

Summary of Japan's National Action Plan to End Violence Against Children

August 2021

- ✓ Japan's National Action Plan (NAP) to End Violence Against Children was formulated in August 2021, with a **compilation of a wide range of relevant measures**, in cooperation with relevant ministries and agencies **to end all forms of violence against children**, taking into account the opinions of civil society and the **voices of children obtained through Children's Public Comment**.
- ✓ Through implementing, reviewing and improving the NAP, it aims to contribute to achieving Target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to "end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children."
- ✓ The implementation of the NAP will be annually evaluated and monitored and will be reviewed after approximately three years.

Summary

1 PREFACE

- **Ending violence against children** has been widely acknowledged as **a challenge that the international community should tackle with a united voice**. Ending violence against children has been declared as Target 16.2 of the SDGs.
- Through implementing, reviewing and improving the NAP, it is aimed to contribute achieving Target 16.2. Japan is committed to ending violence against children in other countries through disseminating Japan's practices and efforts.
- Promptly and appropriately responds in the event of child abuse.
- Promote **measures on the protection of family reunification support and self-reliance support for children who have suffered child abuse** (finding foster parents, promoting special adoption, supporting parents after children return to their home family, providing support for self-reliance after turning 18 years old, etc.).

2 PRIORITY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

- The Roundtable on Ending Violence against Children, consisting of officials of relevant ministries and agencies, experts and members of civil society groups, identified **"abuse", "sexual exploitation", "bullying", and "corporal punishment"** as priority issues.
- The NAP also refers to efforts, taking into account the impact of COVID-19 on children.

3 CHILDREN'S PUBLIC COMMENT

- Child participation is one of the most important pillars of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The Japan Committee for UNICEF and Yahoo Japan Corporation **conducted public comments from children (Children's Public Comment)** and received more than 900 responses.
- About 70% of the respondents said "yes" to the question on whether they or anyone around them have been subject to or witnessed violence.
- The **ministries and agencies, when considering relevant measures** in the future, **will take into account the opinions obtained through Children's Public Comment**.

4 MEASURES IN THE PRIORITY AREAS

4.1 CHILD ABUSE

- For the **prevention of child abuse**, provide seamless assistance from the period of pregnancy through the child-rearing period (understanding and supporting a child-rearing environment through health checkups and household visits, establishing child and family services centers in all municipalities, establishing child-rearing support sites where parents and children can gather, etc.), and undertake measures to **identify child abuse at an early stage** (obligations to give notification of abuse and establishment of 24-hour hotlines).

4.2 SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, ETC. AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- Strongly promote the Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation (**strengthening of crackdowns on and strict punishment for crimes involving child sexual exploitation, implementation of guidance to prevent repeat sexual crimes at correctional institutions**, etc.).

4.3 BULLYING

- Continue measures, including support for child victims to recover from psychological trauma.
- Organize training and enhance bullying-related educational counseling systems to ensure responses based on **the Act for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Bullying and the Basic Policies for the Prevention, etc. of Bullying** are thoroughly implemented.

4.4 CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

- To **prevent corporal punishment in schools**, promote awareness of relevant guidelines and conduct follow-ups so that efforts based on the guidelines are thoroughly undertaken.
- To **prevent corporal punishment in the home**, raise awareness of the scope of corporal punishment and the concept of prohibiting corporal punishment and review the way to establish the provisions of disciplinary right in the Civil Code.

5 CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND RELATED MEASURES IN OTHER AREAS

- Annually evaluate and monitor the implementation of the NAP and review it after approximately three years.