

[Summary]

I . Introduction

1. Background and purpose of the study

This study acknowledges that children are the main beneficiaries and actors of international development cooperation, and have the right to survival, protection, development and participation. the study seeks to develop minimum standards of the child rights perspective which may be applied to the whole process of international development cooperation.

- Children are the main beneficiaries of international development cooperation. Korea acknowledges children as one of the main beneficiaries of international development cooperation, however, compared to women and the disabled, it is difficult to see that children are considered in the related policies.
- The international community has enacted the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1989 and as of December 2017 it is ratified by 196 nations, including Korea.
- According to the final recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to the 3rd and 4th State Party Report of the Republic of Korea submitted in 2011, Korea should ensure the realization of children's rights as a top priority in relation to international cooperation. However, until now, there is no visible policy or results.
- 『The First Basic Policy on Children ('15 ~ '19), jointly announced by relevant Ministries in May 2015, states the Official Development Assistance (ODA) policy to adopt a child' s perspective' lead by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The purpose of this study is to introduce and spread the view that children are the main beneficiaries and principal actors of international development cooperation in KOICA policies and projects in general.

- 1) Develop minimum standards for planning, implementing and evaluating projects based on the 'child rights perspective'
- 2) Develop a toolkit that can be practically used based on the minimum standards.

2. Content and scope of the research

- Contents and scope of this study are as follows
 - Define 'child' and 'child rights perspective' in international development cooperation
 - Status of international development cooperation based on the child rights perspective of the major foreign organizations
 - Status of KOICA's international development cooperation projects related to children
 - Develop minimum standards and toolkits for projects based on the child rights perspective
 - Implications for the introduction of child rights perspective in international development cooperation projects

3. Research strategies and methods

- Execution strategy is as follows
 - Establish child rights-based approach to KOICA's international development cooperation projects and operations, focusing on criteria that are commonly analyzed in domestic and overseas cases.
 - In Korea, it can be referred to cases of various stakeholders such as

- private institutes, civil society organizations(CSOs), corporations, private foundations and local governments.
- o Maximise the use of human networks such as domestic and international advisory groups and focus group interviews (FGI) to collect case studies
- o Develop toolkits to ensure that the minimum standards set out in the research can be used immediately in the international development cooperation projects.
- o Validate the effectiveness of the developed toolkit and introduce the method of the validity and proper use of toolkits through KOICA internal workshops
- Research methods are based on literature review, research studies, focus group interviews (FGI), consultation, overseas field visits, workshops, etc.

II . Definition of child and the importance of child

1. Definition of child

- The term "child" as defined by the UNCRC means all persons under the age of 18 unless they reach the age of adult earlier under the law applicable to the child
- In domestic law, children are defined by different age ranges
- In this study, according to the international law, “child” is defined as from birth to less than 18 years of age.

2. The Importance of Children

- Children must be protected and benefiting from the development cooperation. At the same time they must participate in decision making about his or her life as a 'rights holder'.
- During the early stages of life, including childhood and early childhood,

the foundation of language, cognition, social, and emotional development are formed. If proper development does not take place at this time, it will have a negative impact on adulthood

- Poverty experienced in childhood is transmitted throughout life (cognitive development, academic achievement, occupation and income, etc.)
- Protecting children from poverty and giving them the opportunity to grow are known to be highly cost-effective among public policies for poverty alleviation

III. Definition and Importance of the Child Rights Perspective

1. International Development Cooperation and Human Rights

- Definition of human rights
 - o Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948 states that "all human beings are free from birth and equal in dignity and rights. Human has been granted with reason and conscience, and therefore must act in the spirit of brother (sister) to each other. "
 - o Article 10 of the Constitution of the Republic of Korea states that "all citizens have human dignity and values as human beings and have the right to pursue happiness."
- Principle of human rights (OHCHR, 2006): The most important thing in human rights is to consider the most marginalized person first. Therefore, when international development is achieved based on human rights, the target of development becomes the poorest and alienated class in the poorest countries, and development is achieved as a duty and not charity
- UN' s effort to mainstream human rights: Since the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development in 1986, there has been a

continuous movement to integrate development and human rights and to mainstream human rights in the development process.

