SIMPLIFIED
MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR
CHILD PROTECTION
IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) is the global level forum for coordination on child protection in humanitarian settings. The group brings together NGOs, UN agencies, academics and others under the shared objective of ensuring more predictable, accountable and effective child protection responses in emergencies. In the humanitarian system, the CPWG constitutes an "area of responsibility" within the Global Protection Cluster.

http://www.cpwg.net

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SIMPLIFIED VERSION of the MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The Child Protection Working Group defines child protection as “the prevention and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children”. As there are threats to children’s safety and wellbeing in every emergency, child protection is an important consideration in all humanitarian action. Overall, the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action are intended to:

- Set common principles;
- Improve coordination;
- Improve the quality of programming and its impact;
- Improve accountability;
- Define the work;
- Provide good practices; and
- Enable better advocacy and communication on child protection.

As a companion to the Sphere Handbook, the minimum standards are structured in the same manner.

The Simplified Version was developed to facilitate access and communication on the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.

The minimum standards are composed of the following components:

These standards are centred on a common set of principles and approaches.

PRINCIPLES AND APPROACHES

SIMPLIFIED STANDARDS TO ENSURE A QUALITY CHILD PROTECTION RESPONSE

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 1: COORDINATION

RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS WORK TOGETHER FOR A COORDINATED CHILD PROTECTION RESPONSE.

KEY ACTIONS

PREPAREDNESS

- Examine existing coordination mechanisms for the best means of coordinating a response together
- Determine who is responsible for leading the coordination
- Identify the latest information on child protection issues and agree on priority concerns
- Develop a preparedness plan
- Adapt the child protection rapid assessment to local context
- Prepare key coordination and performance monitoring tools
- Prepare staff for coordination and information management responsibilities at national and sub-national levels
- Lobby for child safeguarding policies for each organization
- Prepare key child protection messages
- Advocate for child protection funding
- Train staff together on child protection and coordination
- Prepare communication tools
- Attempt to establish baseline data
- Translate and disseminate standards as needed

RESPONSE (LEAD AGENCY)

- Build on existing coordination mechanisms
- Appoint coordinators and information management staff at national and sub-national levels as needed
- Involve local authorities and civil society
- Examine the best way of establishing local coordination
- Determine level of authority of coordination group
- Develop objectives and terms of reference
- Clarify roles and responsibilities with other groups
- Develop and oversee a response plan
- Use coordination and performance monitoring tools
- Use communication tools
- Ensure these standards are available to members
- Conduct a child protection rapid assessment and establish monitoring systems as needed
- Lobby decision-makers to ensure key priorities are included in planning and fundraising processes
- Advocate on key issues
- Use information gathered through key tools to improve a coordinated response
- Identify gaps in personnel and organize capacity building as needed

RESPONSE (COORDINATION MECHANISM MEMBERS)

- Consider how your organization can support a coordinated response
- Be active in planning
- Work together on assessments
- Share information with each other
- Agree on a response plan
- Agree on procedures to correct any shortcomings
- Identify any duplications, inconsistencies or gaps in the response and address these quickly
- Ensure relevant stakeholders have access to these standards
- Agree on how information will be shared
- Adapt, test and disseminate key messages
- Develop agreements for referrals and advocacy
- Agree on rates for incentives or pay
- Agree on a media policy
- Share relevant information as agreed
- Raise concerns with other groups
- Develop a capacity building strategy

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1. Existence of a joint strategic plan
2. Monitoring of implementation against the strategic plan

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 2: HUMAN RESOURCES

CHILD PROTECTION WORKERS ARE COMPETENT.
HUMAN RESOURCE POLICIES PROTECT GIRLS AND BOYS.

KEY ACTIONS

PREPAREDNESS

- Ensure a child safeguarding policy applies to all staff and partners
- Ensure all staff sign and receive an orientation on a code of conduct to protect children
- Ensure a monitoring and complaints mechanism is in place for each organization
- Establish a global pool of standby personnel for rapid deployment

RESPONSE

- Examine existing human resources and identify the best way to work with these potential professional groups
- Develop job profiles
- Recruit new staff with selection panels that have technical expertise
- Ensure vacancies for humanitarian responses are prioritised
- Ensure equal opportunities and treatment regardless of gender, disability or other differences
- Ensure a non-discriminatory working environment
- Ensure line managers orient staff on their roles and responsibilities
- Organize staff inductions on organizational policies and processes
- Ensure that line managers conduct probationary reviews 30 days after deployment, and regular appraisals
- Ensure senior-level personnel remain in country throughout the transition period
- Analyse salaries and limit the pull factor of international NGOs
- Develop capacity building strategy for volunteers, staff and partners
- Promote staff wellbeing through a healthy working environment and by providing rest and recuperation periods
- Conduct exit interviews
- Make references available

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET

1. 80% of child protection terms of reference developed use the CPWG child protection competencies framework

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 3: COMMUNICATION, MEDIA AND ADVOCACY

GIRLS' AND BOYS' DIGNITY AND BEST INTERESTS ARE RESPECTED IN CHILD PROTECTION COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY.

