ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

In 2024, CRC Asia created and utilized multiple opportunities to shape policies and actions with the voices of children and child rights CSOs in the region. At the global level, the perspectives and recommendations of Asian children were raised during an online dialogue with the UN SRSG – VAC Dr. Najat. Determined to ensure that Asian children will be at ease in expressing themselves, CRC Asia mobilized language translators. The children and Dr. Najat talked about how their rights are upheld by the government and what else needs to be done to protect children from various forms of violence. The inputs from children around the globe have informed Dr. Najat's message addressed to governments participating in the First Ministerial Conference to End Violence Against Children held in Colombia in November 2024.

The Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights Elisa Morgera has initiated steps to engage children in accordance with her mandate. As part of the Child Rights Connect working groups on children's rights and environment, and child participation, CRC Asia took this opportunity to promote child rights mainstreaming and child participation in climate change discourse. CRC Asia contributed in the technical preparations and in the development and dissemination of a child-friendly invitation to the dialogue between children and the Special Rapporteur on Climate Change.

In the Philippines, members of the Child Advisory Group (CAG) of the Down-to-Zero (DtZ) Philippine Alliance together with other children, presented a clear picture of children's situation during the launch of the Situation of Children Platform, a virtual platform developed by UNICEF, the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) for child rights monitoring. Alongside the statistics from the Situation of Children Platform, lived experiences of children from different parts of the country were shared with Philippine government representatives, civil society organizations, and CRC Committee members Dr. Rinchen Chopel and Professor Thuwayba Al Barwani. In this event, CRC Asia was tapped by UNICEF Philippines and CWC to provide technical assistance in preparing the children. By taking on this work, CRC Asia raised the bar higher for children, influencing others to recognize children as experts of their situation and having the capability to dialogue with government and CRC Committee members.



Child delegates in the Philippines speak up at the Bilang Bata: Every Child Counts Knowledge Forum last October 2024 about the current situation of children in the Philippines.



A lot of work remains to be done in the area of promoting meaningful child participation. In an informal conversation between young people, experts in the academe, and civil society, CRC Asia was invited to shed light on how children and young people can genuinely be included in civil and political processes, overcoming tokenism, stereotypes, and adult-centrism. Drawing from its own experience in implementing child participation throughout the years, CRC Asia pointed out the need to really reach the groups of children from different sectors that are mostly left behind or excluded. As such approach entails higher cost, allocating sufficient budget is imperative. Proper planning and preparations with children require a lead time and engaging children should not be an afterthought. Regional Executive Director Amihan Abueva also emphasized the use of the Guidance Note of the Secretary General on Child Rights Mainstreaming as reference in having a meaningful engagement with children. This speaking engagement manifests the recognized expertise and experience of CRC Asia on civil and political rights of children given the shrinking civic space.

Its advocacy on the civil and political rights of children was further promoted in the last quarter of the year when CRC Asia facilitated consultations with CSOs and children to gather inputs on the draft CRC General Comment No. 27 on children's rights to access to justice and effective remedies. The context and realities of the justice system in Asia were brought in by civil society and children during the consultations led by CRC Asia's member organizations Equality Myanmar (EQMM), CRC Cambodia, and Bahay Tuluyan which is a member of CRC Coalition Philippines. Through CRC Asia's link with Philippine Children's Rights Representative to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Women and Children (ACWC) Atty. Elizabeth Pangalangan, a consultation with Alternative Law Groups and other CSOs providing legal services to children was also conducted in coordination with the University of the Philippines Law Center Institute of Human Rights. Across the consultations, the points raised by the groups include having a child-centered justice and support system where children's safety, respect, and well-being are prioritized. In the context of Myanmar, they pointed out geographical and conflict-related barriers. With its on-going civil war, justice is elusive.

CRC Asia also created a platform for CSOs from Asia-Pacific to provide inputs on the draft GC 27 during its Asia-Pacific Partnership Meeting of Child Rights Coalitions and Networks (APPM) held in Manila on 31 July to 2 August 2024. All these efforts were carried out by CRC Asia, utilizing available mechanisms to influence the CRC Committee as they finalize GC 27 which will provide guidance to State Parties including countries from the Asia Pacific Region.



In its advocacy on children's rights to a healthy and sustainable environment, CRC Asia has supported efforts to develop an ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Rights. CRC Asia is focused on raising the context of children, pointing out that the needs and impact on children are different from the youth. It has employed different strategies to bring in the perspectives of children in this discourse. For one, CRC Asia is a member of the ASEAN Environmental Rights Working Group and it has actively participated in the Regional Dialogue and Consultation: Advancing the development of environmental rights in ASEAN held in Indonesia on 7-8 November 2024. Meanwhile, as a co-convenor of Child Rights Connect Working Group on Children's Rights and the Environment, CRC Asia has connected with human rights advocates on Aarhus Convention that are also lobbying for the ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Rights.

Furthermore, CRC Asia echoed the voices of children regarding their right to a healthy and sustainable environment through actively participating and taking on speaking engagements in different platforms, such as the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) [19 – 23 February]; an APFSD side event focused on "Greener Future: Education as a Climate Solution); "Breathless Future: Tackling Air Pollution's Impact on Children in Asia" (7 June 2024); "Advancing Children's Environmental Rights" (27 June 2024) which was a webinar organized by the International Pollutants Elimination Network – Southeast and East Asia (IPEN-SEA), EcoWaste Coalition – Philippines, Indonesia Center for Environmental Law (ICEL), Nexus3 Foundation – Indonesia, and CRC Asia.