2. International Development Cooperation and Children's Rights

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) of 1989, which foundation lays in the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted at the UN General Assembly in September 1924, is ratified by 196 countries as of 2017
- The UNCRC which includes all rights the child should enjoy is the basis for what countries should do to improve the lives of children
- The UNCRC has four basic principles: the principle of non-discrimination, best interests of the child, survival and development rights, and respect for children's opinions.
- The Korean government ratified the UNCRC in November 1991 and on 24 September 2004, two of the three optional protocols (the Optional Protocol on the Sale, Prostitution and Child Pornography of Children and the Optional Protocol on the Participation of Children in Armed Conflicts) were ratified.
- As the Korean government ratified the UNCRC in 1991, the government and civil society organizations have each produced a report on the implementation of the Convention and submitted it to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- In 2011, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child adopted a total of 88 recommendations, of which article 24 and 25 directly addressed recommendations relating to international development cooperation
- Children should not only be recognized as beneficiaries of international development cooperation, but as active partners of development and international development cooperation. The results of this change of awareness should be reflected in the overall development cooperation. In particular, it is necessary to guarantee the rights of vulnerable

children (children in humanitarian crises such as natural disasters and human calamities). (Kim, Hyun-joo, Park Sun-wha, 2013)

- International development cooperation based on child rights is not a narrow approach that applies only to projects that specify children as direct beneficiaries. In the long term, children should be mainstreamed from projects that are included as indirect beneficiaries to policies and organizational operations of international development cooperation.
- A child rights-based approach based on international human rights instruments, including the UNCRC, should focus on respecting, protecting and realizing the rights of the children

3. SDGs and children

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) includes the importance of 'protecting and promoting children's rights' under the basic spirit of 'Leave no one behind'.
- SDGs has 17 goals, 169 targets and 240 indicators are suggested to monitor the progress of the targets. Among them Goal 3, Goal 4, Goal 5, and Goal 10 are closely related to children
- As a result of analyzing SDGs according to KOICA's business field and UNCRC, we selected 17 goals and targets of SDGs related to UNCRC, and the results were as follows. Among the SDGs, five out of 12 of the targets (16.1, 16.2, 16.10, 16, 7, 16 and 9) were highly related to the UNCRC, accounting for 67%. In addition, goals 4, 5, and 6 are highly correlated with SDGs at 55%, 52%, and 47%, respectively
- We examined the relevance of UNCRC to the SDGs targets for each of the 7 KOICA sectors (excluding the crosscutting issues). Among the seven areas, health has the highest relevance, and international development cooperation projects have shown that children should be considered more in the health field.

IV. Status of International Development Cooperation for Children in Overseas Major Organizations

1. Donor countries' development agency

- It is encouraging that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has enacted the Assistance for Aids Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Development Countries Act of 2005 and reflected it in the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA). However, children in the legal context are more likely to view themselves as beneficiaries and victims rather than right holders. There is also increasing support for health and education related to children. However, it is difficult to conclude that this is an increase in ODA projects for children and has insufficient content about children in strategy. As a result, we can not find any grounds for reflecting the viewpoints of children's rights at organizational level.
- The UK Department for International Development (DFID) is a traditional advanced donor, maintaining the ODA at the level of 0.7% of GNI. In the 1997 White Paper and the International Development Law of 2002, we have been able to find some information on the protection of human rights and children and respect for children by stating CRC compliance and promotion of child protection and participation enhancement, however, it is difficult to find out in the aid strategy after the launch of SDGs. In the operation of the business, some of the children are mentioned in the rules to be followed when carrying out the business. However, it is difficult to judge whether the child rights perspective from project planning to evaluation is reflected.
- The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is the only Asian country t in the top 5 donors. In the overall strategies and projects of health, education, and humanitarian assistance, children are only mentioned in a limited way in that children are a vulnerable to social influences

and requiring special protection and consideration. It is also difficult to find efforts to protect and promote the rights of children in the development projects.