KEY ACTIONS

PREPAREDNESS

- Identify those who can communicate on key issues and strengthen their capacity to do this
- Ensure organizations have policy and procedures for communicating on key issues involving children
- Discuss these policies with others to ensure a shared approach
- Develop specific advocacy messages at national and international levels
- Identify advocacy partners
- Ensure advocacy and fundraising are kept distinct and transparent

RESPONSE (ADVOCACY)

- Develop an advocacy strategy on child protection
- Publish the results of research, analyses, and policy recommendations
- Ensure that key issues are discussed in relevant forums
- Ensure that national or local duty bearers and journalists are well-briefed on the main child protection issues
- Promote gender equity in advocacy messages

RESPONSE (COMMUNICATIONS)

- Identify priority risks in each emergency and adapt key messages for each target audience
- Share priority issues with humanitarian workers in other sectors
- Train humanitarian workers in other sectors on key principles and best practices
- Update and involve authorities and affected communities on findings and evidence on key issues
- Use clear, simple language
- Translate messages into local languages

RESPONSE (MEDIA)

- Consider whether a publications is in line with the best interests of the individual child and his/her family and community
- Ensure children and his/her parents or guardians sign an informed consent form before using any image, recording or quote
- Ensure stories and images are accurate and sensitive
- Avoid stigmatising girls and boys, exaggerating situations or depicting them as powerless
- Avoid using images of girls and boys that could be viewed as sexual by others
- Avoid exposing girls and boys to further harm
- Do not use the real name of the child unless explicitly asked by the child and his/her parents or guardians and risks of use are analysed
- Never reveal the identity of current or former child combatants, survivals of abuse, perpetrators of abuse or children living with HIV/AIDS
- When girls and boys have expressed their opinions to media, give them access to it, where possible
- Do not pay children, parents or caregivers for information
- Ensure that children who testify or give evidence to media are not harmed in any way

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET

1. Surveys indicate an increased understanding and visibility of child protection issues

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 4: PROGRAMME CYCLE MANAGEMENT

CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMMES BUILD ON EXISTING RESOURCES AND THE CHANGING CONCERNS OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE EMERGENCY

KEY ACTIONS

PREPAREDNESS

- Review existing information, followed by a situation analysis
- Involve children in analysis and planning, ensuring their views are heard, respected and given due weight
- Review mapping of child protection systems

RESPONSE

- Examine the existing protection mechanisms
- Prioritise inter-agency assessments versus single-agency assessments
- Ensure key child protection concerns are included in multi-sectoral assessments
- Conduct rapid assessment in the first five weeks of the response
- Follow-up with an in-depth assessment and ongoing situation monitoring
- Ensure assessment teams mirror the target population
- Disaggregate population data
- Design the programme to cover the gaps left by the state or population, while building on existing structures
- Design the response with equity in mind
- Prioritise life-saving actions
- Establish feedback and complaint mechanisms from beneficiaries
- Monitor in accordance to the response plan's results framework
- Share findings and outcomes with stakeholders, including affected children and their families
- Ensure findings lead to programme adjustments
- Participate jointly in learning initiatives or evaluations that affect child protection
- Share learning and use it to inform future interventions

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1. 80% of programme objectives correspond with documented child protection priorities as defined by children and their communities
2. 90% of programmes are designed to use pre-existing resources (including capacities, structures, etc.)

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 5: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMMES ARE BASED ON UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION. CONFIDENTIALITY IS ENSURED. "DO NO HARM" AND BEST INTERESTS PRINCIPLES ARE RESPECTED.

KEY ACTIONS

PREPAREDNESS

- Adapt standardized information tools and procedures for country context
- Identify available information on child protection
- Agree on priority child protection concerns

RESPONSE

- Participate in interagency assessments
- Train data collectors on interviewing children and confidentiality
- Seek informed consent
- Setup information management system
- Develop reference codes to avoid using names
- Only share case information when granted permission by the child or caregiver
- Store written information in locked cabinets
- Protect electronic data with passwords
- Send data as encrypted files
- Ensure people who are working with data are trustworthy and aware of the sensitive nature of the data
- Ensure exit strategy includes confidentiality in case of evacuation or other emergencies
- Ensure population-level information is shared with all relevant actors
- Train staff on basic and secure information management

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1. Agreed inter-agency tools for assessment or situation monitoring, WWWW and case management are in use

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 6: CHILD PROTECTION MONITORING

INFORMATION IS COLLECTED IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER IN ORDER TO TRIGGER OR INFORM CHILD PROTECTION RESPONSES

KEY ACTIONS

PREPAREDNESS

- Map the child protection system
- Use existing sources of data to serve as a baseline
- Agree on common indicators and monitoring processes
- Determine roles and responsibilities in referral systems
- Develop a referral system
- Ensure staff understand their responsibility to refer individual cases
- Ensure staff and relevant community members receive training on monitoring
- Ensure financial, logistical and communication requirements for referrals are in place
- Identify partners who can undertake monitoring of grave child rights violations in armed conflicts

RESPONSE

- Analyse existing information
- Agree on what concerns will be monitored
- Train data collectors
- Harmonise procedures for information sharing
- Take into consideration the causes of under-reporting and/or over-reporting
- Agree on criteria for disaggregated data
- Monitor and report on grave rights violations against children where the UN has setup a Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM)
- Ensure that organizations collect and use data safely
- Jointly identify appropriate responses to cases and violations
- Ensure best interests of the child as the primary consideration
- Ensure good practice in managing information

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET

1. 100% of regular reports include information on child protection concerns
2. Child protection monitoring information is disaggregated by sex and age

SIMPLIFIED STANDARDS TO ADDRESS CHILD PROTECTION NEEDS

- STANDARD 7: DANGERS & INJURIES
- STANDARD 8: PHYSICAL VIOLENCE & OTHER HARMFUL PRACTICES
- STANDARD 9: SEXUAL VIOLENCE
- STANDARD 10: PSYCHOSOCIAL DISTRESS & MENTAL DISORDERS
- STANDARD 11: CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH ARMED FORCES / GROUPS
- STANDARD 12: CHILD LABOUR
- STANDARD 13: UNACCOMPANIED & SEPARATED CHILDREN
- STANDARD 14: JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 7: DANGERS AND INJURIES

GIRLS AND BOYS ARE PROTECTED FROM PHYSICAL DANGERS AND INJURIES. SURVIVORS ACCESS AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE.