Another advocacy that CRC Asia continues to promote is the public budgeting for children's rights. Through its own resource mobilization, CRC Asia contributed to the implementation of ACWC's Work Plan 2021 - 2025 under Outcome 2.1 Enhanced mechanisms for coordination and implementation of women and children responsive policies and programmes in ASEAN by co-organizing a Regional Learning Forum on Gender-Responsive

Budgeting and Child Rights Approach to Public Budgeting on 13 – 14 May 2024 in Manila, Philippines.

Under the leadership of ACWC Representatives from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand, as well as in close coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat, CRC Asia brought together CSOs and government representatives to share initiatives and innovations in relation to planning, tracking, and monitoring public budgets for women and children's rights.

Fostering linkages with individual ACWC representatives also led to more opportunities to influence their work at the country level. In the 8th ASEAN Children's Forum (ACF) hosted by Lao PDR, CRC Asia was tapped to provide technical inputs on the program design, child safeguarding, training key staff and volunteers, and mobilizing resource persons. Together with World Vision East Asia Office, CRC Asia worked closely with Lao PDR Children's Rights Representative to the ACWC for the preparations and actual forum entitled "Children-Led Climate Change Actions Towards a Resilient ASEAN Community," which concluded with an intergenerational dialogue between the child delegates and representatives from ACWC and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD).



CRC Asia's member organization in Lao PDR, Village Focus International (VFI), was also tapped by the government to provide support in preparing Lao child delegates. In the Philippines, child delegates were prepared through the conduct of the Philippine National Children's Conference (PNCC) by the CWC. The participation of a child from Mindanao was facilitated by CRC Asia and its member organization ACRMI.

CRC Asia also engaged with AIHR Cambodia and Indonesia upon their invitation to speak in their events. These speaking invitations reflect the recognition of CRC Asia's expertise and credibility and more importantly, these are opportunities for CRC Asia to contribute in mainstreaming children's rights. Aside from its presence in on-site or virtual platforms, CRC Asia has expressed a call to action on pressing issues like the civil war in Myanmar. In the Philippines, CRC Asia has also issued a statement regarding an incident of child rape and OSAEC, and the impact of tobacco and nicotine addiction on children. CRC Asia has also made itself visible and active in contributing inputs to the Philippine Human Rights Action Plan led by the Commission on Human Rights (CHR); the draft Magna Carta for Children bill; draft Guidelines on Processing Children's Personal Data led by the Privacy Policy Office of the National Privacy Commission (NPC); 7th National Data Privacy Awareness Week Conference organized by the NPC; and discussions on emerging issues, sexual offenders' registry, strengthening reporting mechanisms during the 10th Manila International Dialogue on Trafficking in Persons.

In these engagements, CRC Asia raised the perspectives and recommendations of children gathered from its previous consultations with children such as the Regional Children's Meeting and #YoungCreators forum with TikTok, ChildFund Korea, and ChildFund Philippines. This is also an approach to promote the civil and political rights of children and child rights mainstreaming.

During the last quarter of 2024, CRC Asia Regional Executive Director was invited by the World Health Organization (WHO) to join the First Global Ministerial Conference on Ending VAC in Colombia. This direct invitation is a result of the recognition of CRC Asia's work. As a follow through of this event, CRC Asia will be joining the meetings of the Philippine Delegation in 2025.

EXPANDING AND STRENGTHENING ITS MEMBERSHIP AND LINKS WITH OTHER CHILD RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN ASIA

In 2024, CRC Asia fortified its ties with different groups in the region. As a member of Asia Joining Forces (AJF), CRC Asia optimized this channel to bring greater prominence to child rights among CSOs and other sectors. In Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), an advocacy platform utilized by the AJF, CRC Asia advocated for more involvement of children considering their unique needs from the youth. Joining the APFSD and its side events such as the “Greener Future: Education as a Climate Solution (mentioned in Immediate Result 1) and “Enough” (on ending child hunger and malnutrition) allowed CRC Asia to be more visible in the region while also gaining insights on the intersectionality of children’s issues that fosters further deepening of its child rights advocacy.

CRC Asia continuously works to sustain its partnerships with other stakeholders. In a partner-to-partner exchange workshop led by Save the Children Asia Regional Office (SC ARO) for its partners, CRC Asia presented its work with children and youth related to climate and environment, CRC GC 26 implementation, touching on intersectionality, equality, and inclusion. Through its active participation in the planning stage, finalizing the design of the in-person workshop, and sharing its practices in working with and for children in the implementation of CRC GC 26, CRC Asia raised the bar higher for child rights mainstreaming in the discourse of climate and environment.

Access to Safe and Sufficient Water: A Right of Children and Future Generations

29 March 2023

17:15 – 18:30 (GMT +7)

Theatre, Ground Floor,
United Nations Conference
Centre (UNCC), Bangkok



In the global arena, CRC Asia is a member of Child Rights Connect and it sits in two working groups – child participation and environment. Additionally, CRC Asia is a member of the EXECOM of Child Rights Connect. CRC Asia provided inputs to Child Human Rights Defenders (CHRD) Strategy and endorsed the same for approval. This document serves as a guide for all Child Rights Connect members and as for CRC Asia, the CHRD is still included in the new strategy plan approved by its Board. By endorsing this document, CRC Asia pointed out the need to put sufficient attention to the less discussed civil and political rights of children.

CRC Asia also participated in an online group discussion on regional initiatives (i.e. social protection) with UNICEF, ILO, UNHCR, Save the Children, Plan International, AFJ, and ICMEC. Such invitations signifies that CRC Asia's expertise is recognized by CSOs and INGOs.

This year, CRC Asia also welcomed a new member – Breaking the Silence (Bangladesh). Breaking the Silence or BTS is focused on empowering children as active agents of change. BTS has a long-standing dedication to advocating for vulnerable and marginalized children in Bangladesh is demonstrated through their efforts in providing education, support, and awareness programs aimed at preventing child abuse and exploitation. The work of BTS is aligned with CRC Asia's values and new strategic direction. Likewise, their engagements with children reflect CRC Asia's advocacy for children's participation in decision-making and policy development.