- The Child Protection Policy of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has established a policy that focuses on preventing and responding to the risks that children can face under the national children protection system in the context of international development cooperation and thereby increased the enforceability. In particular, it provides systematic and effective enforcement by providing various detailed guidelines enabling implementations not only for organization but also for each business sector, stage, type, and target. The main policy document of international development cooperation and some field-specific strategy documents such as health and education provide child-related plans, but it is difficult to find specific details. From the child rights perspective, there is a clear limit in that children are restricted to beneficiaries, not being considered as right holders in projects and activities of international development cooperation.
- The Belgian Directorate-General of Development Cooperation (DGDC) provided a legal basis for the reflection of children's rights in international development cooperation by explicitly presenting children's rights through cross-cutting in the Law on Belgian International Cooperation. In the development projects, the rights of children are practically reflected in cross-cutting fields other than the main fields of focus. Accordingly, structural changes are being implemented through awareness creation and appointment of experts among others.
- The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) states that respect for human rights is a key element of international development cooperation in international development cooperation legislation and policies. Children and youth are recognized as major stakeholders in development cooperation as well as right holders. It presents the guidelines for the

mainstreaming children's rights in development cooperation based on the rights of the child and the four principles stated by the UNCRC through the perspective of children's rights and to ensure that child rights issues are always reflected under the human rights approach. Human rights specialists who deal with children's rights issues develop strategies and guidelines, and promote internal and external education on children's rights to support children's rights in all SIDA projects.

2. International Organizations and Civil Society Organizations

- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) focuses on children's rights in its strategy and core values as it aims to promote the rights of all children worldwide. It indicates that all projects must follow guidelines for programs based on human rights and states that the fundamental value of all activities is 'human rights'. Thus, it provides specific guidelines for promoting children's rights from project planning to evaluation. It provides manuals and training for internalization of human rights-based approaches within institutions.
- The ChildFund Alliance (CFA) reflects children's rights perspectives in their strategies and emphasizes participation as an agent of change rather than simply looking at the child from a beneficiary perspective. It reflects the needs of children's safeguarding policies and consideration of children in program standards. In terms of programs of each member country, children's rights have been partially reflected in the existing program guidelines, limitedly adopting the view of child rights. It is difficult to grasp the adoption of children's rights in terms of development cooperation projects due to insufficient statistical data on programs at the CFA level.
- The Plan (PLAN) introduces a human rights-based approach to all of the agency's projects to promote children's rights. It emphasizes girls' rights promotion and child-centered community development in many areas and

the child as an active citizen and an agent of change, not beneficiary, reflecting the overall participation of children in all projects. It is noteworthy that efforts to involve children are reflected in the internal decision-making system. It has education and related experts on children's rights in place and a policy and system to protect children from violations of children's rights.

- Save the Children, through the "Child Rights Based Approach", in the long term, as well as the short, includes advocacy activities to bring about changes in policies, laws, budgets, and perceptions to address the root cause of the problem. Particularly, it actively uses 'participation of children', which recognizes children as right holders rather than beneficiaries and utilizes it to directly participate in major processes of business. As part of efforts to reach the most marginalized children, it has introduced gender equality policies to address gender inequalities, one of the causes of structural poverty, and developed related toolkits and checklists to allow them to be mainstreamed at the project level. Children's safeguarding is also mainstreamed into program management procedures, in order to actively and consciously make efforts to minimize the potential risks of children, both directly and indirectly, in the process of carrying out the project.
- WORLD VISION focuses on children through child-centered projects, which contributes to the protection and promotion of children's rights, promotes safesurrounding for the child, and seeks to restore the relationship between the child, family and the community. It provides guidelines to ensure that all development programs are most beneficial to the children and that the child is participating and protected in the process. A child protection policy is established at the organizational level and applied through internal training, policy compliance monitoring and staffing.

V. Status of KOICA International Development Cooperation and Children's Rights

1. Basic Status of International Development Cooperation

- Article 3 of the Framework Act on International Development Cooperation stipulates 'the pursuit of human rights of children in developing countries' as the basic spirit of Korea's international development cooperation. However, in the other policies and strategies, we can not find any content such as the promotion and participation of children reflecting the rights of children as stakeholders.
- In addition, as the volume of the ODA increases, the proportion of education and health sector together, where children are the main beneficiaries, remains at 20% of the total ODA, and occupies the first and second place by sector. However, since access to the data was limited to identify the details of the projects, it is difficult to confirm whether each project reflected the child rights perspective.
- KOICA has established a human rights strategy and recognized the importance of human rights in development cooperation. This was actively reflected in KOICA's policy formulation and implementation of projects related to grants and stipulated that children should also be considered. However, it is regretful that the details of the implementation targets and detailed implementation plan for each strategy cannot be confirmed.
- In addition, in cooperation with the civil society, KOICA has added and established new provisions on the protection of children's rights to existing internal standards and policies in order to operate KOICA internal organizations. It is encouraging that KOICA has made continued efforts for children's rights and child protection. In addition, efforts are needed to recognize the child not only as the subject of protection but also as right holders. These efforts need specific efforts to institutionalize systematically and organizationally in the organization operation and project process system.