KEY ACTIONS

PREPAREDNESS

- Examine existing and possible physical dangers to girls and boys
- Raise public awareness on how to prevent injuries
- Implement risk reduction education with those who work with girls and boys
- Involve girls and boys in activities to prevent injuries
- Include girls and boys in disaster risk reduction processes at community level
- Include physical dangers for girls and boys in contingency plans
- Train rescue groups on physical dangers for girls and boys
- Train community members in first-aid and life-saving measures in water

RESPONSE

- Collect information on physical dangers to girls and boys
- Create safe community spaces for children and youth
- Include risk-reduction and risk-education messages in community activities
- Involve children and youth in examining possible risks
- Ensure case management procedures
- Advocate for increased safety measures
- Ensure prevention measures are taken into consideration when establishing a camp
- Advocate for landmine and explosive remnants of war clearance in areas where children often go
- Conduct mine risk education

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1. Top 5 physical dangers to girls and boys of different ages are identified
2. Interventions in place to mitigate the top 5 physical dangers
3. 80% of reported child survivors of severe injury receive medical care within 12 hours
4. Decreased number of children with unintentional injuries

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 8: PHYSICAL VIOLENCE & OTHER HARMFUL PRACTICES

GIRLS AND BOYS ARE PROTECTED FROM PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AND OTHER HARMFUL PRACTICES. SURVIVORS ACCESS AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE.

KEY ACTIONS

PREPAREDNESS

- Examine how different forms of violence are viewed and dealt with by families, community leaders and government
- Examine harmful practice and negative coping mechanisms that may arise during emergencies
- Develop and train multi-sectoral teams on prevention strategies and responses
- Identify gaps in response services and develop strategies to address them
- Train teachers, parents and other community members in locally identified strategies to prevent and respond to common forms of violence
- Develop referral system between service providers
- Disseminate user-friendly information on referral services

RESPONSE

- Raise awareness on non-violent coping strategies
- Involve children and community members in awareness raising
- Provide appropriate care to child survivors and their families
- Build referral systems on existing resources
- Identify and refer children at risk
- Establish systems to monitor the situation of girls and boys who may be at risk
- Support child friendly spaces that are safe and prevent violence against girls and boys
- Ensure staff and volunteers sign codes of conduct prohibiting violence
- Ensure staff and volunteers who come into contact with children are trained on positive discipline

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1. Strategies to prevent and respond to physical violence are in emergency-response programming
2. 80% of communities have child-friendly responses to survivors of physical violence

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 9: SEXUAL VIOLENCE

GIRLS AND BOYS ARE PROTECTED FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE. SURVIVORS ACCESS AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE.

KEY ACTIONS

PREPAREDNESS

- Examine how different forms of sexual violence is viewed and dealt with by children, their communities and the government
- Support positive community networks to prevent sexual violence
- Promote facilitated discussions with religious and community leaders
- Ensure appropriate health and psychosocial support services are in place
- Create and train a multi-disciplinary response teams to respond to sexual violence
- Develop a referral map that is easy to use
- Train relevant stakeholders to identify and refer children who may be at risk or affected by sexual violence
- Train armed forces and police

RESPONSE

- Disseminate community-level prevention messages
- Support positive community networks for prevention and response
- Raise awareness on why sexual violence is not acceptable
- Ensure appropriate referral pathways
- Provide appropriate multi-sectoral care for child survivors and families
- Provide appropriate support to girls and boys who may need extra attention
- Ensure programmes do not put children at greater risk
- Advocate with relevant stakeholders on prevention measures
- Advocate with relevant authorities to end impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence
- Refer cases of sexual violence committed by armed forces or groups to the country task forces of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) and the UN monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements (MARA).

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1. # of programmes that address sexual violence
2. 100% of reported cases who receive age- and gender-appropriate responses

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 10: PSYCHOSOCIAL DISTRESS & MENTAL DISORDERS

PROGRAMMING STRENGTHENS GIRLS' AND BOYS' RESILIENCE. SEVERELY AFFECTED GIRLS AND BOYS RECEIVE APPROPRIATE SUPPORT.

KEY ACTIONS

PREPAREDNESS

- Jointly review existing information, followed by a situation analysis
- Ensure a coordination and referral system between education, protection, health and psychosocial support providers
- Map existing services
- Ensure humanitarian workers are trained on psychological first aid

RESPONSE

- Ensure psychosocial support for national staff affected by the emergency
- Strengthen existing community networks
- Support activities that recreate children's routine and build their resilience or positive coping strategies
- Organise activities specifically for adolescents and young people
- Establish a monitoring and referral system for children and caregivers who need additional mental health services
- Advocate for strengthened mental health services
- Provide support to caregivers
- Train staff to work according to the IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1. 80% of targeted children showing decreased symptoms associated with mental disorders or psychosocial distress

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 11: CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH ARMED FORCES / GROUPS

GIRLS AND BOYS ARE PROTECTED FROM RECRUITMENT AND USE BY ARMED FORCES OR ARMED GROUPS. CHILDREN ARE RELEASED AND PROVIDED WITH EFFECTIVE REINTEGRATION SERVICES.

KEY ACTIONS

PREPAREDNESS

- Jointly review existing information on children in armed forces or armed groups with recommendations on possible community-based disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) options
- Conduct a situation analysis
- Prevent recruitment through community mobilisation
- Ensure the broader DDR processes and strategies take into consideration children's specific needs and rights
- Ensure staff are trained on the identification of children associated with armed forces and armed groups and the DDR process
- Advocate for the end of and prevention of child recruitment and use
- Strengthen community-based early warning systems to monitor and report incidents
- Ensure these systems are linked to the child protection or protection monitoring systems
- Ensure coordination between the country task force on Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) with other relevant mechanisms

RESPONSE

- Ensure coordination and standardized tools for managing cases
- Prevent recruitment or voluntary participation by working with local communities and community-based organizations
- Conduct public information campaigns on risks for children
- Identify and support children at risk
- Ensure access to safe education and livelihood opportunities
- Develop a process to identify and verify children associated with armed forces and groups
- Advocate for the release of children
- Conduct family tracing as soon as possible, reliant on existing services if feasible
- Provide children with interim care and other basic services
- Ensure a community-oriented approach to reintegration
- Ensure children who have been injured or disabled receive appropriate care

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1. Decrease in number of girls and boys associated with the armed forces or armed groups
2. 100% of girls and boys separated from armed forces or groups are reintegrated

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 12: CHILD LABOUR

GIRLS AND BOYS ARE PROTECTED FROM THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR.