A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING HUB FOR ITS NETWORK ON EMERGING ISSUES

In the third quarter of 2024, CRC Asia held its 9th Asia-Pacific Partnership Meeting of Child Rights coalitions and Networks (APPM) with the theme “Building Solidarity for Children’s Rights.” Since 2015, the APPM served as a space for child rights coalitions, alliances, and networks to connect and deepen their understanding on child rights through discussions with experts and sharing of practices. The APPM is also a venue for gathering the views of CSOs on specific topics of draft international documents such as General Comments and Day of General Discussions of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC Committee). For this year’s APPM, the topics were focused on children’s right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment; child rights monitoring; access to quality education; children’s rights in the digital environment; children’s right to health, and a workshop to gather inputs from CSOs regarding children’s access to justice and effective remedies, which is the topic for CRC GC no. 27. Discussions on specific topics were led by Atty. Mikiko Otani, member of the CRC Committee and a member of CRC Asia’s Board of Trustees (salient features of and follow up actions on the UN CRC General Comment No. 26 on children’s rights and the environment with special focus on climate change; simplified reporting procedure of the UN CRC; and background on the draft GC NO. 27 on children’s rights to access to justice and effective remedies); Danica Marie Supnet, Director for Climate Policy, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (background on the Paris Agreement and the Global Stocktake, and entry points for child rights organizations in the Global Stocktake and the UN Climate Change Conference [COP]); Professor Amara Pongsapich, PhD, Representative of Thailand to the AICHR

(the process of developing the ASEAN Environmental Rights Framework; Liezl Stuart del Rosario, Policy Manager of WWF Philippines (overview on the development of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan in relation to the convention on Biological Diversity and Paris Agreement); Jo Becker, Children's Rights Advocacy Director of Human Rights Watch (rationale and plan behind the proposal to develop a New UN CRC Optional Protocol on free pre-primary and free secondary education); Arianne Jimenez, Head of Privacy & Data Policy Engagement of Meta Asia-Pacific (Meta's efforts in upholding children's right to privacy); Manu Krishan, Global Study Programme Manager of Global Campus of Human Rights (Generative AI's emerging trends, risks and opportunities for children); Pin-Chieh Lai, Senior International Affairs Specialist of Child Welfare League Foundation (utilizing emerging digital tools for advocacy); Ariel Odtojan, Regional Advocacy and Campaigns Manager of World Vision East Asia (overview of the situation of child hunger and malnutrition in Asia); and Dr. Avegail Cardinal, member of the Society of Adolescent Medicine of the Philippines, Inc. (challenges and recommendations on ensuring timely provision of health and nutrition services to pregnant adolescents).

There was also a session on addressing sexual exploitation of children (SEC) by upholding sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), featuring CRC Asia members implementing the Step Up the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation of Children (SUFASEC) Programme, which include CRC Asia members: Yayasan SEJIWA (Indonesia), CWIN (Nepal), and The Life Skills Development Foundation [TLSDF] (Chiangmai, Thailand). Plan International Pilipinas, a member of the Down-to-Zero (DtZ) Philippine Alliance, implementing the SUFASEC Programme also shared their key interventions and gender-related actions to address SEC. The SUFASEC Programme is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

Another highlight of the 9th APPM were the child and youth speakers from the Child Rights Youth Activist Network (CRYA) in Chiangmai, Thailand, who shared about their experience in climate actions through the Shift Campaign Accelerator. Another child speaker talked about the TikTok Global Youth Council.

The last session of the APPM was the workshop on the draft CRC GC 27 on children's rights to access to justice and effective remedies, which was facilitated by Atty. Mikiko Otani and Ha Ryong Jung, Associate Human Rights Officer of the Office of the UN High

Commissioner for Human Rights. The workshop was a platform for CSOs to inform GC 27 with the context of the Asia Pacific. There was also a session on addressing sexual exploitation of children (SEC) by upholding sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), featuring CRC Asia members implementing the Step Up the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation of Children (SUFASEC) Programme, which include CRC Asia members: Yayasan SEJIWA (Indonesia), CWIN (Nepal), and The Life Skills Development Foundation [TLSDF] (Chiangmai, Thailand). Plan International Pilipinas, a member of the Down-to-Zero (DtZ) Philippine Alliance, implementing the SUFASEC Programme also shared their key interventions and gender-related actions to address SEC. The SUFASEC Programme is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

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The themes of this year's APPM are aligned with CRC Asia's new and child-informed strategy map. Through the support of CRC Asia's old and new partners – Plan International, SC ARO, WWF, Taiwan Foundation, and DtZ Alliance, CRC Asia once again served as a conduit for knowledge exchange and information sharing on emerging issues and threats during the 9th APPM.

On 2 -3 October 2024, representatives from AIHR; ACWC; Philippine government agencies - Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA); UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan International, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Asia, CRC Asia, and other child rights organizations and advocates discussed opportunities and challenges to localize the CRC GC 26, with two rounds of consultations, gathering contributions from children, CRC States Parties, experts and various stakeholders. In this ASEAN Dialogue on CRC GC 26,

with two rounds of consultations, gathering contributions from children, CRC States Parties, experts and various stakeholders. In this ASEAN Dialogue on CRC GC 26, the participants raised the need for AIHR and ACWC to work on joint projects, integration of GC 26 in school curriculum, engaging businesses and strengthening their transparency and accountability, establishing grievance mechanisms and justice systems that are also child-friendly.

