



# *CHILD PROTECTION :* *MALAYSIA*

Nor Amni Yusoff

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# *CHILDREN'S PROFILE 2011*

**Total population of Malaysia :  
28.5 million**

**Total children population:  
9.8 million (34% of population)**



# *Main Ministry in-charge of children: Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (MWFCD)*

**Main agency in handling  
well being of children:**

- Department of Social Welfare

**Other Ministries:**

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Youth and Sports
- Ministry of Home Affairs

# ***STRATEGY***

**Malaysia's strategy for addressing child protection issues is to develop a 'protective environment' that protects all children from violations of their rights such as:**

- Protective legislation and policies,
- Government commitment – provision of resources for child protection.
- Community participation – Child Protection Team.

## *Cont...*

- Appropriate services for child victims of abuse, violence, exploitation and discrimination,
- Participatory approaches that enable children to contribute to their own protection, and
- Effective monitoring and reporting of child rights violations.

# ***THE CHILD ACT 2001(Act 611)***

- ◆ A comprehensive children's legislation which came into force on 1 August 2002.
- ◆ An Act that consolidated and amended laws relating to the **care, protection and rehabilitation of children.**
  - a) Juvenile Courts Act 1947
  - b) Women and Girls Protection Act 1973
  - c) Child Protection Act 1991
- ◆ Based on the 4 principles of CRC –survival, participation, development and protection.

# ***THE CHILD ACT 2001***

## ***Provisions Contributing To A Protective Environment***

- A Coordinating Council for the Protection of Children chaired by the Director General of Social Welfare. (advising the Minister on child protection issues)
- The establishment of Courts for Children –with the best interest of the child as the paramount consideration.

## *Cont..*

- The mandatory duty of a medical personnel, family members and child care providers to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect.
- Establishment of locally based Child Protection Teams throughout Malaysia consisting of a social welfare officer, a medical officer and a senior police officer.
- Provision of psycho-social support to children and parents through interactive workshops.

# ***CHILD IN NEED OF CARE & PROTECTION***

“ a child has been or there is substantial risk that the child will be physically injured or emotionally injured or sexually abused by his parents or guardian or a member of his extended family” [Section 17(1)(a)-(k) of the Child Act 2001]

Type of child abuse : Physical, Sexual, Emotional, Neglect etc.

# ***DATA OF CHILD ABUSE 2009-2011***

<b>ABUSER</b>	<b>NUMBER OF CASES</b>		
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Mother	629 (22.6%)	733 (22.5%)	872 (25%)
Father	509 (18.3%)	616 (18.9%)	648 (18%)
Children's lover	392 (14.1%)	558 (17.1%)	394 (11%)
Child Minder	184 (6.6%)	184 (5.6%)	60 (1.8%)
Relatives	108 (3.9%)	159 (4.9%)	147 (4.3%)
Others	967 (34.7%)	1007 (30.9%)	1307 (38.1%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2789</b>	<b>3257</b>	<b>3428</b>