KEY ACTIONS

PREPAREDNESS

- Conduct desk study on the current situation, lessons learned and relevant legal frameworks
- Map the capacity of relevant national stakeholders
- Train and share information on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) with relevant humanitarian and development stakeholders

RESPONSE

- Raise awareness on the dangers associated with the WFCL
- Identify and mitigate risks of trafficking with communities
- Include WFCL in child protection and multi-sectoral assessments
- Ensure relevant stakeholders, including children, are involved in the development and implementation of coordinated responses, using the National Steering Committee of Child Labour (where it exists)
- Provide training on the WFCL to child protection, education, social protection and economic recovery staff
- Propose a consultation to identify hazardous work in emergency-affected areas where no up-to-date official list exists
- Ensure a joint monitoring and referral system is in place
- Support children at risk of or involved in the WFCL to access learning opportunities
- Support children of working age in livelihood opportunities

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET

1. % of children involved in or at risk of WFCL provided with adequate support

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 13: UNACCOMPANIED & SEPARATED CHILDREN

FAMILY SEPARATION IS PREVENTED. UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN ARE CARED FOR AND PROTECTED.

KEY ACTIONS - IDTR

PREPAREDNESS

- Review legal frameworks and community mechanisms to working with children without appropriate care
- Develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) that clarify roles and responsibilities
- Setup a common family tracing and reunification database
- Review common registration forms and adapt to local context(s) for Identification, Documentation, Tracing and Reunification (IDTR)
- Train those who will be supporting children without appropriate care on inter-agency guidelines, procedures and interview skills
- Provide copies of relevant forms to all partners
- Design prevention materials and tools with relevant stakeholders
- Stock supply kits to assist family reunifications
- Identify potential partners including the relevant governments and International Committee of the Red Cross (where present)

RESPONSE

- Assess the scope, causes and risks of family separation
- Ensure measures to prevent family separation are in place in reception and arrival areas for population movements
- Agree on standardized registration works and draft SOPs within one week
- Agree on an information and case management system within one week
- Develop a strategy to identify children without appropriate care
- Train staff on IDTR procedures
- Rapidly setup sites where children and parents can register, receive information and access services
- Develop a referral system
- Ensure these children have access to services
- Establish mechanisms to monitor target these children's safety and wellbeing
- Start tracing and reunification immediately with sufficient staff and equipment
- Keep children, families and caregivers regularly updated on any progress of the tracing
- Review child protection and other sector activities to ensure they do not cause voluntary or accidental family separation
- Assess and continuously monitor care arrangements while tracing for separated children
- Verify and prepare all parties for reunification
- Ensure follow-up on a timely basis
- Ensure adult assuming care publically signs a form accepting responsibility

KEY ACTIONS - ALTERNATIVE CARE

PREPAREDNESS

- Strengthen the existing foster care system
- Identify relevant traditional mechanisms for care of children without appropriate care
- Provide training on Guidelines on Alternative Care for Children and the Alternative Care Toolkit
- Strengthen local capacities (including government) on planning, management and delivery
- Map current interim care structures to identify possible emergency options

RESPONSE

- Conduct needs assessments
- Seek to prevent unnecessary family separations through targeted assistance
- Develop a surveillance and response system to identify children who may have been relinquished in the hope of their receiving assistance

- Support care services in line with Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children and the Alternative Care in Emergencies Toolkit
- Regularly review care arrangements
- Regularly check that only children in need of alternative care are place in interim care
- Develop a care plan for each child in consultation with all those affected
- Follow-up on all children in care at least once every 12 weeks
- Delay permanent arrangements until after the first year and tracing avenues have been exhausted (BID guide lines promote two years)

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1. Surveillance systems and services in place
2. 90% of reunited children stay with their family for more than 6 months
3. 100% of registered children in appropriate care arrangements

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 14: JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

ALL GIRLS AND BOYS WHO COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM ARE TREATED IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

KEY ACTIONS

PREPAREDNESS

- Support child-friendly courts and spaces in police stations
- Support capacity building of relevant actors
- Support the inclusion of female police and judicial personnel
- Examine the existing justice system to identify opportunities or gaps to ensure justice for children

RESPONSE

- Identify children in detention
- Document and analyse patterns of violations against children's rights within the justice system
- Take action in urgent cases
- Identify organizations and individuals who can deliver justice for children
- Setup an inter-disciplinary team to respond to identified cases
- Advocate for the release of children when detention is illegal or facilities are inappropriate
- Promote community-based solutions where appropriate

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1. 80% of children who are in contact with the police who are dealt with using child-friendly procedures

Simplified Standards to Develop Adequate Child Protection Strategies

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 15: CASE MANAGEMENT

GIRLS AND BOYS WITH URGENT CHILD PROTECTION NEEDS ARE IDENTIFIED AND RECEIVE AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE.