In co-organizing this dialogue, CRC Asia ensured that children's needs and situations are integrated in discussions on interventions. As pointed out by AIHR Representative Edward Bon, there is a need to “take child-specific and child-centered actions in administrative and legislative matters” in regard to climate change actions. Through this dialogue CRC Asia utilized this platform to create a space for CSO participation, including CSOs from Asia Pacific.

CRC Asia worked with CRC Committee member Professor Philip D. Jaffe for the translation of the 2024 Geneva Declaration on the Rights of the Child in 10 languages – Nepali, Burmese, Cantonese, Filipino, Khmer, Korean, Malay, Mandarin, Thai, and Urdu. Commemorating 100 years since its adoption by the League of Nations, CRC Asia hopes that the renewed and translated version of the Geneva Declaration on the Rights of the Child will reach more children and communities in the region. CRC Asia's renewed commitment to building a world where every child lives with dignity and fully enjoys their rights was also captured in this video presenting its member organizations.

An addition to its knowledge products that is integrated in its website is the Shift campaign that shows the child-led climate actions carried out in 2023 by children supported by CRC Asia member organizations in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Pakistan, Nepal, Cambodia,

As a knowledge and information hub, CRC Asia was not only invited to multiple speaking engagements (mentioned in Intermediate Results 1 and 2) but it was also requested for interview with the South China Morning Post on the issue of child trafficking, particularly the increasing online advertisements of children for sale.

CHILDREN ADVOCATING FOR THEIR OWN ISSUES AND DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE ACTIONS IN ADVANCING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

The 2024 Regional Children's Meeting (RCM) with the theme #GenAI was held on 14 – 16 August 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. The RCM was a mix of fun and learning for 36 children (20 girls, 13 boys, and 2 non-binary) aged 12 to 19 years old supported by CRC Asia members and partners in the region. Aside from CRC Asia Secretariat staff and representatives from members CTF and SEJIWA serving as speakers and facilitators, the RCM had resource speakers from Amnesty International, Meta Asia Pacific, and Save the Children International, as well as a facilitator from World Vision International. Lecture-discussions, games, and workshops were conducted on the topics covered, which included children's civil and political rights; empowering child human rights defenders; and children's rights in digital environment. The children also spent time discussing emerging trends such as sharenting, kidfluencers and generative AI. The views and recommendations of children will be presented at a UN-supported event, the Internet Governance Forum, and other relevant platforms. It will be shared with tech companies, policymakers and other stakeholders like educators and parents. It is important to note that the topics discussed during the RCM were recommendations from children that was gathered during the 2023 RCM. CRC Asia's RCM always serves as a springboard for advocacy efforts carried out by CRC Asia together with children in succeeding months.



As a follow through of the RCM, CRC Asia joined the ASEAN ICT Forum on Online Child Protection in Bali, Indonesia held on 25 – 27 September 2024. As a panelist in the session “Emerging technologies, their impact on OCSEA and considerations for prevention in ASEAN,” Deputy Regional Executive Director Hazel Bitaña presented the inputs from children on how they leverage Generative AI to create positive change. For one, children use it for their advocacy work by creating content, getting additional information or verifying the advocacy messages they want to convey, and translating information from other languages to build their advocacy capacities and their knowledge on issues they are advocating for. The children also use AI for recreation and for their education or gain new knowledge like learning how to code.

In the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), CRC Asia also shared the views of children about the digital environment and AI gathered during the RCM. We raised the expressed concerns of children on the impact of Generative AI on their right to a healthy environment in the context of climate change due to energy consumption, which could also be a concern with metaverse; and their right to privacy and informed consent considering the unique privacy and data protection issues posed by Generative AI and metaverse.

In an online event entitled “Protecting children: 10 years of the UN Treaty on Business and Human Rights held on 11 December 2024, CRC Asia pointed out the negative and positive impacts of the practice of sharenting and having kidfluencers on children’s right to privacy, right to be heard, freedom of expression, and right to protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, among others. According to the child delegates of the RCM, these issues require concerted actions from different stakeholders, including parents, governments, and tech companies. The children recognize the importance of having guidance and regulations on addressing emerging issues. Meanwhile, they call on tech companies to develop a child-friendly version of the terms and conditions that will facilitate their informed decisions and that tech companies consult children and conduct prevention measures like digital literacy training for parents and children, as well as having privacy protection features in online platforms.

For its advocacy on children’s right to a healthy and sustainable environment, CRC Asia conducted a regional webinar for children called “Shifting the Focus to Children Environmental Defenders in Asia.” This event is a follow through of the climate action campaigns led by children in 2023. The webinar served as a venue where children proudly shared their experiences in leading campaigns and climate actions starting from the planning stage, which started with the children identifying and analysing the climate change issues in their communities, up to execution with support from CRC Asia member organizations. Through this webinar, CRC Asia has validated the value of creating opportunities for children’s meaningful engagement on issues that matter to them. While they may not immediately see the result of their advocacy calls and actions, the children have successfully exercised their freedom of expression and right to assemble and take actions in safe spaces to uphold their right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

INFLUENCING OTHER SECTORS TO MAINSTREAM CHILD RIGHTS AGENDA

Manifesting our commitment to mainstream child rights, CRC Asia engaged with different environmental groups in 2024. As mentioned earlier, CRC Asia raised children's views and recommendations in regional and national consultations and dialogues, such as the APFSD and side event "Greener Future: Education as a Climate Solution); "Breathless Future: Tackling Air Pollution's Impact on Children in Asia" (7 June 2024); "Advancing Children's Environmental Rights" (27 June 2024) which was a webinar organized by the International Pollutants Elimination Network – Southeast and East Asia (IPEN-SEA), EcoWaste Coalition – Philippines, Indonesia Center for Environmental Law (ICEL), Nexus3 Foundation – Indonesia, and CRC Asia.

