



The concept note:

Seeking for funding support on child rights policy advocacy for LCRC and CRYA

Background of LCRC & CRYA

Between November 2019 and October 2020, **The Life Skills Development Foundation (TLSDF)** spearheaded a series of high-level seminars and follow-up meetings to address child rights in Upper Northern Thailand. The initiative focused on bridging the gap between government agencies and civil society to create a more resilient protection network for vulnerable youth.

Key Milestones & Outcomes

- **Establishment of the "Lanna CRC Coalition":** A dedicated network formed to unite government bodies, NGOs, and CSOs across provinces including Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Lamphun, and Mae Hong Son.
- **Strategic Collaboration:** The group moved from initial brainstorming in 2019 to concrete action plans in 2020, specifically targeting child protection in a post-COVID-19 landscape.
- **Multi-Sectoral Attendance:** Events saw participation from over 120 individuals representing roughly 20+ distinct organizations, ensuring a wide range of expertise and "duty-bearer" involvement.

Three Pillars of Action

The coalition committed to the following strategic goals:

1. **Local Systems:** Strengthening child protection mechanism at the sub-district level to provide immediate emergency assistance when needed.
2. **Youth Participation and Empowerment:** Enhancing Children and Youth Councils to act as peer educators and lead their own advocacy initiatives.
3. **Knowledge Sharing:** Disseminating successful lessons and rights-based knowledge through community volunteers and active youth participation.

The Vision: By formalizing the **Lanna Child Rights Coalition (LCRC)**, the organizers aim to maintain momentum and scale their impact to reach a greater number of at-risk children through unified policy advocacy and inclusive practices. In October 2021, the LCRC's vision was reviewed and adopted in the general assembly as **'Children and youth are accessed to their entitled rights prescribed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Human Rights Declaration, Thailand's Constitution, and National Child Protection law B.E.2546 whereas enhancing their healthy, quality of lives, and empowered them to contribute back to at large society. These are supported by the integrating collaboration of civil society organizations, all relevant government agencies, and people organizations with meaningful participation of children'**.

In 2021-2024, with supported by Diakonia Thailand, LCRC & CRYA operated by secretariat organization, the Life Skills Development Foundation (TLSDF) successfully run the network program in responding to the expected result that a child rights focused CSO coalitions (LCRC) play crucial roles in making changes in duty bearer's practices, measures, budgeting, and/or relevant policy for children rights with meaningful participation of children and youth. **In our Lanna Child Rights Festivals, there are four sets of policy advocacy briefs developed including local child rights situational analysis and recommendations, and submitted to duty-bearers at local and national-level policy-making bodies and representatives**, such as the Department of Children and Youth Bureau (DCY), the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, Members of the House of Representatives, a Member of the Senate, Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (TICAC), Royal Thai Police, the Provincial Chief Health Care, and the Provincial Education Officer of Chiang Mai Province.

*The key successes that enabled the core teams of LCRC, CRYA to design their joint policy advocacy strategy for child rights, and even establish links at the regional level, can be summarized as follows:

- **Development of advocacy work plans:** Representatives of LCRC reviewed the progress made and developed four initial advocacy work plans based on the missions and programs of their respective organizations. This demonstrates a proactive approach towards advancing child rights through coordinated efforts.
- **Thematic working group advocacy events:** the thematic working groups conducted advocacy events with target duty bearers. These events included webinars, meetings, and training sessions to engage relevant government agencies and push for legislative reforms. This shows successful engagement and collaboration with duty bearers to address child rights issues.
- **Strong team collaboration:** LCRC and CRYA members worked together effectively to launch campaigning activities and advocacy events. This collaboration was evident in the organization of the LCRC and CRYA assemblies and the Lanna Child Rights Festivals, where multiple member organizations and government agencies co-organized activities to promote child-friendly spaces and end violence against children and women.

- **Online dissemination and engagement:** The sessions of the Lanna CRC Festival were live streamed on LCRC's Facebook page, reaching a wider audience and allowing for remote participation. The involvement of the Governor of Chiang Mai further amplified the message and increased awareness about child rights issues.
- **Acknowledgment and sharing of progress:** Representatives of LCRC member organizations and CRYA network acknowledged and shared their views on the progress made in implementing activities under the project. This indicates recognition of the achievements and an open exchange of feedback and ideas.
- **Strengths of LCRC:** The strengths of LCRC include effective cooperation among member organizations, a sense of ownership and engagement within the network, successful collaboration and results, empowerment of youth groups (CRYA), an effective secretariat for coordination, and the capabilities of member organizations leading thematic working groups. These strengths contribute to the overall success of LCRC in advancing child rights.
- **Knowledge and skills development:** LCRC's core team members learned a model for child rights advocacy at a regional level through CRC Asia. This indicates that they have gained valuable knowledge and skills in advocating for child rights, which can be applied in their work.

In addition, responding to another expected outcome that 'LCRC has clear and effective working structure as a child right focused coalition and capability to facilitate meaningful child participation process. There are many activities that the member organizations have worked on together with good results as follows.