KEY ACTIONS

PREPAREDNESS

- Examine and build upon existing mechanisms to protect children
- Map and analyse existing services' capacity
- Support existing governmental or community-based structures to collect and manage information, where possible
- Prepare detailed job descriptions for case workers and other key roles
- Build capacity of relevant actor to collect information and manage cases

RESPONSE

- Build on existing criteria for who is a vulnerable child
- Strengthen systematic links between social welfare, education, health, livelihoods and law-enforcement to ensure a coordinated support
- Develop procedures with other sectors
- Develop a system to prioritise the most urgent cases for immediate follow-up
- Consider four timescales when developing care plans (0-3 months; 3-9 months / 1 year; 1 year or more)
- Ensure multi-sectoral capacity for managing cases
- Train case workers
- Work closely with other sectors and community-based child protection mechanisms to identify children at risk
- Ensure relevant organizations understand the case management process, including an assessment within 1 week, care plan within 2 weeks, follow-up and review of action plan every month and follow-up 3 months after the case is closed).
- Setup an exit strategy

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1. Case Management System in place

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 16: COMMUNITY-BASED MECHANISMS

GIRLS AND BOYS ARE PROTECTED THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED MECHANISMS.

KEY ACTIONS

PREPAREDNESS

- Conduct assessments to identify existing methods of supporting children at risk
- Identify whether there are any state-mandated community mechanisms
- Assess possible effects of an external agency becoming involved at community-level
- Map the strengths and weaknesses of formal and informal service providers and support mechanisms in order to build capacity
- Identify and train community volunteers to protect and to support children
- Ensure clear role descriptions
- Jointly identify risk scenarios for girls and boys in emergencies
- Develop a community response plan and strengthen capacity for implementation
- Encourage fostering using kinship practices with support and close monitoring

RESPONSE

- Build on existing resources in community-based child protection mechanisms (CBCPMs) to provide appropriate support and services
- Ensure CPCPMs include women, girls, boys and people with disabilities
- Strengthen networks and links between CBCPMs
- Identify projects that can be implemented by children and communities
- Provide support for these initiatives where appropriate
- Encourage existing youth groups to be involved
- Mobilise and strengthen peer-to-peer response and monitoring
- Map the capacity of CMCPMs and provide capacity building
- Support CBCPMs to conduct awareness raising on child protection concerns
- Build community capacity to identify and refer children and families for services
- Support CBCPMs to develop links with the government at all levels

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET

1. 80% of communities have at least 60% of surveyed confirm presence of CPCPMs

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 17: CHILD-FRIENDLY SPACES

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACCESS COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED CHILD-FRIENDLY SPACES

KEY ACTIONS

PREPAREDNESS

- Identify locations, resources and people to run a child-friendly space (CFS)
- Train relevant stakeholders on CFS guidelines
- Examine how to create safe spaces for children in communities and linkages to larger protection systems

RESPONSE

- Conduct a joint assessment on whether CFS is the right intervention
- Map existing facilities and infrastructures
- Recruit volunteers from the community and link with other community-based initiatives
- Setup a programme of activities that corresponds to needs
- Consider using existing structures
- Assess safety and safety risks within the CFS
- Ensure properly maintained WASH facilities and water for drinking and cleaning
- Setup clear guidelines, programmes and schedules
- Provide ongoing monitoring with feedback mechanisms for children and their families
- Provide ongoing training and follow-up support to volunteers
- Develop a phase-out or transition plan early on

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1. 80% of identified excluded children have access to services

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 18: PROTECTING EXCLUDED CHILDREN

ALL GIRLS AND BOYS ACCESS BASIC SERVICES AND PROTECTION. THE CAUSES AND MEANS OF EXCLUSION ARE ADDRESSED.

KEY ACTIONS

PREPAREDNESS

- Examine the emergency preparedness desk review and other relevant information to identify excluded groups
- Access whether the national child protection system can protect excluded children and identify gaps
- Map community support and services
- Develop a referral mechanism
- Build child protection capacity of specialized service providers

RESPONSE

- Avoid labelling children while working for their inclusion
- Use child protection rapid assessment to identify particularly vulnerable and excluded groups
- Ensure their needs are included in response strategies and funding requests
- Consider potential groups not visible in assessments
- Conduct participatory assessments to identify barriers that exclude children
- Ensure information gathered includes excluded groups
- Ensure that excluded groups are considered within case management systems
- Provide training for case managers on different strategies to improve inclusion
- Ensure community support initiatives are linked to community-based child protection mechanisms, in order to identify and refer key issues to them
- Promote outreach and peer support to excluded groups with other children and youth groups
- Promote the inclusion of excluded groups children and community members
- Ensure excluded children and families know about available services
- Ensure children have access to appropriate information
- Ensure basic services are accessible for excluded groups in conjunction with other sectors
- Advocate for excluded children to be included in programme planning
- Promote involvement of excluded groups in decision-making forums
- Promote the recruitment of people from excluded groups
- Include excluded groups in programme evaluation processes

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET

1. 80% of identified excluded children have access to services

SIMPLIFIED STANDARDS TO MAINSTREAM CHILD PROTECTION IN OTHER HUMANITARIAN SECTORS

- STANDARD 19: ECONOMIC RECOVERY & CHILD PROTECTION
- STANDARD 20: EDUCATION & CHILD PROTECTION
- STANDARD 21: HEALTH & CHILD PROTECTION
- STANDARD 22: NUTRITION & CHILD PROTECTION
- STANDARD 23: WASH & CHILD PROTECTION
- STANDARD 24: SHELTER & CHILD PROTECTION
- STANDARD 25: CAMP MANAGEMENT & CHILD PROTECTION
- STANDARD 26: DISTRIBUTION & CHILD PROTECTION

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 19: ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND CHILD PROTECTION

CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS ARE REFLECTED IN ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAMMES. WORKING-AGED CHILDREN AND THEIR CAREGIVERS ARE SUPPORTED TO STRENGTHEN THEIR LIVELIHOODS.