In the first quarter of 2024, CRC Asia was tapped to provide technical assistance to *Fédération Internationale de Football Association* or FIFA for the development of their Child Safeguarding Policy. Children who are football enthusiasts were mobilized through CRC Asia's member organizations and partners for a virtual consultation with the Safeguarding and Child Protection Officer of FIFA. The support provided by CRC Asia include applying its safeguarding measures when conducting online consultations with children, a guide developed by CRC Asia during the pandemic period. Whether playing for informal or organized football, the children expressed the boundaries not only between the players and coaches but also the other people involved in the sport like managers, referees, and parents, who sometimes are the source of pressure when playing the game. To date, the Safeguarding Policy has not been shared with CRC Asia yet. Nevertheless, being able to contribute to this undertaking is aligned with CRC Asia's mandate of upholding children and their right to protection in any setting.

CRC Asia also worked out a project proposal after multiple consultations with WWF and CRC Asia member organizations TLSDF and CRC Cambodia. Through this engagement, CRC Asia will be contributing to and highlighting child participation in the implementation of the Mekong in Balance project. Moreover, CRC Asia will be carving windows of opportunities for more children to have a deeper understanding of climate change, biodiversity, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and CRC GC 26 by developing child-friendly materials.

In the last quarter of 2024, CRC Asia organized separate consultations with trade unions and social workers. In the consultation with social workers, the discussions focused on the role of the academe in uplifting the profession, introducing child participation in the context of residential facilities for children, challenges and opportunities in family courts, integrating child rights education in the social work curriculum, and social workers as child rights advocates. There was a rich discussion with social workers in different fields (i.e. academe, local social worker, court social worker, etc.) sharing their context, challenges, and recommendations. One issue raised by the academe was the limited exposure in various specializations of the faculty/social work professors, which created the gap between knowledge-based input versus practice-based inputs. To address this gap, forging partnerships between CSOs and the academe was recommended to bridge the gap between theories and practice. Also recognized was the need to have knowledge sharing between social workers in the field, child rights advocates, and social work professors can also foster continuous learning that can be cascaded to the students.

In conducting this consultation “mainstreaming Children’s Agenda with Academe and Practitioners of Social Work” (28 November 2024), CRC Asia opened new possible work areas with the academe which has full potential of contributing to the enhancement and sustainability of child protection systems.

On 3 December 2024, CRC Asia held a roundtable consultation with trade union members and workers’ organizations. The activity started with an analysis of the situation of children and presentation of advocacies for children and child protection from grassroots organizations and local NGOs which focused on existing services and programs for children, child rights education, and child protection. The recommendations raised by the participants were to continue having dialogues to discuss children’s agenda and to teach children’s rights to parents.



Other networking activities attended to by CRC Asia include Pasya, Laya, at Sining Book Launch (24 May 2024) by UP Center for Women and Gender Studies; and Policy Forum on Government and CSO synergies to overcome structural barriers and advance the ICPD POA and SDG targets on SSRHR and Gender Equality (28 May 2024) organized by Likhaan Center for Women's Health, Inc. Participation in these activities were strategies for CRC Asia to be more visible in events related to SRHR. Linking with different sectors are initial steps for CRC Asia to expand the reach of its child rights agenda and apply concrete strategies for child rights mainstreaming. Although results may not surface immediately, CRC Asia is bent on reaching out to other groups in its new strategic plan, exemplifying the interconnectedness of child rights sector with other rights-bases sectors.

SYSTEMS AND CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

In-person General Assembly was held on 3 August 2024 in Manila, Philippines. Together with its member organizations, the Secretariat went over the 2023 finance and annual report, providing an overview of the financial status for the current year, pointing out the need to conduct resource mobilization. Aside from a walkthrough of the Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028, CRC Asia also informed the body of old policies for review and new policies that need to be drafted (i.e. Child Safeguarding and Code of Conduct, Anti-Fraud Policy, Complaints Procedure and Disciplinary Procedure, etc.). The new strategic plan, new and revised policies were subsequently approved by the body via email after integration of their inputs.

Strengthening of its internal systems also pushed through this year, which is led by a consultant from an auditing firm. Review and assessment of finance policies and procedures were participated by all admin and finance team members. The internal systems strengthening will entail streamlining of processes, updating of forms, and revising certain provisions in the finance policy. Although it will take time for the changes to settle in, all these efforts are geared towards making CRC Asia more competitive to mobilize resources and provide support to its members.

In 2024, the Secretariat staff grew from seven to 13 staff. Members of the secretariat, especially the new staff, underwent various capacity building and learning events organized by the office or by invitation from other groups. Among the training internally organized by CRC Asia were: PSEA Orientation conducted by UNICEF Philippines, and Gender Transformative Approaches by Plan International. The Secretariat also conducted staff wellness activities which included learning well-being practices and coping mechanisms. Well-being investments on staff were more pronounced this year as staff also had the chance to participate in learning events such as the “EduDev Summit 2024: Addressing the Mental Healthcare Crisis in Education,” and “Plan International Model AICHR Meeting” (4 – 7 August 2024) held in Jakarta, which allowed the new staff to learn about one of the regional bodies that CRC Asia closely works with.