# ***DATA OF CHILD ABUSE BY ETHNIC AND SEX***

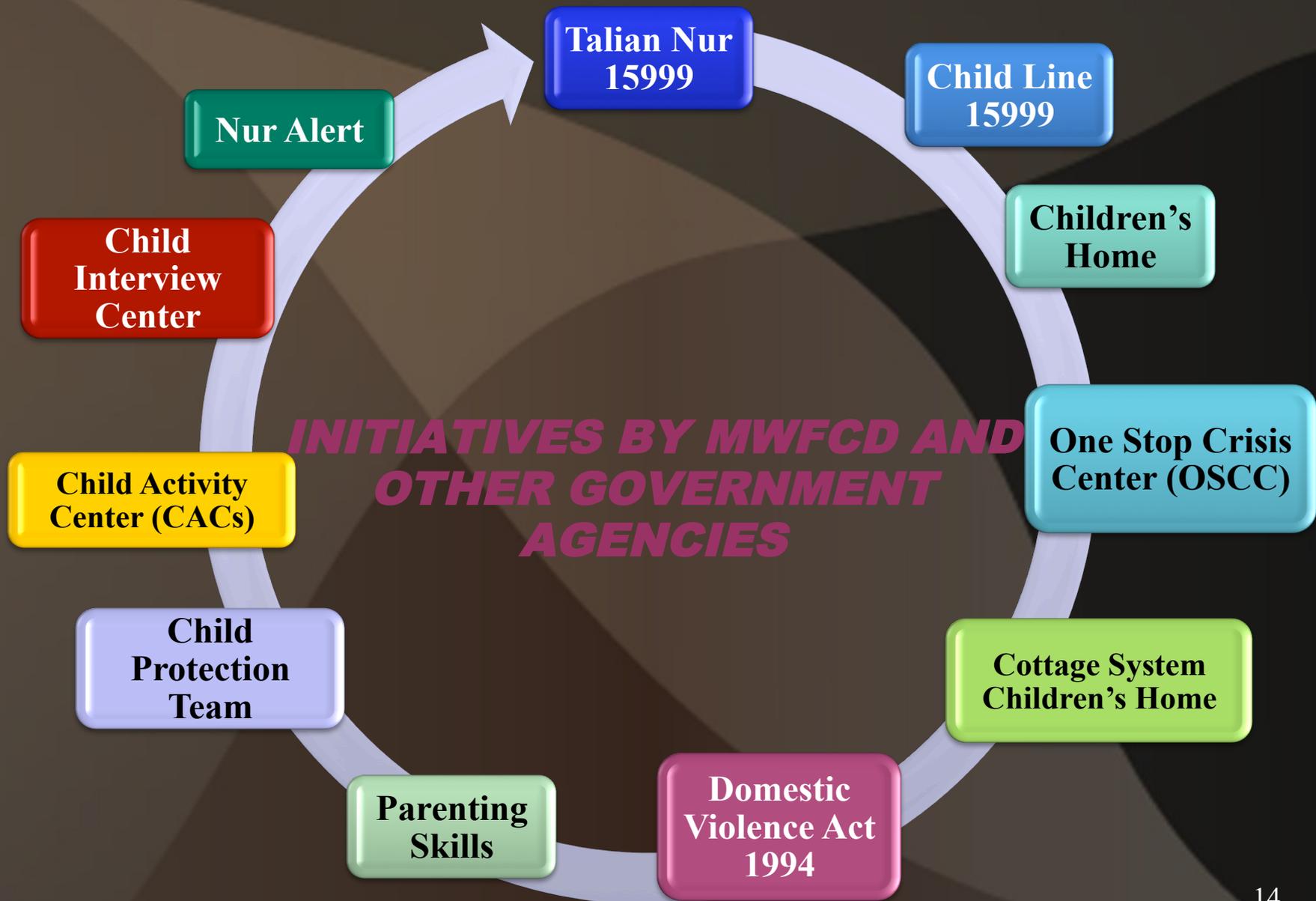
<b>ETHNIC GROUP</b>	<b>NUMBER OF CASES</b>					
	<b>2009</b>		<b>2010</b>		<b>2011</b>	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Malay	543	1436	689	1627	841	1529
Chinese	129	221	105	195	127	218
Indian	134	245	143	242	191	320
Others	40	41	82	174	94	108
Subtotal	846	1943	1019	2238	1253	2175
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2789</b>		<b>3257</b>		<b>3428</b>	

# ***OTHER LEGISLATIONS RELATED TO CHILDREN***

- Penal Code
- Child Care Centres Act 1984
- Care Centres Act 1993
- Education Act 1966
- Adoption Act and Registration of Adoption Act 1952
- Guardianship of Infants Act 1961
- Children and Young Persons (Employment) Act 1966  
(Revised 1988)
- Anti Trafficking in Person Act 2007
- Child Evidence Witness Act 2007

# ***POLICY***

- ❖ **National Policy on Children and It' s Plan of Action**
- ❖ **National Child Protection Policy and its Plan of Action**
- ❖ **National Policy and Action Plan on Reproductive Health and Social Education**



# *TALIAN NUR & CHILD LINE*

## *15999*

### **Talian Nur**

- Ministry established toll free line known as *Talian NUR 15999* in 2007
- Aims to encourage members of the public to report child abuse cases directly to the Department of Social Welfare for immediate action

### **Child Line**

- Launched as a dedicated line for children on 13 November 2010
- The operators are specially trained to handle calls from children
- Establishment is in line with the CRC Committee's recommendations
- Since the launching, the line has received 7,331 calls

# ***ONE STOP CRISIS CENTER***

A center for victims of violation, abuse and rape where they receive multi-disciplinary help without being sent to different units.