KEY ACTIONS FOR CHILD PROTECTION ACTORS

- Present child protection assessment information to those working in economic recovery to ensure the implications are considered
- Agree on indicators to be used to track progress
- Incorporate questions about economic recovery with children, caregivers and community members
- Coordinate with local communities and organisations for up-to-date information on children or households who need economic recovery interventions
- Establish a referral system with economic recovery staff
- Ensure children or households in need of economic recovery receive a response
- Include information on economic recovery in child protection messaging, where appropriate
- Include economic recovery staff in child protection trainings
- Identify pre-existing forums to coordinate between the two sectors
- Collect examples of positive effects of economic recovery interventions have on children's safety and wellbeing
- Lobby for a link between the two sectors in evaluations and resource allocations processes

KEY ACTIONS FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACTORS

- Ensure children at risk are included in economic recovery interventions
- Include safety of the affected population as a sub-objective of each economic recovery intervention
- Reach excluded children with other humanitarian workers and community members
- Consider the safety of affected populations
- Ensure staff are briefed on legal frameworks for children and work
- Review whether planned activities provide incentives for children to move out of appropriate care
- Ensure programming for children and caregivers who are unable to access "for work" programmes (e.g. cash grants, social protection measures, etc.)
- Design flexible strategies that can accommodate new children and families as much as possible
- Establish a referral system with child protection workers
- Ensure economic recovery staff sign codes of conduct and are trained in child safeguarding
- Invite child protection workers to trainings where their perspective and information could enhance the overall outcome

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1. 100% of economic recovery projects reflect child safety and wellbeing concerns

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 20: EDUCATION AND CHILD PROTECTION

CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS ARE REFLECTED IN EDUCATION PROGRAMMES. GIRLS AND BOYS ACCESS SAFE, QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.

KEY ACTIONS FOR CHILD PROTECTION ACTORS

- Present child protection assessment information to those working in education to ensure the implications are considered
- Agree indicators to be used to track progress
- Incorporate questions about education in discussions with children, caregivers and community members
- Jointly train communities and child and youth clubs on how to identify and report child protection risks in and around educational facilities
- Establish a referral system with education staff
- Provide child protection workers with education and early childhood development (ECD) in emergencies trainings
- Develop child protection messages with education staff
- Monitor provision of adequate sanitation facilities in schools with education staff
- Support the adoption of a code of conduct for teachers and other educational personnel
- Monitor the child protection situation in schools
- Coordinate the mapping of schools that are at risk of being attacked or occupied by armed forces or groups
- Identify pre-existing forums to coordinate between the two sectors
- Collect examples of positive effects of education interventions have on children's safety and wellbeing
- Lobby for a link between the two sectors in evaluations and resource allocation processes

KEY ACTIONS FOR EDUCATION ACTORS

- Ensure the protection of the affected population as a sub-objective of each education intervention
- Follow the INEE Minimum Standards in planning and putting education strategies into practice
- Ensure education information is disaggregated to facilitate child protection responses
- Rapidly setup child friendly spaces or temporary learning spaces with child protection workers
- Develop a referral system for out-of-school children with child protection workers
- Consider developing flexible alternative schools where it is unsafe to travel to school or to collect in groups
- Campaign for universal access to education
- Establish or move schools to safe areas, close to population centres with child protection workers
- Work with relevant stakeholders to ensure that the curriculum does not discriminate in any way
- Consider child protection concerns when planning an education response
- Ensure there is balanced recruitment of female and male teachers
- Train teachers on gender sensitive approaches to teaching
- Increase teachers' competency in positive discipline and end corporal punishment and all other cruel or degrading punishments
- Review whether your programmatic actions may be contributing to conflict and take appropriate action
- Introduce teaching that promotes children's resilience
- Ensure child protection is included in teacher training
- Improve school facilities for health, nutrition, water supply, sanitation and hygiene practices in cooperation with other relevant sectors
- Train child protection workers on education and ECD in emergencies
- Ensure staff have been trained on and signed a code of conduct for child safeguarding
- Invite child protection workers to trainings where their perspective and information could enhance the overall outcome

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1. 100% of assessed learning environments are considered safe for girls and boys
2. % of girls and boys access learning opportunities

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 21: HEALTH AND CHILD PROTECTION

CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS ARE REFLECTED IN HEALTH PROGRAMS. GIRLS AND BOYS ACCESS HEALTH SERVICES THAT TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION THEIR AGE AND DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS.

KEY ACTIONS FOR CHILD PROTECTION ACTORS

- Present child protection assessment information to those working in health to ensure the implications are considered
- Agree which of the suggested indicators should be used to track progress
- Incorporate questions about health in discussions with children, caregivers and community members
- Identify paediatrician and health workers specialized in working with children
- Agree on key messages about available health services, especially when they intersect with child protection concerns
- Establish a referral system for cases of illness and injury with health staff
- Strengthen appropriate screening and referral system for children who need psychosocial and mental health support
- Strengthen the referral system between social welfare, injury surveillance and health
- Link birth registration with reproductive health, where relevant
- Include health messages in community-based child protection activities
- Support health-service providers to respond to child protection concerns
- Ensure there are procedures for caregivers to stay with children in case of medical evacuation and hospital admission
- Tackle barriers that prevent girls and boys from accessing health services
- Design outreach services for children to access health services
- Advocate for specialized medical services, where possible
- Identify pre-existing forums to coordinate between the two sectors
- Collect examples of positive effects of health interventions have on children's safety and wellbeing
- Lobby for a link between the two sectors in evaluations and resource allocations processes