Stepping Up The Fight Against Sexual Exploitation of Children (SUFASEC)

SUFASEC is a three-year program funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is implemented by the Down-to-Zero (DtZ) Alliance in Latin America and Asia. As a member of the DtZ Alliance, CRC Asia contributes to the program implementation through its member organizations SEJIWA in Indonesia, VFI in Lao PDR, CWIN in Nepal, TLSDF and CTF in Thailand, and ACRMI in Philippines. Grounded on the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of children, CRC Asia recognized its need to have a deeper understanding of the SRHR issues of children and the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in order to provide support to its implementing member organizations. The staff spent time for learning sessions on SRHR, CSE, Adolescent pregnancy, Prohibition of Child Marriage (new law in the Philippines), and the salient points of the draft adolescent pregnancy prevention bill, and a training on CSE for out-of-school youth module (1 – 4 October 2024). All these learning sessions contribute to the capacity strengthening of the staff and the organization's work. It is worthy to note that in previous consultations with children, they have identified the importance of implementing CSE and this recommendation was considered in the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Child Online Exploitation and Abuse (RPA on COEA). (Activity 6.1).

At the regional level, CRC Asia participated in the Asia Lobby & Advocacy Meeting of the DtZ Alliance SUFASEC on 16 - 17 May 2024 in Nepal. This meeting focused on strengthening communication and collaboration between and among Alliance members which will also facilitate the linkage between the national initiatives and regional lobby and advocacy. The linking of interventions at the local/national level with the regional and global levels and vice versa was also pointed out by UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children Mama Fatima Singhateh during the Dialogue held on 17 May 2024.

In the Philippines, the Secretariat serves as the host organization for the DtZ Philippine Alliance. Among the joint activities implemented by the DtZ Philippine Alliance were the courtesy visit to the Dutch Ambassador, learning session on SRHR, and the co-creation of IEC workshop with children representatives from the project areas of DtZ Philippine Alliance.

Under the SUFASEC Program, implementers and country alliances were encouraged to establish a Child Advisory Group (CAG) that will be part of its governance structure. In the Philippines, the Alliance has successfully established its CAG and the co-creation workshop was their first activity, which led to the development of key advocacy messages. Follow through activities were taken on by each Alliance member.

For CRC Asia, the CAG members were supported by its implementing members KKI and Gitib. After the co-creation workshop, another core group of children from both organizations were invited to continue developing the IEC material. With the support of CRC Asia's Communications Team, the key message developed is now a video reel with the whole story board developed by the children. The video reel was subjected to pilot testing in both project areas with children who were not previously involved in education sessions on CSE. It was also subjected to an expert review by inviting partners to review and comment on the video. The video reel carries a story of one form of grooming. This topic was identified by the children during the storyboard development, expressing that this situation is real in their communities and children have to be made aware of grooming and must know how to protect themselves. The video also shows helpline numbers and contact details of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), Department of Education (DepEd), and the Philippine National Police (PNP). The video will be launched together with the CAG – core group of KKI and Gitib in 2025.

Across the program locations of the SUFASEC Program implemented by CRC Asia's members, one common ground that they have worked on is the CSE orientation for children, youth, and adults. They have formed children and youth peer educators by providing CSE and facilitation training. The trained children and youth peer educators have started echoing the orientation to their friends, other children and youth in different schools and communities. One key factor in the involvement of children and youth as peer educators is the extensive support provided by CRC Asia's members. The training for the peer educators was more than transferring knowledge on CSE and SRHR. As expressed by the youth in Nepal, they have seen how they have become more confident in speaking and interacting with other people and they have received recognition from teachers and parents, and even their local government.

In the Philippines, one peer educator was invited to give a CSE orientation in another village that is not part of the SUFASEC project area. These peer educators are representations of children and youth as agents of change, proactively taking action after having been provided with appropriate knowledge and skills.

The active engagement of children and youth in the SUFASEC Program has already achieved a certain level of transformation as the children and youth are now able to have a dialogue with their local officials, teachers, and parents as they coordinate and arrange the CSE sessions. The support of their teachers in this project is also evident. In the case of Lao PDR, the teachers responsively recommended the children and youth who can undergo training to become peer educators. The teachers also remained in schools when the educators started their session.

Teachers, local village leaders, parents, and caregivers were also oriented on CSE and positive parenting. In Indonesia, Adult Champions have started rolling out CSE orientation to children in their schools and communities. In Thailand and the Philippines, young mothers have expressed their desire to improve relationships with their children.

Another key factor in this project is the development of IEC materials and modules as tools for orienting the children and adults on CSE and SRHR. Considering the sensitivity and topics, the member organizations have developed their own tools and aids to make their sessions engaging without causing discomfort to the participants, especially the adults.