## Multi-disciplinary help:

- multi-disciplinary medical services
- Inter-agency network (e.g. police, social welfare, legal aid bureau etc.)

Currently, there are **102** OSCC under the Ministry of Health

# ***CHILDREN'S HOME***

**Established as Places of Safety under the Child Act 2001.**

**To ensure substitute care that promotes healthy physical, mental and emotional development in a peaceful and safe environment.**

**There are 11 children's home in Malaysia**



**KOTA KINABALU CHILDREN'S HOME,  
PAPAR, SABAH.**

# *Cottage System Children's Home*

**To provide proper care, protection, love and family environment for children who are unable to stay with their own natural families due to unavoidable circumstances.**

**Placing them in group of 8-10 in specially built homes instead of in institution under the care of married couples specially selected from the community to act as their foster parents.**

**It is a smart partnership project between the DSW and corporate bodies.**

# *CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS (CPT)*

- ◆ Set up at state and district levels aimed at mobilizing community participation to implement preventive and rehabilitative programmes suitable for children and families considered to be ‘high risk’ .

(Those with strong potentials to be victims of social ills, including child abuse and exploitation. Section 7(1), Child Act 2001)

# *CHILD ACTIVITY CENTRES (CACs)*

▶ CPT at the district level is responsible for the setting up of CACs.

▶ Objectives:

- To fulfill the needs of children in need of protection and families in need of support,
- To carry out creative, recreational and sports activities,
- To give supportive services to families in crisis.

(Help solve social problems such as child abuse and neglect, school drop-out and truancy, delinquency and drug abuse)

# PROGRAMS AT CACs

## Counselling services

- Resource centre
- Crisis intervention centre
- Educational support services
- Child development activities(Child Care Centres)
- (Local community meet. Exchange ideas and work together towards a common goal)



# ***NUR ALERT***

**National  
Urgent  
Response  
Alert on  
missing  
children  
who are  
below 12  
years old**

**Approved by  
the  
Government  
on 13  
January  
2011.**

**System  
implementation:  
Task force  
headed by Royal  
Malaysian Police  
and MWFCDD as  
the Deputy Head**

**Royal  
Malaysian  
Police  
disseminates  
the alert to  
the relevant  
Government  
& non-  
Government  
agencies once  
it is safe & not  
categorised as  
an abduction  
case.**

# *CHILD INTERVIEW CENTER*



**Interview child abuse victims  
and witnesses**

**Administered by RMP since 2002**

# ***CHALLENGES***

- Looking at the fact that many opportunities for partnership and collaboration are currently under utilized, the Ministry need to map out the roles of key partner agencies. In designing a model of the system, all agencies that contribute to primary, secondary, and tertiary measures should be harnessed within the protective framework and specific mandates, responsibilities, and powers agreed.

## *Cont...*

- The Department of Social Welfare will develop a clear outline of the structure for managing and implementing child and family welfare service delivery from the national, state, and community levels, including clear roles, responsibilities, accountability, and processes for decision-making at each level. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring that services are available in rural and remote areas as well as the larger urban centres.

## *Cont...*

- The Ministry to review policies and procedures for children without documents - rather than categorizing children (street-children, child beggars, trafficked / illegal migrants).
- Development and recognition of social work as a profession –THE SOCIAL WORK ACT is an important step forward.
- Limited numbers of trained Child Protectors-THE PILOT PROJECT is an important step forward.

# ***CONCLUSION***

- Malaysia will continue to ensure the well-being of the children through her developmental programmes coupled with international commitments and initiatives and collaborative networking of all related non-governmental organizations and the community.