KEY ACTIONS FOR HEALTH ACTORS

- Ensure the protection of the affected population as a sub-objective of each health intervention
- Identify paediatricians and health workers specialized to work with children
- Strengthen child-friendly procedures for admitting, treating and discharging unaccompanied children
- Promote the recruitment of social workers and child psychologists, where appropriate
- Support community health workers to identify and refer cases of abuse, exploitation, neglect and violence
- Ensure health services are accessible and safe for children
- Strengthen child-friendly procedures to respond to child victims and survivors, including referrals to relevant services
- Train clinical health staff on the clinical care of children
- Train auxiliary non-clinical staff to respect child's right to confidentiality
- Ensure specialized physical rehabilitation and ortho-prosthetic services for child survivors and children with disabilities in areas with landmines and explosive remnants of war
- Ensure health workers are trained in basic child protection
- Disseminate agreed child protection messages
- Ensure specific child survival strategies for children under 5s
- Ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services for older children
- Ensure health workers have been trained in and signed a code of conduct for child safeguarding
- Invite child protection workers to trainings where their perspective and information could enhance the overall outcome

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET

1. 80% of health staff received training on identifying and referring children in need of a protection response

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 22: NUTRITION AND CHILD PROTECTION

CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS ARE REFLECTED IN NUTRITION PROGRAMMES. CHILDREN AND THEIR CAREGIVERS ACCESS NUTRITION SERVICES AND FOOD.

KEY ACTIONS FOR CHILD PROTECTION ACTORS

- Present child protection assessment information to those working in nutrition to ensure the implications are considered
- Agree which of the suggested indicators should be used to track progress
- Incorporate questions about health with children, care givers and community members
- Develop clear standard operating procedures for identification and referral
- Identify breastfeeding and/or wet nurses (or as a last resort, appropriate replacement feeding) for babies with no mothers
- Provide appropriate space for breastfeeding where out reach programmes are being carried out
- Refer breastfeeding mothers who are facing difficulties producing milk
- Identify household food consumption patterns with nutrition staff
- Run joint community mobilisation, where possible
- Include infant and young child feeding (IYCF) or supplemental feeding for at risk children in appropriate child protection activities, where appropriate and possible
- Develop referral system for therapeutic feeding services
- Support exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months and then continued breastfeeding along with appropriate complementary food, through the second year of life and beyond
- Support families in nutritional centres with temporary care arrangements for the other children while the mother is away
- Design outreach services for children to access health services
- Advocate for specialized medical services, where possible
- Identify pre-existing forums to coordinate between the two sectors

KEY ACTIONS FOR NUTRITION ACTORS

- Ensure the protection of the affected population as a sub-objective of each nutrition intervention
- Train at least one staff as a child protection focal point or social worker
- Monitor unaccompanied and separated children in nutrition programmes and ensure coordination with child protection workers
- Include child protection messages in activities
- Include discussions related to protection in mother-to-mother activities
- Ensure nutrition centres have a trained breastfeeding counsellor and appropriate spaces for breastfeeding
- Ensure childcare practices are considered when developing programmes
- Monitor the nutritional status of pregnant and breastfeeding women and children
- Campaign for psychosocial stimulation of infants and young children
- Ensure nutrition workers have been trained in and signed a code of conduct for child safeguarding
- Invite child protection workers to trainings where their perspective and information could enhance the overall outcome

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1. 100% of nutrition projects reflect child safety and well-being concerns

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 23: WASH AND CHILD PROTECTION

CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS ARE REFLECTED IN WASH PROGRAMMES. GIRLS AND BOYS ACCESS WASH SERVICES THAT REDUCE THEIR RISK OF VIOLENCE.

KEY ACTIONS FOR CHILD PROTECTION ACTORS

- Present child protection assessment information to those working in WASH to ensure the implications are considered
- Agree which of the suggested indicators should be used to track progress
- Incorporate questions about WASH with children, caregivers and community members
- Agree on priority WASH messages for children and families
- Incorporate these messages into child protection messages
- Ensure WASH training for child protection workers include promoting hygiene practices
- Encourage caregivers to properly dispose of children's faeces
- Advise WASH workers on areas where children are vulnerable
- Ensure WASH services are provided at childcare centres
- Include WASH personnel in child protection trainings
- Identify pre-existing forums to coordinate between the two sectors
- Collect examples of positive effects of WASH interventions have on children's safety and wellbeing
- Lobby for a link between the two sectors in evaluations and resource allocations processes

KEY ACTIONS FOR WASH ACTORS

- Ensure the protection of the affected population as a sub-objective of each WASH intervention
- Draw on the expertise of child protection workers when assessing needs
- Ensure risks for women and girls are addressed
- Ensure children at risk are included in WASH programme
- Support parents and communities to stop water collection activities that hurt children's development
- Provide access to appropriate WASH services in places where child-targeted services are provided
- Ensure women are represented in WASH committees and decision-making processes
- Disseminate inclusive hygiene messages
- Ensure hygiene promoters know how to refer children at risk to appropriate services
- Ensure WASH workers have been trained in and signed a code of conduct for child safeguarding
- Invite child protection workers to trainings where their perspective and information could enhance the overall outcome

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1. 100% of WASH projects reflect child safety and wellbeing concerns
2. 100% of surveyed sites have safe communal facilities for women and girls

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 24: SHELTER AND CHILD PROTECTION

CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS ARE REFLECTED IN SHELTER PROGRAMMES. CHILDREN AND THEIR CAREGIVERS ACCESS SHELTER THAT MEET BASIC AND LONG-TERM NEEDS, INCLUDING PROTECTION AND DISABILITY ACCESS.