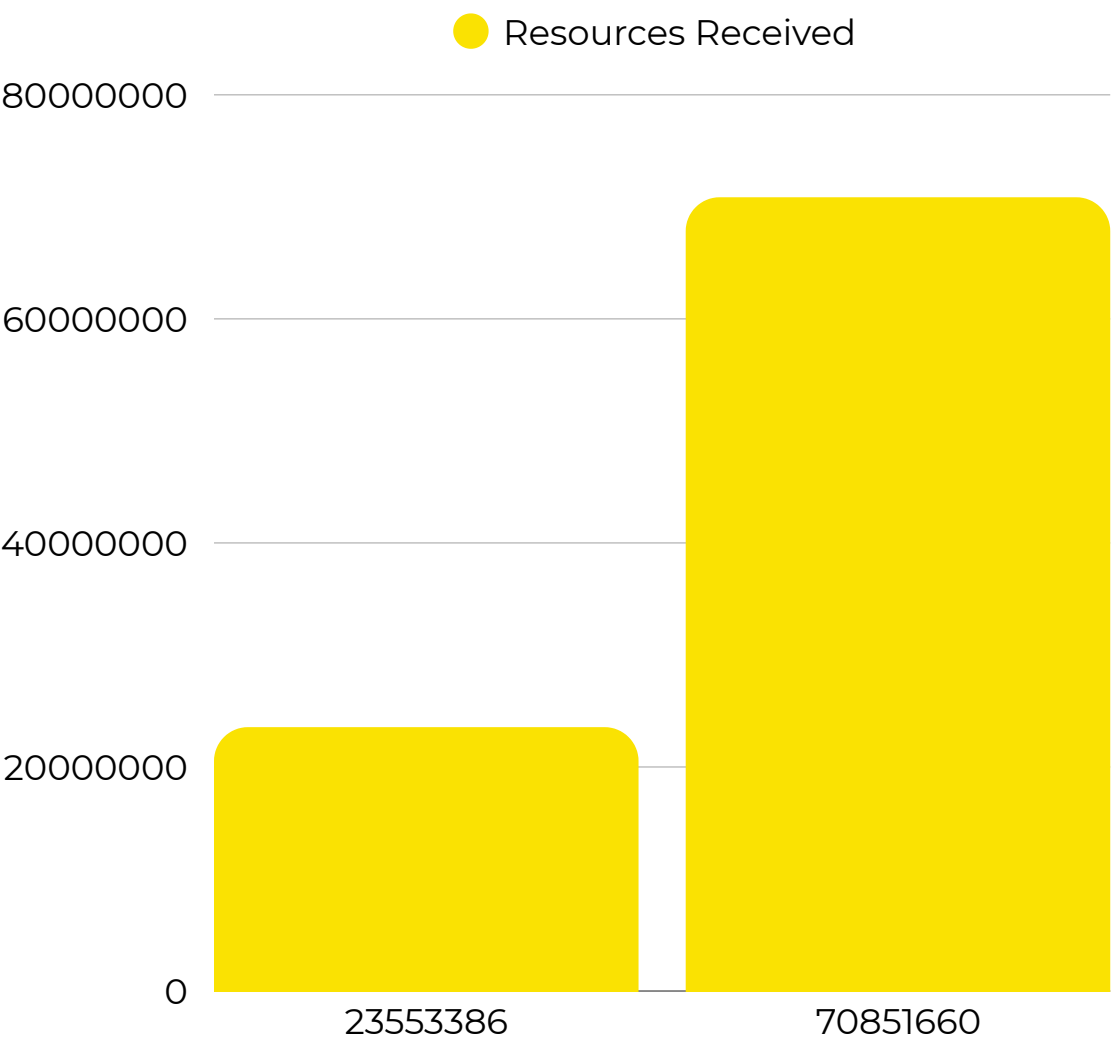
The SUFASEC project commenced in March 2023 and will end in March 2026. In such a short span of time since program implementation started, CRC Asia is starting to see positive results even from among its member organizations through their innovative actions.

Another component of the SUFASEC Project is Youth Voices for Change (YV4C), which is aimed at enhancing the advocacy and leadership skills of youth leaders, empowering them to tackle critical social and political issues such as climate change, human rights, and the promotion of a dignified life. In its current iteration, YV4C focuses on combating the sexual exploitation of children (SEC). This initiative is being implemented in India, Indonesia, and the Philippines in partnership with CIF, Sanlaap, Sejiwa, ECPAT Indonesia, Plan Pilipinas, ECPAT Philippines, and KKI.



In December 2024, youth committees from the three countries launched their Creative Laboratory sessions, involving a dynamic group of young participants. The Creative Lab which will run from December 2024 to May 2025 offers comprehensive social and technical training, equipping youth to develop impactful communication products. These outputs will foster meaningful engagement and advocacy, enabling youth to collaborate with and influence decision-makers at both national and international levels by the second quarter of 2025.

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B.1. Local (pls. specify the organization and individual donors)

Name of Donor	Address and Contact Numbers	Purpose/s of Donation/s	Nature of Donation	Reference	Amount
CHILD FUND PHILIPPINES	8th Floor Strata 100 Bldg., E Rodriguez Pasig Metro Manila	Project/Program Implementation	Local Donations		315,554
Membership fees-KK	ZPDRC Bldg., Macrohon Compd, Suterville, San Jose Gusu, Zamboangay City		members contributions		5,871
Sub-Total					321,425

B.2. International/Foreign (pls. specify the organization and individual donors)

Name of Donor	Address and Contact Numbers	Purpose/s of Donation/s	Nature of Donation	Reference	Amount
Down to Zero-SUFASEC	Grote Markstraat 43, 2511 BH The Hague, Netherlands	Project/Program Implementation	Grant		36,066,866
Save the Children Int'l-ARO	Strathmore Bldg., #03-01 Tanglin Int'l Center, 352 Tanglin Road Singapore	Project/Program Implementation	Grant		8,456,738
PLAN Int'l Inc. Programme Support	155 Plan Way, Warwick, Rhode Island 02887, USA	Project/Program Implementation	Grant		9,062,118
Taiwan Foundation for Democracy	No.4, Alley 17, Lane 147, Sec. 3 Sinyi Road, Taipei 106, Taiwan	Project/Program Implementation	Grant		5,531,140
Down to Zero-Youth Voices for Change	Grote Markstraat 43, 2511 BH The Hague, Netherlands	Project/Program Implementation	Grant		4,581,796
UNESCAP	United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand	Project/Program Implementation	Grant		1,966,826
World Wide Fund	#21, Street 322, Boeng Kengkang I, Chamkarmom, Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Project/Program Implementation	Grant		1,684,453
Australian Human Rights Commission	Australia	Project/Program Implementation	Grant		1,627,153
World Vision	7th Floor, 809 Soi Suphanimit, Pracha Uthith Road, Samsen Nok, Huai Khwang, Bangkok 10310, Thailand	Project/Program Implementation	Grant		837,900
Down To Zero-Alliance	Grote Markstraat 43, 2511 BH The Hague, Netherlands	Project/Program Implementation	Grant		620,207
Various Int'l Members			membership contributions		93,812
Sub-Total					70,529,009

