



## Chapter II

### Literature Review

#### 2.1 Theoretical Background

In 1992, the government Of Thailand made itself accountable for progress towards achieving child rights by ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. (UNICEF 2008) The Convention details the fundamental rights that all nations must guarantee for their children. These include children's rights:

to survival – to basic healthcare, peace and security;

to development – to a good education, a loving home and adequate nutrition;

to protection – from abuse, neglect, trafficking, child labor and other forms of exploitation;

to participation – to express opinions, be listened to and take part in making any decisions that affect them. OVC are less likely to enjoy these rights as other children and definitely need support in various aspects.

Thailand is also one of the countries that signed the Millennium Declaration, and the Plan of Action of A World Fit for Children. In signing these international agreements, the Thai government committed itself to improving conditions for all children in Thailand and to monitoring progress towards that end. (UNICEF 2006:2) All children include OVC are in need of more effort from government and NGOs to ensure their well being.

The Plan of Action of A World Fit for Children. includes: (UN 2002:2-3)

1. Put children first. In all actions related to children, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

2. Eradicate poverty; invest in children. We reaffirm our vow to break the cycle of poverty within a single generation, united in the conviction that investments in children and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty. Immediate action must be taken to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

3. Leave no child behind. Each girl and boy is born free and equal in dignity and rights; therefore, all forms of discrimination affecting children must end.

4. Care for every child. Children must get the best possible start in life. Their survival, protection, growth and development in good health and with proper nutrition are the essential foundation of human development. We will make concerted efforts to fight infectious diseases, tackle major causes of malnutrition and nurture children in a safe environment that enables them to be physically healthy, mentally alert, emotionally secure, socially competent and able to learn.

5. Educate every child. All girls and boys must have access to and complete primary education that is free, compulsory and of good quality as a cornerstone of an inclusive basic education. Gender disparities in primary and secondary education must be eliminated.

6. Protect children from harm and exploitation. Children must be protected against any acts of violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination, as well as all forms of terrorism and hostage-taking.

7. Protect children from war. Children must be protected from the horrors of armed conflict. Children under foreign occupation must also be protected, in

accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law.

8. Combat HIV/AIDS. Children and their families must be protected from the devastating impact of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

9. Listen to children and ensure their participation. Children and adolescents are resourceful citizens capable of helping to build a better future for all. We must respect their right to express themselves and to participate in all matters affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity.

10. Protect the Earth for children. We must safeguard our natural environment, with its diversity of life, its beauty and its resources, all of which enhance the quality of life, for present and future generations. We will give every assistance to protect children and minimize the impact of natural disasters and environmental degradation on them.

Since then, there have been major improvements for children. Thailand has continuously taken priority over orphans and vulnerable children. It is the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security that gives supports to the OVC. The governmental agencies are spreading out across the country's regions for fostering and supporting the children. A national plan for the "world fit for children" which also includes direct AIDS affected children is available. The government provides educational support such as scholarships and basic living for them. Besides, civil society's agencies also implement the interventions on children with multi cooperation. Consequently, the efforts in response to the needs of orphans and vulnerable children have been in high level since 2005 up to present. (UNAIDS 2008: 16)

The five strategies outlined below are intended to target key action areas and provide operational guidance to governments and other stakeholders as they respond to the needs of orphans and vulnerable children. Pursuing these strategies within the context of national development plans will be key to the achievement of goals established at the Millennium Summit and at the UN Special Session on HIV/AIDS. (International 2004:9)

#### FIVE KEY STRATEGIES

1. Strengthen the capacity of families to protect and care for orphans and vulnerable children by prolonging the lives of parents and providing economic, psychosocial and other support.
2. Mobilize and support community-based responses.
3. Ensure access for orphans and vulnerable children to essential services, including education, health care, birth registration and others.
4. Ensure that governments protect the most vulnerable children through improved policy and legislation and by channeling resources to families and communities.
5. Raise awareness at all levels through advocacy and social mobilization to create a supportive environment for children and families affected by HIV/AIDS.

#### **2.2 Related Research**

OVC are at an increased risk of suffering psychological distress, economic hardships, exploitation, and trafficking — and of HIV infection. In particular, girls in the developing world often face special vulnerability to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its effects. (PEPFAR 2008:1)

Children who live in homes that take in orphans may see a decline in the quantity and quality of food, education, love, nurturing, and may be stigmatized. Impoverished children living in households with one or more ill parent are also affected, as health care increasingly absorbs household funds, which frequently leads to the depletion of savings and other resources reserved for education, food and other purposes. (Tiaji 2005:2)

By research in some African countries, OVC are defined as (Rose 2003:12)

- Street children
- Child laborers
- Orphaned, neglected, destitute or abandoned
- Has a terminally ill parent or guardian
- Born of a teenage or single mother
- Living with a parent or an adult who lacks income-generating opportunities
- Abused or ill-treated by step parents or relatives.
- Disabled

In Kenya, support to OVC are grouped into (Global 2006)

- Facilitating education
- Good nutrition
- Counseling
- Healthcare
- Income generating activities
- HIV/AIDS education.

In the support kit for OVC designed by International HIV/AIDS Alliance and Family Health International, support for OVC are as follows (International 2004)

- Health and nutrition
- Education
- Psychosocial
- Economic strengthening
- Living environments
- Children's right

In Cambodia, home care teams assist caregivers of OVC in planning for their children's futures, including securing their children's property rights and educational opportunities. Memory books are used as tools by families to discuss parents' wishes for their children's futures, including where the children will live upon their parents' death. OVC are supported emotionally and psychosocially through therapeutic play groups, support groups for adolescents, and individual counseling. (PEPFAR 2008:2)