

## **National Child Protection Sub Working Group TOR**

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The Cluster approach in coordinating humanitarian response was initiated in 2005. This approach has resulted in predictable, accountable and more strategic response to humanitarian emergencies in all main sectors. While the overall cluster approach has been effective, the need for more specific coordination mechanism on child protection at national level has been recognized - leading to the formation of a National Child Protection Sub Working Group. The Child Protection Sub Working Group will work under the Somalia Protection Cluster, and shall be a forum through which agencies with child protection programmes in Somalia can coordinate interventions, seek consensus on issues, create partnerships and linkages for better prioritization of available resources and commitment to minimum standards of response with an overall goal of enhancing the protection of children affected by the Somalia emergency.

The National Child Protection Working Group will have the objective of attaining an effective and predictable response to child protection issues in Somalia through improved coordination among agencies involved in child protection programming.

Chaired by UNICEF Somalia, and co-chaired by Save the Children the National Child Protection Working Group shall seek to involve relevant agencies and existing coordination mechanisms in Somalia in the running of the cluster. Child Protection Working Group shall have regular rotational meetings prior to the Protection Cluster meeting.

### **Membership**

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Membership to the Somalia National Child Protection Working Group is open to UN agencies, international organizations and national and international NGOs, involved in child protection programming in Somalia. Representatives of the local and national authorities as well as other international actors, such as donors may be invited to participate in specific meetings.

### **Terms of Reference**

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#### **Coordination**

The purpose of coordination is to reduce duplication, address gaps and solve problems. The National Child Protection Working Group shall:

- Through close liaison with (zones to report to regional networks) regional Child protection networks and regular communication with field based offices, maintain an overview of the child protection situation as well as issues that require attention at national levels in Somalia.
- Coordinate the inclusion of child protection aspects in rapid and longer-term humanitarian project cycle.
- Share information on child protection programmatic responses with particular focus on issues around abuse, exploitation and violence.
- Monitor trends and early warning indicators and ensure emergency preparedness planning is done to anticipate new risks.
- Maintain the profile of child protection within the broader protection structure and ensure mainstreaming of child protection in other humanitarian sectors.
- Facilitate inter-organisational collaboration and sharing of new programme resources.
- Ensure that humanitarian actors working in Somalia build on and support the local capacities and that they develop and maintain appropriate links with national and local authorities, state institutions, civil society organizations and other stakeholders in child protection response.
- Establish a clear system/mechanism of documenting and communicating key decisions made during national level meetings and other information on political, military or UN decisions that impact on child protection response to all field based offices.

### **Attention to Policy, standards and Cross-cutting issues**

The Child Protection Working Group will in collaboration with the National Protection Cluster promote Humanitarian Principles that ensure neutral, impartial, accountable and transparent delivery of humanitarian assistance. The Working Group will also support the following:

- Coordinate with the National Protection cluster to ensure integration of child protection issues in cluster needs assessment, analysis, planning, monitoring and response and contribute to the development of appropriate strategies to address those issues.
- Promote international standards (especially the UNCRC) and national legislation that enhances the protection of children.
- Promote national and community-level dissemination of ethical principles linked to local cultural values that promote the protection of children.

### **Planning and Strategy Development**

- Support the National Protection Cluster in developing a common protection strategy including the identification of gaps, and a predictable action plan. This will complement the overall country strategy, such as the Common Humanitarian Action Plan.
- The National Child Protection Working Group will also support contingency planning and preparedness for new emergencies.

### **Monitoring, Reporting**

- Support and coordinate the Monitoring and reporting of child protection concerns and violations of child rights commitments embodied in the UNCRC, resolution 1612 and other legal instruments.
- Respond to violations of child rights through services and protests to those responsible by channeling information to the Humanitarian Coordinator through the Protection Cluster.
- Oppose climates of impunity through support for international tribunals, truth commissions and other measures to ensure enforcement of law against the perpetrators of child rights violations.

### **Advocacy and Resource Mobilization**

- The National Child Protection Working Group will identify core child protection advocacy concerns, including resource requirements and contribute key messages to broader advocacy initiatives of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) and other actors. It will also endeavor to effectively engage with relevant stakeholders and parties to conflict to promote adherence to IHL and human rights law, with emphasis on humanitarian concerns.
- The country National Child Protection Working Group will coordinate with the Protection Cluster in advocating for donors to fund humanitarian actors to carry out priority activities, while at the same time encourage protection cluster members to mobilize their own resources for their activities through their usual channels.

### **Training and Capacity Building**

The National Child Protection Working Group will promote and support training and capacity building activities among humanitarian partners, and will support efforts to strengthen the capacity of national authorities and civil society.