



Child Protection in Emergencies Working Group - Lebanon

TERMS OF REFERENCE

A national Child Protection in Emergencies Working Group (CPiEWG) was established in Beirut, Lebanon in 2006 as a forum for coordination and collaboration on child protection in emergency related issues.

Since the beginning of the Syria Crisis, hundreds of thousands of refugees and returnees have sought refuge and protection in Lebanon placing additional strain on child protection services and the host communities.

The CPiEWG shall be a forum through which agencies, organisations and government actors with child protection programmes in Lebanon can coordinate interventions, seek consensus on issues, create partnerships and linkages for better prioritisation of available resources and commitment to minimum standards of response with an overall goal of enhancing the protection of refugee and Lebanese children affected by the Syrian crisis.

The CPiEWG is comprised of protection and human rights focused organisations that undertake activities to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation of and violence against children.

The work of the CPiEWG is guided by the protection principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence and the humanitarian principle of 'Do no harm' and in line with national and international standards and guidance.

1. CPiEWG Functions

- 1.1 The CPiEWG will share information, voice the concerns and find solutions to the child protection needs of affected populations including child refugees and children in host communities through the following functions:
 - a. Identify priority child protection concerns;
 - b. Support effective coordination of child protection activities and strive to reduce duplication of humanitarian action;
 - c. Monitor and report on violations against children and develop appropriate and harmonised interventions to respond;
 - d. Develop child protection coordination tools;
 - e. Develop a common child protection in emergency strategy/strategic plan based on the Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action,



the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children and the UNHCR Framework for the Protection of Children;

- f. Ensure appropriate referral mechanisms for children at risks and child victims are in place;
- g. Undertake advocacy efforts to support preventive, remedial and response actions;
- h. Support resource mobilisation initiatives for the working group and its members;
- i. Undertake capacity building and sensitisation of stakeholders;
- j. Actively seek to include humanitarian partners able and willing to contribute expertise, knowledge and/or resources relevant to the priority child protection issues;
- k. Ensure that child protection concerns of all affected children in Lebanon and standards are appropriately represented within protection-related forums and provide technical support to other sectors where necessary;
- l. Ensure that CPIEWG members are aware of and utilise relevant national and international policy guidelines, standards and relevant legislations;
- m. Provide support to sub-national CPIEWG and maintain effective communication channels with field CPIEWGs.

2. CPiEWG Structure

2.1 The CPIEWG is co-led by the Ministry of Social Affairs, UNICEF and UNHCR who aim to ensure a harmonised and coordinated response. The roles of co-leads include:

- a. Encourage the participation of child protection partners;
- b. Coordination of program implementation;
- c. Planning and strategy development;
- d. Monitoring and reporting;
- e. Advocacy and resource mobilisation.

2.2 The CPIEWG is under the umbrella of the Protection Working Group. As such, the CPIEWG establishes links, collaborates and shares information with the Protection Working Group and the SGBV Task Force. The CPIEWG participates in and has its own role in inter-sectorial coordination meetings, mechanisms and interventions. The CPIEWG co-leads are members of the Steering Committee of the national Protection Working Group.

2.3 The sub-national CPIEWGs in the field are responsible for their respective areas of coverage and reports to the national CPIEWG to harmonise the country-wide child protection response. The national CPIEWG will support the sub-national CPIEWGs through the development of strategies, policies and tools that are relevant for the field and guide the response to child protection concerns raised by the field. The sub-



national CPiEWGs are responsible for operationalizing national tools and strategies and to report child protection concerns that need comprehensive and technical responses.

- 2.4 The sub-national CPiEWGs function with similar structures and relationships with other protection-related coordination mechanisms to that of the national CPiEWG.
- 2.5 Based on requirements and the needs to address child protection concerns efficiently and effectively, the CPiEWG can establish ad hoc thematic groups / focal points or steering committees to provide technical support or strategic guidance to the CPiEWG.

3. Membership

- 3.1 Membership in the CPiEWG is open to all government bodies, UN agencies, international organisations, international and national organisations and civil society involved in ensuring the protection of children.
- 3.2 It is expected that individual CPiEWG members will:
 - a. Participate and engage in CPiEWG response plans and implementation;
 - b. Regularly share information with CPiEWG members on activities, through the 4Ws, and exchange information on child protection needs, gaps and duplication;
 - c. Be proactive in mobilising resources (financial, human and material) and share responsibilities for CPiEWG activities, including assessing needs, developing plans, policies and guidelines;
 - d. Respect and adhere to agreed principles and national and international standards.
 - e. Act as an advocate for children, to ensure that all child protection initiatives are in the best interest of the child.

4. Working Modalities

- 4.1 The national CPiEWG will meet in Beirut at least once a month.
- 4.2 A draft agenda will be sent to CPiEWG members prior to the meetings for input and the meeting minutes will be circulated within a reasonable period after the meeting has been held.
- 4.3 Minutes will include action points and the names of those responsible for their implementation.

5. Confidentiality

- 5.1 Neither the national nor sub-national CPiEWG are to serve as forums for discussion on individual cases. In the event that individual cases of abuse, exploitation or violence against children are discussed, the cases must be treated in a confidential manner and with the respective agency. No detailed documentation related to such cases should be shared within these forums or with others.



6. Terms of Reference

6.1 These Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis or if there is a change in the situation on the ground, with a view to their modification or amendment.

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