- The youth groups (CRYA) that the member organizations mentored are empowered, knowledgeable, and have space to share their concerns and issues together aiming to solve problems and claiming for their entitled rights.
- The secretariat is effective in coordinating between member organizations of the network.
- Member organizations that lead the child rights working groups performed vigorously.
- The Secretariat is capable to coordinate with both civil society organizations and government agencies as affiliated organizations and acts as well supportive resources.
- LCRC member organizations demonstrate strong cooperation, actively sharing expertise, working manuals, knowledge, and skills to support one another.
- Member organizations have a strong sense of ownership and commitment to the network.
- Collaborative efforts among member organizations have resulted in successful outcomes across various activities.

- The member organizations have effectively mentored youth groups (CRYA), empowering them with knowledge and providing a platform to voice their concerns and address issues.

*(Exempted from the Summative Evaluation Report for the project titled "Build Back Better: Empowering the Ethnic and Indigenous Youth Network and Child Rights-focused CSO Coalition in Upper Northern Thailand," implemented by The Life Skills Development Foundation (TLSDF) and supported by Diakonia Thailand.

In 2025, TLSDF was nominated to serve as the Secretariat of the Lanna Child Rights Coalition (LCRC) for a second consecutive term of three years (1 April 2025 – 30 March 2028). However, we faced budget constraints that led to a decrease in formal joint activities and meetings with the member organizations of Lanna Child Rights Coalition (LCRC), while the core partnership remains strong. **The collaboration has shifted from resource-heavy events to consistent coordination, information sharing, and shared costs for the Lanna Child Rights Festival#5 with main supported from European Union and Diakonia Thailand.** The national event was officially organized in Chiang Mai Province and policy inputs generated through the event were consolidated around four thematic priority areas:

1. Sexual and reproductive health and rights, including prevention of communicable diseases and unintended pregnancy;
2. Elimination of sexual violence and online harms, including online sexual exploitation of children and trafficking;
3. Protection of the rights of children of migrant workers, including the rights to life, survival and development, access to health and education, and the development of legal status and nationality; and
4. Children's rights and the environment, including biodiversity protection and climate change.

These policy recommendations jointly submitted by youth leaders of CRYA and civil society organizations who are members of LCRC to national-level duty bearers, and will be systematically followed up in 2026, with a view to tracking their uptake and contribution to improvements in policies, legal frameworks, and implementation measures for the promotion and protection of children's rights.

In 2026, we are seeking for funding to allow LCRC's secretariat and its member organizations in 4 child rights thematic working groups to run their collective missions as follows:

- **Establish Policy Recommendations Monitoring Mechanisms:** Develop monitoring mechanisms to track the implementation of children and youth recommendations submitted to decision makers or duty bearers. Implement a systematic approach to monitor progress, evaluate outcomes, and hold stakeholders accountable.

- **Strengthen Public Communication:** Enhance public communication efforts to raise awareness about child rights issues. Develop a comprehensive communication plan that includes targeted messaging, engaging platforms, and effective dissemination strategies to reach a wider audience.
- **Foster Ongoing Knowledge Sharing:** Establish a structured system for ongoing knowledge sharing among campaign activities. Facilitate regular meetings, workshops, and platforms for stakeholders to exchange information, best practices, and lessons learned.
- **Improve Access and Coordination with Government Agencies:** Strengthen facilitation processes to ensure seamless access to and coordination with government agencies. Establish clear channels of communication and collaboration to streamline efforts and maximize the impact of advocacy activities.

By implementing these collective missions, LCRC and CRYA's child rights thematic working groups will be empowered and effectively advocate for the betterment of child rights.

The Impact of Your Support

Investment in **the LCRC Secretariat** is an investment in the **Child Rights Youth Activists (CRYA)** and the broader network of Northern Thailand. By supporting these collective missions, partners enable a model of advocacy that is:

- **Data-Driven:** Through rigorous monitoring.
- **Visible:** Through strategic public engagement and policy advocacy.
- **Collaborative:** Through a unified, expert-led network.

Conclusion The Lanna Child Rights Coalition is prepared to lead with the necessary financial support, we will continue to empower the thematic working groups to be the most effective advocates for the betterment of child rights in the 21st century.

Theory of Change: From Advocacy to Impact

The following model demonstrates how the LCRC's strategic pillars translate into long-term systemic change for children in Northern Thailand.

Inputs & Activities	Short-Term Outputs	Intermediate Outcomes	Long-Term Impact
Policy Monitoring	Systematic tracking tools & accountability reports.	Duty-bearers feel public and legal pressure to act.	Transparent Governance: Policies for children are implemented, not just written.
Public Communication	Digital campaigns & targeted regional messaging.	Increased public awareness and community "buy-in."	Cultural Shift: A society that actively recognizes and defends child rights.
Knowledge Sharing	Regional workshops & a centralized "Best Practice" hub.	Reduced duplication of efforts; faster scaling of success.	Resilient Networks: A highly professionalized and expert-led CSO ecosystem.
Govt. Coordination	Formalized communication channels with state agencies.	Faster response times and smoother administrative access.	Systemic Synergy: Seamless public-private partnership for child protection.

With trust and devotion to Child Rights Promotion and Protection

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