B.3. Government (pls. specify)

Name of Donor	Address and Contact Numbers	Purpose/s of Donation/s	Nature of Donation	Reference	Amount
					P
Sub-total					P

B.4. Others e.g. interest income, service fees, etc. (pls. specify)

Name of Donor	Address and Contact Numbers	Purpose/s of Donation/s	Nature of Donation	Reference	Amount
Interest Income			Bank interest on deposits		P 1,226
Sub-total					P 1,226

C. Grand Total Income

P 70,851,660

FINANCIAL REPORT 2024

II. Expenditures for the period covered (pls. itemized particular expenses):

PARTICULARS	AMOUNT	%
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Salaries & 13th month pay	3,230,590	
Office rent	516,780	
Depreciation	279,611	
De Minimis & Benefits	397,269	
Website	222,222	
Staff retention plan	201,557	
SSS, Philhealth & Pag- ibig contributions	287,180	
Office supplies	135,459	
Bank charges	130,015	
Comms	130,697	
Maintenance	126,355	
Utilities	117,399	
Transportation	98,381	
Taxes & Licenses	16,501	
Meals	24,071	
Forex	28	
Sub-Total	5,914,115	8%

PARTICULARS	AMOUNT	%
PROGRAM EXPENSES		
Meetings/Workshops/Seminars & Conferences	57,356,382	
Salaries & 13th month pay	5,942,054	
De Minimis & Benefits	604,561	
SSS, Philhealth & Pag- ibig contributions	482,418	
Staff retention plan	371,534	
Sub-Total	64,756,949	92%
GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES	70,671,064	100%

III. Balance as of fiscal/calendar year 2024: P 180,596

SOCIAL REPORT 2024

CRC Asia's Policies and Procedures

The governance structure of the organization is guided by the policies and procedures approved by the General Assembly composed of CRC Asia's member organizations, which is the highest decision-making body of the organization.

CRC Asia's Policies and Procedures was updated in July 2019.

CRC Asia's Child Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct

This ensures that the rights of children we work with are protected from any form of violence and discrimination arising from their involvement in our programs and activities; all those who work with us have the understanding, internalization, skills, and support needed to safeguard the children they are in contact with; and the procedures are in place to prevent and deal with discrimination and violence against children within our organization.

CRC Asia's Child Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct was updated in 2021.

In 2023, CRC Asia directly received two safeguarding reports during its activities with children:

1) The safeguarding committee acted on the information provided by the concerned adult/member of organizing team. The report was about a verbal communication from a child participant that the adult/organizing team member found uncomfortable. Without victim blaming, a refresher on child safeguarding policy and code of conduct was immediately provided by the safeguarding committee. Emphasis was given on how bad words although expressed in a joking manner, can make the receiver feel offended or uncomfortable; and

2) In another activity with children, the safeguarding committee acted on the report of a child participant which concerned two other children participants from another country. A group session was conducted with the child who reported while monitoring was done with the children concerned. Validation of report was not possible given the context. Instead, the safeguarding committee raised the report to the organization supporting the children for proper investigation and intervention.

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Monitoring of the case was continued even after the children have returned to their country through the child protection focal of the organization. To date, the investigation is complete and specific actions were carried out strengthening safeguarding measures of the organization. At the country level, a safeguarding concern happened involving children campaigners and the public. In response, the safeguarding committee of implementing member organization conducted debriefing with the children campaigners to process the catcalling of the public.

CRC Asia's Finance Policies and Guidelines

This guides the effective implementation of CRC Asia's financial management system. It describes the various components of financial management such as finance procedures, budgeting, internal controls, procurement, accounting, and bookkeeping.

CRC Asia's Finance Policies and Guidelines was updated in 2017. Since 2020, CRC Asia regularly updates our interim finance policies and procedures on specific areas to cope with the movement restrictions and health protocols brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Review of CRC Asia's finance policies was conducted during the fourth quarter. A review of the finance policies of member organizations implementing the SUFASEC program was also done by a Finance Consultant to strengthen financial management system of the secretariat and member organizations.

CRC Asia's Anti-Fraud Policy

This provides guidelines for the organization to prevent, detect, investigate, and act on fraud against the organization or that may be committed by anyone associated with the organization. It includes policies on whistleblowing and retaliation.

CRC Asia's Anti-Fraud Policy was adopted in 2017 and reaffirmed by the General Assembly in 2023.

The Anti-Fraud Committee (AFC) was convened in the fourth quarter of 2023 to look into the finance observations of the Finance Consultant on the finance report of one member organization of CRC Asia's network member.

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CRC Asia's Policy against Workplace Harassment

This ensures that CRC Asia provides a work environment that is free from sexual harassment and other types of discriminatory harassment. It has a reporting procedure and protection against retaliation.

CRC Asia's Policy against Workplace Harassment was adopted in 2012.

THE ORGANIZATION

CRC Asia Member Organizations

- Child Rights Coalition Cambodia
- Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights
- Yayasan KKSP Education and Information Centre for Child Rights (Indonesia)
- Yayasan SEJIWA (Indonesia)
- Village Focus International (Lao PDR)
- Protect and Save the Children (Malaysia)
- Equality Myanmar
- Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre
- Group Development Pakistan
- Civil Society Coalition on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Philippines)
- Mindanao Action Group for Children's Rights to Protection (Philippines)
- ChildFund Korea
- Child Welfare League Foundation (Taiwan)
- The Life Skills Development Foundation (Thailand)
- Childline Thailand Foundation
- Vietnam Association for the Protection of Children's Rights
- Foundation for Innovative Social Development (Sri Lanka)
- Singapore Children's Society
- Breaking the Silence Bangladesh

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