KEY ACTIONS FOR CHILD PROTECTION ACTORS

- Present child protection assessment information to those working in shelter to ensure the implications are considered
- Agree indicators to track progress
- Incorporate questions about shelter in discussions with children, caregivers and community members
- Establish a referral system with shelter staff to assist vulnerable households
- Ensure child protection workers are can refer children and communities to shelter and settlement focal points
- Provide shelter staff with relevant statistical data
- Support shelter and settlement organizations to consider child protection concerns in their programming, especially in regards to excluded children
- Include shelter- and settlement-related messages in child protection activities
- Ensure shelter workers can refer children at risk to child protection services
- Identify pre-existing forums to coordinate between the two sectors
- Collect examples of positive effects of shelter and settlement interventions have on children's safety and wellbeing
- Lobby for a link between the two sectors in evaluations and resource allocation processes

KEY ACTIONS FOR SHELTER AND SETTLEMENT ACTORS

- Ensure the protection of the affected population as a sub-objective of each shelter intervention
- Prevent overcrowding and family separation in project design
- Design appropriate shelter and settlement options with female and male members of the affected communities
- Ensure shelter and settlement workers are trained in basic child protection
- Ensure transit shelters are safe
- Ensure collective spaces for children are appropriate with child protection workers
- Ensure shelter and settlement workers have been trained in and signed a code of conduct for child safeguarding
- Invite child protection workers to trainings where their perspective and information could enhance the overall outcome

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1. 100% of shelter projects reflect child safety and wellbeing concerns
2. 90% of surveyed beneficiaries who confirm that the shelter programme contributes to children's safety and wellbeing

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 25: CAMP MANAGEMENT AND CHILD PROTECTION

CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS ARE REFLECTED IN CAMP MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES. GIRLS AND BOYS ARE SAFE AND WELL.

KEY ACTIONS FOR CHILD PROTECTION ACTORS

- Present child protection assessment information to those working in camp management to ensure the implications are considered
- Agree which of the suggested indicators should be used to track progress
- Incorporate questions about camp management with children, caregivers and community members
- Ensure safe accommodation and other spaces for children at risk
- Ensure a children's focal point in the camp management structure
- Ensure community-based and state child protection actors are connected to camp management structures
- Include camp management staff in child protection training
- Promote girls and boys' participation in decision-making processes
- Promote the involvement of children with disabilities and their caregivers
- Ensure with camp registration and camp management that children are profiled and children at risk are identified and access coordinated support
- Advocate for fair distribution of services and resources for children
- Establish referral system
- Support camp management to setup a complaint mechanism, especially for sexual exploitation and abuse
- Ensure awareness raising on child protection issues
- Identify pre-existing forums to coordinate between the two sectors
- Collect examples of positive effects of camp management interventions have on children's safety and wellbeing
- Lobby for a link between the two sectors in evaluations and resource allocation processes

KEY ACTIONS FOR CAMP MANAGEMENT ACTORS

- Ensure the protection of the affected population as a sub-objective of each camp management intervention
- Ensure a balance between females and males and different social groups in the camp management structures
- Appoint a children's focal person within the camp management structure
- Bring girls' and boys' views into decision-making
- Involve community-based child protection mechanisms and state child protection actors
- Ensure roles and responsibilities are clear in referral mechanisms
- Support child protection monitoring in camps
- Use population-registration exercises, as well as parents and the community, to profile children in the camp and identify children at risk
- Campaign to provide services for children
- Coordinate site planning, distributions and other camp activities to ensure there are protective spaces for children
- Ensure camp management workers have been trained and signed a code of conduct for child safeguarding
- Invite child protection workers to trainings where their perspective and information could enhance the overall outcome

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1.100% of camps reflect child safety and wellbeing concerns
2. 90% of surveyed children and caregivers rate the camp as safe

SIMPLIFIED STANDARD 26: DISTRIBUTION AND CHILD PROTECTION

GIRLS AND BOYS ACCESS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS THAT PROTECT THEM

KEY ACTIONS FOR CHILD PROTECTION ACTORS

- Present child protection assessment information to those working in distribution to ensure the implications are considered
- Agree indicators to track progress
- Incorporate questions about distributions with children, caregivers and community members
- Provide distribution teams with information on unaccompanied and separated children and child-headed households for their own ration cards
- If needed, accompany children to and during the distribution
- Provide information on distributions to children and people with disabilities
- Advocate for culturally appropriate NFI hygiene items for women and girls, along with specific items for children
- Work with distribution teams to ensure distributions do not place children at risk
- Support excluded children to access distribution points with distribution teams
- Jointly design an appropriate reporting mechanism for violations and abuses within distributions
- Ensure registration staff are briefed on child protection
- Ensure distribution teams are trained on crowd control and how to interact with children
- Ensure child protection staff are present at distributions to ensure minimum standards are met, whenever possible
- Identify pre-existing forums to coordinate between the two sectors
- Collect examples of positive effects of distributions have on children's safety and wellbeing
- Lobby for a link between the two sectors in evaluations and resource allocation processes

KEY ACTIONS FOR DISTRIBUTION ACTORS

- Ensure the protection of the affected population as a sub-objective for distributions
- Enlist child protection workers' expertise in planning for and carrying out distributions
- Ensure women, girls and boys are involved in the development of distribution systems
- Monitor the full distribution pipeline, as well as the nutritional status of at-risk populations
- If polygamy is practiced, register adult women as main recipients of help
- Ensure child-headed households and unaccompanied and separated children receive ration cards in their own names
- Ensure women and girls have sanitary and hygiene supplies and child-sized clothing and shoes for children
- Assist children at risk to access distribution points
- Ensure there is an appropriate reporting mechanism for violations and abuses at distributions
- Setup separate waiting and entry lines for vulnerable individuals
- Ensure that distribution teams have been trained in and signed a code of conduct for child safeguarding
- Invite child protection workers to trainings where their perspective and information could enhance the overall outcome

MEASUREMENT

OUTCOME INDICATORS & TARGET
1. % of surveyed beneficiaries confirm that their and their children's safety and wellbeing was not compromised by the distribution
2. Specific vulnerabilities of children and their caregivers are reflected in the planned distribution