2. KOICA Child-related Project Status and Children in SDGs Strategy

- Analysis of KOICA's Child-related Projects (2015–2016) showed that it was mainly carried out in the education sector, and some projects in the sector of sustainable development such as health business and elimination of poverty gap were included.

3. Comparative analysis with major overseas institutions

- Although five donor countries have ratified the UNCRC, the spectrum of the child's perspective varies from beneficiaries to right holders. And the related ODA strategies and policies, project implementation and management methods were also different according to domestic and foreign laws, policies and aid environment.
- Sweden and Belgium emphasized 'respect for human rights' as the main value of international development cooperation. In addition to vision, principles and laws, the ODA policy system for child issues, including strategies, policy documents and guidelines, was established. But in Korea, there is no reflection on related values, vision, or strategic direction, except that children are identified as aid targets within the Framework Act on International Development Cooperation, and there is no document highlighting relevant content.
- Donor countries that have adopted a child rights perspective do not limit child-related issues to specific areas such as education and health, however, it is difficult to say that Korea has yet adopted a child rights perspective.
- Emphasizing child participation in development assistance implementation is also an important feature of donor countries that have adopted a child rights perspective
- The donor country provides an implementation system to prevent risks and adverse effects that may arise in the course of the project implementation.

And in terms of organization management, it also provides human resources training and education through cooperation with civil society.

- UNICEF, an international organization, and four civil society organizations surveyed, both operate and manage organizations and businesses based on the UNCRC.
- All surveyed civil society organizations have established child-safe guarding policies in order to minimize the potential risks that children may face, either directly or indirectly, in the course of their activities.

VI. Minimum standards and toolkit development for implementation of child rights perspective

- Prepare a plan to use toolkit according to children's position as direct or indirect beneficiary
- Derive the minimum standards of child rights perspective development cooperation to be included in the toolkit.
 - o Standards related to the right to life and protection of UNCRC were assigned to 1 point (minimum) and 3 points (good), and items related to right to development and participation were assigned to 5 points (good) and 7 points (excellent)
 - o The standards corresponding to the individuals(rights holder) are placed at 1 point (must) where as the standards relevant to the duty bearers are placed at higher scores, in the order of parent–community–country
 - o The more the standards are of service delivery or implementation are assigned to 1 point (must) and the standards of advocacy are allocated higher score.
 - o Based on the results of the questionnaire survey, the criteria with high demand are assigned to higher scores. However, questions related to

potential risk to children, child safeguarding, and child opinion identification are assigned to a lower score (must), even when the demand is high.

- The toolkit consists of the following:
 - o Minimum Standards and Toolkit Overview
 - o How to use the toolkit
 - o Toolkit score calculation
 - o Minimum standards
 - o Scorecard
- The toolkit may be used for the followings:
 - o Evaluation of programs/projects directly/indirectly targeting children
 - o Awareness creation in child rights perspective project implementation
 - o Educational data on child rights perspective project implementation

VII. Recommendations and Future Challenges

- Based on the conclusions drawn from the study, the researchers propose mid- to long-term road map to adopt child rights perspective in three directions: policy, project implementation, and organizational operation. The road map is as shown in [Figure].

	Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term
Policy	- Expand research support for children - Include children's rights in human rights strategy	Adopt child rights perspective to existing strategies such as country plan strategy	- Reflect UNCRC in the Framework Act on International Development Cooperation - Establish a policy framework for development cooperation that reflects the child rights perspective
Project Implementation	- Implement a child-safe program (apply child safeguarding at all stages of the project) - Support capacity building of local partner and children as rights holders	- Establish a child participatory system - Adopt the UNCRC recommendations of the partner countries from the planning stage	Adopt UNCRC at every stage of the project
Operation of organization	Promote awareness on child rights perspective in the agency and partner organizations	- Establish child safeguarding policy in the organization - Establish a regular cooperation platform with civil society that has expertise on projects based on the child rights perspective	Appoint specialists on child rights or children

[Figure] Short and Long Road Map